

First Meeting of the CDC Committee on Science Education (2004-2005)
(19 October 2004)

Gist of Meeting

- Mr TSE Pak-hoi was re-elected as the chairman of CDC Committee on Science Education for the year 2004-05.
- Reference was made to the Curriculum Development Handbook (2004) and members were alerted to the issues of conflict of interest and code of practice in handling restricted documents.
- Dr NG Tai-kai and Mr NG Yau-keung were appointed as the co-opted members by the Committee for the year 2004-05.
- The minutes of the third Meeting (2003-2004) were confirmed with a minor amendment.
- Mr YT LAU briefed members about the draft professional development plan for teachers and principals for 3+3 (2005-2008). Members commented that some modules for different science subjects should be considered as common so that teachers teaching more than one science subjects would not be required to repeat the training on these modules. The vice-chairman agreed that the presentation of the plan should be revised and remarked that the plan should be regarded as a provision instead of a requirement on training.
- Ms Grace LUI reported the members' comments on the Senior Secondary Curriculum Frameworks (which were circulated to members by post earlier).
- The work schedule of the Committee for 2004-2005 was finalized without amendment.
- Members were concerned about the migration from the existing curricula to the new curricula. The chairman suggested setting up an ad hoc committee or informal working group to discuss the relevant issues. As it was a cross-KLA issue, the vice-chairman agreed to reflect members' concern to the C&S Section and to confirm whether they would take the lead to take care of the issue.
- The progress of the CDC-HKEAA Committees on the Revision of Sixth-form Chemistry Curriculum and Physics Curriculum were reported by Mr HY YU and Mr Raymond FONG respectively. The Committees' responses to schools' comments on the proposed curricula were reported. Some members concerned about the ways in which the revised ASL Chemistry Curriculum (which was organized as a subset of the AL Chemistry Curriculum) would be implemented in schools. Mr Raymond FONG explained that (i) the AL and ASL Chemistry could be taught as 2 separate classes (ii) students found the AL Chemistry course too demanding might switch to studying ASL Chemistry Course in S7. The vice-chairman remarked that schools were entitled to operate AL and ASL Chemistry courses as two separate classes. The Committee endorsed the revised Sixth-form Physics and Chemistry Curricula for implementation in September 2005.
- Mr YT LAU briefed members about the recent developments of the New Senior Secondary Curriculum. Mr Jason SO, Mr Raymond FONG, Dr YH LAU, Ms Grace LUI and Mr Philip LEUNG briefed members about the rationales and features of the proposed senior secondary curricula for Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science and Liberal Studies respectively.
- Members expressed their comments/concerns on the NSS curriculum, which included:
 - ◆ Requiring students to study a subject for 3 years might not be good for students of different abilities. Greater flexibility should be provided to students in taking the core and elective subjects e.g. allowing students to skip certain parts of the subject if they demonstrated that they had fulfilled the requirement so that they would have time to study other subjects.
 - ◆ A modular approach could be used in the design of the NSS science curricula.
 - ◆ The LS Curriculum occupied too much curriculum time.
 - ◆ Apart from organizing the curriculum content into compulsory and elective parts, other measures e.g. "core and extension" should be considered to cater for different interests and abilities of students.
 - ◆ It was hoped that every senior secondary student should have the opportunity to study science in NSS.
- Date of next meeting – to be decided (late Feb to early Mar 2005)