

Second Meeting of the CDC Committee on Science Education (2006-2007)

(4 January 2007)

Gist of Meeting

- The minutes of the first meeting (2006-2007) were confirmed with minor amendments.
- The Vice Chairman (VC), briefed members of the discussions made with Dr Peter Hill, the Secretary General of the HKEAA in the special meeting held on 13 December 2006 regarding the assessment arrangement of the NSS science subjects. The discussions focused on the weightings of SBA, the methods to assess high order thinking skills, the distribution of grades and the opportunities for students of taking examinations earlier.
- The Secretary explained the suggested changes for the weightings of multiple choice questions in the NSS Physics papers. The Committee endorsed the proposed changes.
- The Committee would invite CDI officers responsible for General Studies to explain the present situation of science education in primary schools, in particular the provision of resources, in the next CDCC meeting.
- The VC briefed members concerning the schedule for the publishing and uploading of the NSS C&A Guides for Science curricula.
- Ms SK CHOY of the HKEAA briefed members that, in general, the result of third consultation about the assessment objectives and the weightings of the SBA were accepted by the teachers. Most of them felt confident to perform SBA in schools, some asked for more references and teacher trainings. Some worried about the increased workload.
- Members were informed of the moderation mechanism in the NSS examinations. Schools were advised the proper use of SBA to motivate students to learn and facilitate them to excel. Ms CHOY also informed that the detailed rules and regulations for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) would be announced by 2009.
- The Committee endorsed all the English versions of the science curriculum documents for publishing and uploading. The documents in Chinese would be asked for endorsement by circulation.
- The Committee accepted the minor changes on the names and compositions of the three Committees of Biology, Chemistry and Physics respectively. The names were changed from “Working Group” to “Ad Hoc Committee”. Moreover, the number of members had been revised from 2-4 to 2-6 members.
- Members suggested the use of a set of common criteria in selecting the terms in the glossaries prepared by the Ad Hoc Committees. The Committee endorsed the membership lists and the minor changes proposed, and welcomed more comments on the drafts.
- The Secretary briefed members on the major science education activities to be held from February 2007 to April 2007. Members were invited to further update the list of major events.