

First Meeting of the CDC Committee on Science Education (2006-2007)
(6 November 2006)

Gist of Meeting

- Dr MAK Chi-keung was elected as the Chairman of the Committee with the majority of members supporting.
- The minutes of the third meeting (2005-2006) were confirmed with minor amendments.
- The Vice Chairman (VC), Mr YT LAU reported to members regarding matters discussed in the informal gathering on 19 August 2006. He mentioned that the participants were concerned about the allocation of resources in schools which were skewed towards Chinese, English and Mathematics due to the TSA and suggested measures to monitor the performance level of students in learning science including using TIMSS/PISA data.
- Members discussed the arrangement of public assessment including the SBA and students reporting. They suggested to arrange a meeting with representatives of CDC-HKEAA Core Group for more information of SBA.
- The work schedule for the year 2006-07 including the specific tasks were explained, discussed and finally endorsed by the Committee.
- Dr K.S. LAU was appointed as a co-opted member of the Committee for 2006-07.
- The feedback and responses from the third consultation of NSS science curricula, namely Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Integrated Science, were explained by Ms Irene CHUNG, Mr WH FONG, Mr CL LO and Ms Garce LUI respectively.
- The concerns were generally regarding the subject combinations of Combined Science with other elective subjects, allocation of resources, SBA arrangements and moderation of public examination marks. There were concerns about the provision of resources including the laboratory technicians for supporting the SBA in NSS examinations. The VC explained that related measures were being reviewed. There was also concern about the arrangement for SEN students. Ms SK CHOY of the HKEAA responded that due consideration would be given to cater for their practical needs.
- Members were satisfied with the arrangement about the mechanism of drafting the curriculum documents and the existing CDI practice to ensure the language quality. Some members raised that the language refinement process should involve experts in both language and science education background. The Committee would draw the attention of CDC-HKEAA Core Group on the language quality of the curriculum documents.
- The Committee endorsed to set up 3 working groups (later as Ad Hoc Committees) for updating the glossary of Biology, Chemistry and Physics due to the launch of these NSS science subjects and to facilitate the preparation of learning resources.
- The VC briefed members on the major science education activities to be held in November 2006 to January 2007. Members are invited to further update the list of major events.