

**Minutes of the Third Meeting of
the CDC Committee on Science Education (2000-01)**

Date: 12 March 2001 (Monday)

Time: 2:40 – 6:25 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Room G06, 24 Tin Kwong Road, Kowloon.

Present:

Mr TSE Pak-hoi (Chairman)
Mr CHAN Chi-tuen
Mr CHAN Man-tak
Dr CHEUNG Sin-pui, Derek
Mr CHONG Shiu-Kit
Dr CHOW King-lau
Mr CHUI Hing-wa
Mr HO Chung-nin
Mr HO Yau-sing
Dr LEE Hau-chi
Ms LEE Pui-har
Ms LEUNG Lai-mei
Mr LEUNG Shiu-keung (Vice-chairman)
Dr MAK Chi-keung
Mr PANG Chi-chuen
Mrs TANG TSUI Sau-mei
Mr YIP Chee-kuen
Mr WONG Kin-on (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies:

Mr CHENG Chi-leung
Dr FUNG SHI Yuk-hang
Ms LEE Kwan-ping, Carole
Dr Ng Kwok-hung
Mr Or Choi-kin

In Attendance:

Mr CHAN Pui-tin
Mr HO Kam-noon
Mr HO Wing-chuen
Mr LEE Charn-kau
Ms LUI Mong-yu, Grace
Mr LAU Yuen-tan
Dr PANG Wing-chung
Mr SO Chi-shing
Mr YEUNG Man-shing

Documents sent and tabled:

- SC1/3/00 Minutes of the Second Meeting of the CDC Committee on Science Education (2000-01)
- SC2/3/00 Public Consultation for Learning to Learn – Science Education: A Summary of Feedback from the Public and CDI/ED Responses
- SC3/3/00 Briefing Statement & Proposed Curriculum Guide for Advanced Level Biology (2002)
- SC4/3/00 Notes of Informal Meeting of the CDC Committee on Science Education
 - Membership List of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Development of Integrated Science and Technology
 - Major Science Education Events (March - June 2001)
 - Information Sheet on Science Alive Lecture Series

Minutes:

1. Confirmation of minutes of the Third Meeting

- 1.1 The minutes were confirmed without amendments.

2. Discussion on matters arising from the last meeting

2.1 The Glossary for S1-3 Science was endorsed by circulation in January 2001.

3. To discuss on the responses from the public on the Science Education KLA consultation document

- 3.1 Mr LAU Yuen-tan gave a brief report on public consultation and meetings with tertiary institutes. The public in general agreed with the direction of promoting high order thinking and generic skills in the curriculum. However, they showed concern about the lengthy content of the science curriculum at senior secondary level, training needs of teachers, teaching methods and attitude of teachers, and assessment of science-related skills, attitude and scientific thinking. Mr LAU summarised the responses of CDI/ED to the comments made by the public. Members agreed in principle with the direction of responses and wished to further explore the strategies for implementing changes.
- 3.2 Regarding a comment from the public on re-establishing a proper primary school science subject, the committee supported the idea and agreed that such an arrangement can enhance the interface of science education between primary and junior secondary levels. The committee would raise the issue to the Ad Hoc Committee on General Studies for consideration.
- 3.3 There was discussion on the implementation of project learning in schools. Members appreciated the role of project work in promoting higher order skills and would expect a better coordination among subjects to avoid overloading students with project work. There was concern about whether teachers were well prepared for the implementation of project learning in schools. Issue on assessment for learning was also raised. It was opined that there should be an alignment of teaching, learning and assessment. After much deliberation, the meeting agreed to set up an Ad Hoc Committee on assessment for learning in science education to further explore the issue. The Secretary would send e-mails to invite members to serve in the Ad Hoc Committee. Focus-group discussion for science educators on the issue would be organized.
- 3.4 Ms LUI Mong-yu, Grace briefed on the Science Project Competition for primary schools. It was noted that more schools participated in the Competition this year and the number of entry was double as compared to previous year. The CDI was now promoting the use of science events in the primary school curriculum and exploring how scientific investigation could be enhanced in GS lessons.
- 3.5 Mr YEUNG Man-shing briefed on the progress of the development of new curriculum framework for General Studies. Funding was sought for large-scale teacher training programmes such as web-based courses and workshops with hands-on experience, projects such as promoting the use of science model activities in schools and the development of teaching packages.
- 3.6 Mr LAU Yuen-tan briefed on the development of Integrated Science and Technology (IST). The first meeting of Ad Hoc Committee on IST was held in March. Schedule of work was discussed and the "Health Science" and "Design & Control" modules would be tabled for discussion in coming months.

4. To endorse the A-level Biology Syllabus for implementation in September 2002

- 4.1 Mr. CHAN Pui-tin briefed on the background of the revised Syllabus. Endorsement was sought for circulation of the revised Syllabus to schools for consultation.
- 4.2 In discussing the circulation of draft A-level Biology Syllabus for consultation of schools, the issue of “one curriculum document” to promote assessment for learning came to play. The draft Syllabus was prepared in an “open and flexible” framework which was different from an examination syllabus that was more specific. As there was ambiguity in the notion of “one curriculum document”, the meeting requested for a further clarification on the issue from CDI. It was also proposed to explore the possibilities of deferring the consultation of A-level Biology Syllabus so as to allow time for rewriting the Syllabus to meet the new requirements.
- 4.3 There was concern about the implication of the “one curriculum document” to other subjects such as S4-5 Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The revised syllabuses of these subjects were drafted in line with the “open and flexible” framework and would be tabled for endorsement of the Committee in April. In view of the tight schedule, the meeting urged for a clarification of the “one curriculum document” concept so as to allow time for the ad hoc committees of these syllabuses to do some remedial work.

5. Any other business

- 5.1 The Secretary briefed on the major science activities in March – June 2001, and drew members’ attention to the Science Alive Lecture Series to be held in late April.
- 5.2 The Secretary informed the meeting that an International Conference on Science Literacy and Science Education jointly organised by Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong and Institute of Educational Research, Beijing Normal University will be held in 16-19 July 2001 at Beijing, China. Members of the Committee as well as those of the ad hoc committees were encouraged to participate in the Conference.
- 5.3 The next meeting was scheduled on 23 April 2001 (Mon).
- 5.4 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Confirmed on _____.

(Mr TSE Pak-hoi)
Chairman

(Mr WONG Kin-on)
Secretary