

**Gist of Minutes of the Thirty-fourth Meeting of
the CDC Committee on Technology Education (2009-2011)**

Date: 28 Jun 2010 (Monday)

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 5:10 p.m.

Venue: Room E304, 3/F., East Block, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong

- Members were concerned about arrangement of pre-service teacher training for both the Home Economics (H Ec) as well as the Design and Technology (D&T) curricula. It was explained that in view of the decrease of student population in the coming years, there would be a decrease in the number of schools resulting to a small demand of new H Ec and D&T teachers.
- Members noted the following and had raised some remarks:
 - Only few applicants applied for the related H Ec Degree Programmes offered by the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) in recent years. The HKIEd would convert the Home Ec special rooms to other uses though it was currently the only tertiary institute that provided pre-service teacher training for H Ec / Technology and Living curriculum.
 - Some schools had discontinued or reduced offering TE subjects at junior secondary level irrespective of the needs and interests of students.
 - The External School Review (ESR) Reports did not mention the issue of time allocation for particular Key Learning Area(s), including Technology Education Key Learning Area (TEKLA) though some schools discontinued/reduced offering TEKLA related subjects leading to less time allocation than the recommended percentage at 8%.
 - It was learned that schools with intellectual disability students had encountered difficulties to recruit suitable H Ec teachers in their schools.
 - A strong policy directive from the Education Bureau would be desirable to indicate the importance and necessity of TE in the school curriculum at junior secondary level.
- It was discussed that with a decreasing demand of H Ec teachers, new graduates in related subject from the teacher training programme might encounter difficulties to find a suitable job. However, there might be no new blood to supply the market and sustain the development if no teacher training programme was available.
- It was suggested that more in-service teacher training, such as part-time Post Graduate Diploma of Education (PGDE) Programme should be provided. Besides, special in-service teacher training programmes could be developed to enable teachers in other subjects to learn the necessary knowledge and skills in teaching H Ec or D&T in schools.
- Members agreed that more learning and teaching examples could be developed as reference to support teachers to implement the TEKLA curriculum at the junior secondary level. An Ad Hoc Committee on Enhancing Student Learning in TEKLA was proposed to be set up. Discussion was made on the terms of reference, composition, and membership. Members were also invited to nominate suitable personnel for consideration by the Chairperson. The election for the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee could be among the Ad Hoc Committee Members themselves at the first meeting.