

CDC Committee on English Language Education 2009 - 2011
Gist of the First Meeting

Date: 13 November 2009
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Venue: Room1023A, Wu Chung House, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

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

- The Vice-chairperson introduced and welcomed all the members to the first meeting of the CDC Committee on English Language Education (2009-11).
- Members' attention was drawn to the terms of reference, roles and functions, and working procedures of the CDC Committee on English Language Education in the Curriculum Development Council Handbook 2009.

2. Election of Chairperson

Ms Enian TSANG was elected the new Chairperson.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2009

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without any amendments.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no follow-up matters arising from the last minutes.

5. Report on the latest development of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)

- The HKEAA Officer informed members about the general progress made:
 - Briefing sessions for teachers were conducted in Dec 2008.
 - Second run of pilot tests for Paper 3 were conducted in March 2009.
 - Standards-referenced Reporting (SRR) Information Packages were completed in July and distributed in Sept 2009.
 - Professional development sessions for HKDSE SBA were conducted in Oct 2009.
 - Listening descriptors were revised in Nov 2009.
- The HKEAA Officer updated members on how candidates' performance would be reported in Listening and Integrated Skills (Paper 3) for English Language in the HKDSE. He informed members that different options were explored in the last meeting of the CDC-HKEAA Committee in Nov 2009 and members of the CDC-HKEAA Committee were generally positive about the modified Listening and Integrated Skills descriptors.
- The HKEAA Officer remarked that the same listening texts would be used for all candidates in Paper 3 while the tasks would be of varying levels of difficulty.
- In addressing members' concern as to whether a candidate needed to achieve the performance as depicted in both the Listening and Integrated Skills descriptors in order to obtain Level 5, the HKEAA Officer remarked that it was not necessary for candidates to satisfy every detail described in the level.
- The HKEAA Officer informed members that the Chief Examiner, Assistant Examiners as well as Subject Managers would be involved in the standards-setting process. It was clarified that it was not norm-referencing for HKDSE. The expert judging panel would look at the samples of candidates' work to determine the cut score. He added that there would be much less reliance on statistics but more on markers' and experts' ability to distinguish candidates' performance.
- The HKEAA Officer reassured members that there would not be any fixed quota for all levels. However, he supplemented that Level 5* and Level 5** were maintained for selection purposes and were norm-referenced.

- It was reported that both HKEAA and EDB received phone calls from schools about the unavailability of some of the set texts for Literature in English. To address the issue, it was proposed that both HKEAA and EDB explore the possibility of developing or compiling an anthology for school use. Members' views were sought on this proposal.
- In response to the enquiry as to whether there was any precedent case in developing an anthology in Hong Kong, the CDI Officer replied that it had never been done in Hong Kong, though it was a fairly common practice among overseas examination boards.
- The HKEAA Officer remarked that as some schools had already started using the texts, it was not desirable to replace any texts for 2012. The CDI Officer commented that for long-term planning, it was worth considering launching this project as the price of texts was becoming increasingly high and some of them were not easily available. It was suggested that the HKEAA start tapping expertise from overseas examination boards such as CIE in UK to explore whether such a project was feasible.

6. A.O.B

- Members were each given a copy of the leaflet on Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Examination and the leaflet on School-based Assessment. The HKEAA Officer informed members that other materials related to HKDSE would soon be available and members could refer to the HKEAA website for further information.
- There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.