

CDC News (June 2013)

The 42nd CDC Meeting was held on 25 February 2013 (Monday). Salient points of the discussion are as follows:

The final recommendations for the review of the New Senior Secondary curriculum and the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination

- Given the smooth implementation of the New Academic Structure (NAS) and the need to sustain momentum and maintain continuity, all the proposed changes for the NAS review were in the nature of fine tuning.
- The objectives of the short-term recommendations were to address the practical concerns of schools, to collect good practices for sharing among schools, and to sustain the reform.
- Final recommendations at the subject level, to be implemented for the 2013/14 Secondary 4 cohort, came in three categories: (1) fine-tuning / clarification on the breadth and depth of curriculum content; (2) updating / trimming of curriculum content and examination arrangements; and (3) SBA streamlining. For earlier cohorts, proposed changes that would not have major implications on learning and teaching would also be implemented in the 2014 or 2015 HKDSE Examination.
- Final recommendations on the system / school level addressed concerns in five curriculum aspects, namely lesson time, Other Learning Experiences (OLE) & Student Learning Profile (SLP), Applied Learning (ApL), qualifications and pathways as well as support to schools.
- Medium-term recommendations to be implemented in the 2016/17 school year and beyond were also discussed. The concerns and suggestions made by the members would be raised in the CDC-PEB Joint Meeting to facilitate a thorough discussion and to inform decision making.

The Use of the Centre in Sai Kung to Promote Gifted Education

- The Science Innovation Centre (the Centre) in Sai Kung has been used to organize programmes for students gifted in science and technology to pave the way for them to take part in internationally/nationally renowned competitions, to fill the gap between the school curriculum and the demand from the gifted students, and to offer more professional development programmes to teachers.

- With the current tenancy and service agreements expiring in late 2013, an open invitation to potential service providers for the provision of suitable programmes in the Centre was proposed. It was unanimously endorsed as follows: (1) Programmes in science and technology could continuously be provided in the Centre. (2) Possible further expansion to programmes on environmental and earth science as well as applied science and cross-disciplinary issues could be considered.