

Third Meeting of the CDC Committee on Science Education (2003-2004)
(17 May 2004)

Gist of Meeting

- The minutes of the Second Meeting (2003-2004) were confirmed without amendment.
- The Chairman thanked Members for endorsing the release of the draft Sixth-form Chemistry Curriculum to schools for consultation in April.
- The progress of the CDC-HKEAA Committees on the Revision of Sixth-form Chemistry Curriculum was reported. Some members showed concern about the criteria adopted for the deletion and addition of topics and the lesson time recommended for the teaching of the different topics. It was clarified that the Committee has designed the curriculum from a holistic approach and the picture would be clearer when the whole curriculum is presented in the finalized document. The lesson time for the different topics is being worked out and will be included in the consultation document.
- Members received the briefing statement from the CDC-HKEAA Committee on the Revision of the Sixth-form Physics Curriculum and were invited to comment on the revised syllabuses. It was recapped that the major purpose of this revision exercise is to trim down the syllabus to allow room for the development of investigation skills, higher order thinking skills and an awareness in STS issues. The Committee endorsed the proposed AL and ASL Physics syllabuses for circulation to schools for consultation.
- 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 amount of learning time available for each subject “X” which would have a strong implication on the breadth and depth of the curriculum
 - ♦ How will the design and organization of the curriculum address
 - the wider ability spectrum of the future student population
 - the different needs of our students and the society (i.e. science education for the general public, the technical and the problem-solving groups)
 - ♦ How the learning experiences of the students can be enriched through the design and organization of a variety of learning activities
 - ♦ Would students gain any qualification if they exit at SS2, how will the qualification be accredited
 - ♦ How could we ensure that students studying the new curriculum would be different and better
- Members were of the opinion that making the curriculum more relevant to the students will help motivate the less able students and organizing the curriculum into foundations plus options would help to address the diverse abilities of the students.
- Members were of the opinion that assessment would be an important issue to address in the development of the new curriculum and suggested that work should be started to collect exemplars of assessment practices in the classroom for sharing with the teachers.
- The information sheets on the aims for the 4 new SS Science subjects were received. Members were of the opinion that how the 4 SS subjects would be different from the existing S4-5 curriculum should be spelt out and how the new curriculum would be assessed should be included. Members were invited to send in further comments.
- Date of next meeting – Pending new developments in the new Senior Secondary Curriculum