

Special Meeting of the CDC Committee on Science Education (2001-2002)
(21 January 2002)

Gist of Meeting

1. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and make suggestion to the new senior secondary (SS) curriculum in relation to the Science Education KLA.
2. The focus of discussion was on how science subjects could fit into the 2-subject arrangement in the new SS curriculum model. The following points were raised:
 - The subject combination of the proposed new SS curriculum model was acceptable, but the subjects had to be carefully designed to achieve a broad and balanced curriculum across KLAs and within the Science Education KLA.
 - Reorganization of the curricula of the S4-5 science subjects, Biology, Chemistry and Physics (B/C/P) was needed in designing the new SS science subjects. However, re-developing the curriculum framework from scratch was deemed not desirable.
 - Students might want to have in-depth study in a specific science subject and not have to take B/C/P in equal depth. They could even opt for only some combination of B/C/P, provided that the course combinations were recognized by tertiary institutes for admission and that students could master fundamental science concepts.
 - Science students could also choose the SS Science & Technology to suit their interests and capabilities.
 - The introduction of SS Co-ordinated Science (as 1 subject) could provide students with different course combinations of B/C/P.
 - There were suggestions on splitting B/C/P into modules, having subjects with elements of B/C/P in an integrated approach, or even delivering the whole science curriculum in form of modules, yet no consensus over these suggestions was reached.
 - There was a need for strengthening the science foundation at basic education and challenging learning programmes for students with strong interest and capability in science should be given formal recognition.
3. Suggested science subjects for the new SS curriculum were:
 - SS Co-ordinated Science (as 1 subject), SS Biology, SS Chemistry, SS Physics
 - SS Co-ordinated Science could either be mutually exclusive or non-exclusive with the SS B/C/P, depending on whether there was any overlapping with their subject contents. Thus students may take:
 - 1 science subject: SS Co-ordinated Science (core parts of B/C/P)
SS Biology
SS Chemistry
SS Physics
 - 2 science subjects: SS Biology + SS Co-ordinated Science (emphasis on C/P)
SS Chemistry + SS Co-ordinated Science (emphasis on B/P)
SS Physics + SS Co-ordinated Science (emphasis on B/C)
SS Biology + SS Chemistry
SS Biology + SS Physics
SS Chemistry + SS Physics
 - SS Science & Technology: more science-related modules could be further developed for widening students' choice.
 - Level 3 Biology, Chemistry and Physics could be developed with reference to UK A-Level and US AP courses, and also to student programmes run by local universities.