

# Committee on English Language Education(1999-2000)

## Minutes of the First Meeting 1999-2000

- Date:** 2 November 1999
- Time:** 3.00 p.m.
- Venue:** Rm 1024A, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen ' s Road East,  
Wanchai
- Present:** Mr. Derek Rodney Too (Chairperson)  
Ms Chan Wai-ming (Vice-Chairperson)  
Mr Chan Sai-ho  
Ms Chan Wai-han  
Mr Stephen Chan  
Ms Shirley Chuang  
Mrs Christina Lee  
Mrs Catherine Li  
Professor William Littlewood  
Mr Lam Cho Ki, Luke  
Mr Lindsay Miller  
Dr Angela Mok  
Ms Truely Siu  
Dr Gordon Slethaug  
Mr Simon Tham  
Ms Mellissa Yam  
Mr Raymond Ng (Secretary)
- Apologies:** Ms Catherine Lui  
Ms Emily Mok  
Ms Moira Yuen
- In attendance:** Mr Kevin Chan  
Ms Amy Shu  
Ms Diana Tang

**Documents tabled:** 1 The Operational Manual (Curriculum Development Council, September

1999)

- 2 A Holistic Review of the Hong Kong School Curriculum – Proposed Reforms (Consultative Document)
- 3 A simplified version of the Holistic Review of the Hong Kong School Curriculum (in Chinese)
- 4 Reply slip to the "Holistic Review of the English Language Curriculum" forum
- 5 The New CDC Structure

## 1 Opening remarks

The Vice-chairperson welcomed all members. The members took turns to introduce themselves.

## 2 CDC's new structure, CDC Committees' terms of reference and committee members' roles and functions

The Secretary outlined the background to the restructuring of Curriculum Development Council (CDC), and explained the Council ' s new structure. He also highlighted key pages in The Operation Manual (Curriculum Development Council, September 1999) regarding CDC Committees ' terms of reference and members ' roles and functions.

## 3 Election of chairperson

Mr. Derek Rodney Too was elected Chairperson.

## 4 Curriculum 2000, and holistic review of the school curriculum and the key learning area of English Language Education

- 4.1 The Vice-chairperson highlighted key points in CDC ' s consultative document, A Holistic Review of the Hong Kong School Curriculum – Proposed Reforms, for members ' consideration.

**4.2** In the context of the overall education reform proposed in the consultative document, members were asked to consider the future development of the English Language Education curriculum with particular reference to the following points/questions:

- The four key questions that CDC raised in its holistic curriculum review process:
  - What is worth learning?
  - How can students learn more effectively?
  - What have we learnt from curriculum development experiences in Hong Kong in the past?
  - What are the recommendations for curriculum reform?
  - Piloting of alternative curriculum models between September 2000 and August 2002
  
- The CDC proposed reform measures including:
  - Development of a learner-focussed curriculum;
  - Partnership in curriculum development with all sectors of society;
  - Broadening students ' learning experiences through an integration of the formal, informal and non-formal curricula;
  - Development of students ' life-long learning skills;
  - Catering for learner differences e.g. the consideration of the use of the "subject setting" method (in which students of the same learning level in a subject are put together in the same set to learn the subject);
  - Flexible use of learning resources including the use of multi-media educational materials apart from textbooks; and
  - Flexible time-tabling arrangements.

## **5** Ad hoc Committees

**5.1** Members examined the need to form ad hoc task groups to support the work of the CDC Key Learning Area Committee on English Language Education.

**5.2** After considerable discussion, it was agreed that three ad hoc committees be formed:

- Ad hoc Committee on English Language (P1 - S3)
  
- Ad hoc Committee on English Language (S1 - S7)

- Ad hoc Committee on English Literature (S4 - S7)

Members also agreed that additional ad hoc groups be formed whenever necessary.

**5.3** Members were invited to join any of the ad hoc committees and were encouraged to nominate candidates for membership. Nominations were to be passed on to the Secretary within the following two weeks.

## **6** Any other business

**6.1** Members were encouraged to attend the following forums/seminars:

- *Holistic Review of the English Language Curriculum* organized by the English Section of Curriculum Development Institute at Wei Hing Theatre, City University of Hong Kong on 15 December 1999 (Session I: 9.30 am - 11.30 am; Session II: 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm).
- *New Culture for Early Childhood Education: Curriculum, Academic Structure, Teaching Profession* organized by the Education Commission at Tang Shiu Kin Victoria Government Secondary School on 7 November 1999 at 11 am.
- *Teachers' Role and Professional Development* organized by the Education Commission at Tang Shiu Kin Victoria Government Secondary School on 13 November 1999 at 10 am.

**6.2** There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Confirmed on 19 January 2000

Mr Derek Rodney Too  
(Chairperson)

Mr Raymond Ng  
(Secretary)

