

First Meeting of the CDC Committee on Science Education (2003-2004)
(8 October 2003)

Gist of Meeting

- Mr. Tse Pak-hoi, Isaac was re-elected chairman of CDC Committee on Science Education for the year 2003-04.
- The minutes of the third Meeting (2002-2003) were confirmed without amendment.
- The Glossary of Terms commonly used in the Teaching of Biology in Secondary Schools was published in July 2003 and each secondary school should have received 3 copies. Members were informed that the web-version of the Biology Glossary (http://cd.emb.gov.hk/sci/glossarysci_eng.html) has also been updated.
- It was reported that in relation to the S&T curriculum, 6 courses were run for teachers and 1 course for laboratory technicians during July and August 2003, and the courses were well received. There are 7 schools offering S&T in the school year 2003-04. The most popular modules are Environmental Science and Health Science. All these 7 schools use Chinese as the medium of Instruction. The committee accepted this science related bias at the start but would like to see further development in having more schools adopting a balance between the science and technology options.
- Dr Ng Tai-kai and Mr NG Yau-keung were nominated to be the co-opted members by the Committee for the year 2003-04.
- The progress of the CDC-HKEAA Committees on the Revision of Sixth-form Chemistry Curriculum and Physics Curriculum were reported. Members showed concern about the curriculum time being gained after the deletion of topics and how the remaining topics would be restructured. The Committees were reminded to clarify the rationales behind the choice of topics to be deleted when the revised curricula roll out.
- The progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Assessment for Learning was reported. Members showed concerned about transferability of the experience gained from the try-out schools and recommended that the facilitating factors for the success of the tryouts should be emphasizes during disseminations.
- Mr. YT Lau briefed members of recent developments of the New Senior Secondary Science Curriculum. Members expressed their concerns about the new curriculum, which included:
 - ♦ the structure, organization and coverage
 - ♦ the possibility of greater variety and flexibility for student selection
 - ♦ the flexibility for time-tabling
 - ♦ the expertise required of the teachers

Members also suggested that thorough discussion on the best use of this reform opportunity be rendered to restructure the curriculum to provide for a new learning experience for the next generation in both science and humanities.

- Members agreed to the setting up of CDC-HKEAA Committees to work on the new Senior Secondary Curriculum. The Committee member lists will be circulated to members for endorsement when ready.
- The information paper on new developments in training for General Studies teachers on science related topics in the GS curriculum was received. Members also raised concerns about the accuracy of the science contents in the new GS textbooks and how the learning and teaching of scientific thinking could be enhanced at the primary level.

- Date of next meeting – Pending to new developments in the new Senior Secondary Curriculum