

Second Meeting of the CDC Committee on Science Education (2005-2006)
(6 January 2006)

Gist of Meeting

- The minutes of the first meeting (2005-2006) were confirmed without amendment.
- The schedule for the development of Curriculum and Assessment Guides for the NSS curriculum was briefly introduced by Mr YT LAU. The draft curriculum and assessment framework (Chapter 1-3) of the NSS Science curricula, namely Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Science, were presented by Mr HY YU, Mr WH FONG, Ms OL CHUNG and Ms MY LUI respectively.
- Members raised concerns about the supporting measures for the implementation of the NSS Science curricula. Mr YT LAU reiterated the schedule and content for professional development programmes (PDP) to prepare teachers for NSS. There were four categories of PDP, namely understanding and interpreting the curriculum, enriching knowledge, learning and teaching strategies, and assessment.
- A member suggested to include in the Curriculum and Assessment Guides the interpretation of each action verb (e.g. recognize, suggest) used in the learning outcomes of the curriculum framework. After some deliberations, it was considered not suitable to define rigidly the meaning of each action verb in the C&A Guides. Instead, suitable reference materials would be produced for teachers to enhance their understanding of the meanings of these verbs in different contexts. Furthermore, PDP on “understanding and interpreting the curriculum” would be conducted for teachers to help understand the NSS Science Curricula.
- Some members suggested to include “links between topics”, “knowledge acquired from studying other subjects” in the curriculum and assessment framework to help teachers and students in realizing the prior knowledge needed for studying each topic.
- Members showed concerns about the feasibility of conducting investigative study in schools, the supporting resources and training for teachers, and the fairness in School-based Assessment. Mr YT LAU informed members that projects and try-outs were being conducted in schools, in collaboration with tertiary institutions, to collect good practices and develop resources for supporting the implementation of investigative study. He also explained that HKEAA would develop mechanisms to ensure the fairness and smooth implementation of SBA in schools.
- Members endorsed the draft curriculum and assessment framework (Ch. 1-3) of the NSS Science curricula. Both English and Chinese versions of the NSS Science curricula documents (Ch.1-3) would be further polished and sent to members via email for reference before uploading to CDI homepage.
- The Chairman suggested arranging an informal discussion in late April or early

May to facilitate exchange of ideas, views and experiences among members on the way forward in science education.

- Date of next meeting – June 2006 (exact date to be confirmed)