

## **CDC News (January 2006)**

The 19<sup>th</sup> CDC Meeting was held on 12 January 2006. Salient points of the discussion are as follows:

### **Report on the development of the consultation for Career-oriented Studies (COS) and New Senior Secondary (NSS) Education for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

#### *Career-oriented Studies (COS)*

- Six areas of studies had been identified to underpin the design of COS courses at the senior secondary level.
- It was proposed that “unattained”, “attainment” and “attainment with distinction” would form the 3 levels of performance in COS. Achievement of “attainment with distinction” would be deemed comparable to SRA Level 3 or above. COS recognition would also be referenced to the relevant levels of the Qualifications Framework (QF) with credit points awarded for the modules of learning.
- A robust quality assurance mechanism could be devised to monitor the entire suite of COS courses offered by different providers and to achieve consistent standards.
- Five dimensions of teachers’ competence had been identified and three categories of professional development programmes had been proposed.
- The future funding arrangements would have to be worked out and there would be tripartite contribution from parents, the Government and schools.
- The current Yi Jin/Secondary Schools Collaboration Project would be subsumed under COS.

#### *New Senior Secondary (NSS) Education for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)*

- For students with intellectual disabilities (ID), extended years of study could be provided to prepare them better for transition to work and adult life (the NSS(ID) curriculum).
- The NSS(ID) curriculum would comprise core, electives and other learning experiences. A continuum would be used to locate students’ learning needs. Data from the R&D on NSS(ID) curriculum would provide concrete information for subsequent development.

### **Report on the development of the Curriculum and Assessment Guides for the NSS Subjects and the Senior Secondary Curriculum Guide**

#### *Curriculum and Assessment Guides (C&A guides)*

- Based on the key findings of the second consultation carried out from June to September 2005, the design and contents of the NSS C&A frameworks were being revised. Feedback from the “international benchmarking” performed by overseas curriculum agencies was also referenced in making the revision.

*Senior Secondary Curriculum Guide (SSCG)*

- The Basic Education Curriculum Guide (BECG) published in 2002 would serve as a reference in developing the SSCG.
- The first version of the SSCG would be released in mid-2006 and updated regularly in the light of the feedback from research and development projects, schools' responses, etc.