

CDC News (February 2013)

The 41st CDC Meeting was held on 29 October 2012 (Monday). Salient points of the discussion are as follows:

Progress of New Academic Structure (NAS) review

- The purpose of the review was to analyze the achievement of learning goals and policy intentions of NAS and in the light of findings, to make appropriate adjustments while maintaining international recognition of the NSS curriculum and assessment. From late August to September 2012, subject consultation forums (Part 1) for teachers and meetings with different stakeholders had been held to collect views. On 5 October, a press release and the document entitled “Introduction to New Academic Structure Review” were issued to officially launch the NAS review.
- A major survey would be conducted by HKEAA and CDC in late November to collect schools’ views on the initial recommendations for reviewing the NSS curriculum and assessment. The final proposals on the short-term recommendations would be submitted to the CDC-HKEAA Public Examinations Board joint meeting in February/March 2013 for discussion and endorsement. Pressure on schools was expected to be alleviated with SBA streamlining and possible curriculum trimming in certain subjects underway.
- As reported by the HKEAA, the vast majority of school candidates took four core subjects and two or three electives in the 2012 HKDSE Examinations. For Category A subjects, 83.1% had attained Level 2 or above. As for category B subjects (Applied Learning), there were over 90% “Attained” and around 24% “Attained with Distinction”. 37% of the HKDSE candidates met the minimum university entry requirements (Core subjects at 3322) .
- The interim findings of the survey on Secondary 6 graduates’ pathways show that 88% of graduates pursued further studies, with 27% studying degree programmes and 51% taking sub-degree programmes or Yi Jin Diploma. Around 7% of graduates pursued non-local studies with the top three destinations (in descending order) being U.K., the Mainland and Taiwan.
- “Core subjects at 3322” in HKDSE was only the minimum eligibility requirement to universities, and should not be perceived as a guarantee of a publicly-funded place. Some measures to promote a paradigm shift were suggested.

- It was observed that the university admission requirements had a significant impact on the number of elective subjects offered by schools, which in turn would affect the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum in terms of subject choice. The Liaison Group on 334 Interface Issues between EDB and university registries would continue the ongoing discussion on interface issues.

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- The E-textbook Market Development Scheme (EMADS) aimed to provide a platform for potential e-textbook developers to develop e-textbooks in line with local curricula. Over a three-month application period since late June, 86 applications from both non-profit organizations and the commercial sector were received. E-textbooks which passed the vetting would be included in the Recommended Textbook List (RTL).
- As the Moral and National Education (MNE) curriculum guide was formally shelved as recommended by the Committee on the Initiation of Moral and National Education Subject, schools might decide on the mode of implementation at their discretion or make reference to the curriculum guide if deemed appropriate. Therefore, it was unnecessary for CDC to review and make appropriate amendments to the curriculum guide.