

**A summary of the minutes of the first meeting of
the CDC Committee on English Language Education, 2003-04**

Date: 3 October 2003 (Friday)
Time: 4.30 p.m.
Venue: Room 1419A, Wu Chung House, Wan Chai

1. Terms of reference, roles and functions of the CDC Committee on English Language Education

The Secretary stressed the Committee's key role of advising CDC to set directions, and formulate plans and strategies for the development of the English Language Education curriculum. Members were asked to read the Curriculum Development Council Handbook 2003 carefully, particularly pp.19-23.

2. Election of chairperson

Mr Stephen CHAN Shu-ki was elected chairperson.

3. Confirmation of meeting minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2003 were confirmed without amendment.

4. The revised draft Learning Outcomes Frameworks (LOF) (including Basic Competency (BC) descriptors) at secondary level

- The first multi-stage consultation on the BC descriptors for English Language at secondary level was conducted in July 2003.
- Members' attention was drawn to the following two key issues raised and discussed during the consultation
 - The Learning Outcome Framework (LOF), particularly the Learning Outcomes (LOs) and Basic Competency descriptors (BCs) for KS4, will be taken into consideration when the grade descriptors for the Standards-referenced CE examination are developed.
 - Examples of student work will be collected to illuminate what such terms as "generally adequate" mean in some descriptors.
- Members were informed that changes to some LOs and BC descriptors were made after the consultation in order to broaden coverage and to improve clarity.
- The following were discussed and agreed on by members in response to the teachers' concerns during the consultation.
 - One of the examples for descriptor L7-R-2-S5BC was to be revised as it did not appropriately reflect what teachers generally believed the average KS4 student was capable of doing..
 - For descriptor L5-R-3-S3BC, examples of "literary texts" could be provided to alleviate teachers' apprehension about using "literary texts".
 - The same descriptor could be broadened to include "Interpersonal Dimension" and "Knowledge Dimension".
- The LOF (for levels 5 to 8) was endorsed in principle.

5. Work progress of the draft English Language Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 to 6)

The following were reported:

- Three identical consultation seminars on the draft English Language Curriculum Guide (Primary 1-6) were held in mid-June 2003.

- The draft Curriculum Guide was in general very well received.
- Teachers expressed the wish of having greater support through professional development on the teaching of different text-types and assessment for learning.

6. Work progress of the CDC-HKEAA Committee on Standards-referenced CE English Language Examination

The following were reported:

- The format of the Standards-referenced CE English Language Examination has been agreed on. Sample papers will be developed by HKEAA. The development of grade descriptors will be commissioned out to potential local or overseas service providers.
- The importance of introducing the new format of the CE English Language examination as scheduled was reiterated in the meeting. A smooth transition to the new senior secondary English Language examination could be achieved by implementing the new format in the CE examination two years prior to the implementation of the new curriculum.

7. Work progress of the CDC-HKEAA Committee on Literature in English Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Senior Secondary)

The following were reported:

- The Guide is to cater for the new 3-year senior secondary curriculum.
- The new curriculum guide will be based on the existing curriculum and examination syllabuses. Innovative elements will be included.
- The format of the Literature in English examination has been agreed on, and the task of writing the first draft of the Guide will be commissioned out.

8. Any other business

- Members agreed to co-opt Mrs Catherine LI on to the CDC Committee on English Language Education.
- It was agreed that the next CDC Committee on English Language Education meeting be held on 20 October 2003 to discuss the revised draft English Language Curriculum Guide (Primary 1-6).
- Members were encouraged to attend the Knowledge Fair scheduled to be held on 12 November 2003. Its theme is “Widening the Space of Learning” and the keynote speaker is Professor Ference Marton of University of Gothenburg, Sweden. The English Language Education Section will be sharing the findings of the three seed projects it conducted in the parallel sessions.