
Enlightened People with a Rich Culture

Preamble

The Government will enrich Hong Kong's quality of life through a variety of policies and programmes, among which education ranks the highest. As Asia's world city, we will create an environment which fosters innovative thinking, mutual respect and team spirit, and we hope citizens can cultivate their artistic interests and personal tastes for their spiritual enhancement and cultural enrichment. We expect our society to be one which encourages self-initiative, entrepreneurship and aspirations, while valuing creativity and diversity.

New Initiatives

We will:

- Establish a Sports Commission and reconstitute the Hong Kong Sports Institute, with a view to pursuing the new vision for sports development in Hong Kong. A new Sports Funding Office will also be set up under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to provide one-stop service for National Sports Associations.
- Launch a public consultation exercise to seek the views of the public on the policy of heritage conservation in Hong Kong and review the policy in the light of the views received.
- Invite interested parties to participate in two Private Sector Finance (PSF) projects on leisure and cultural facilities in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O in mid-2004. We will also identify other suitable projects which could be developed with PSF.
- Plan the development of a stadium complex and sports facilities in South East Kowloon.
- Work closely with the sports sector and involve the community in planning for hosting the Fifth East Asian Games in Hong Kong in 2009.
- Consider the best option to strengthen tertiary visual arts training in Hong Kong.
- Consult the community on the three-year academic structure for senior secondary education and four-year undergraduate programmes recommended by the Education Commission, including the conditions, financing, and development of supporting measures.

- Establish a statutory Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training to take over the work of the Steering Committee on Legal Education and Training and the Advisory Committee on Legal Education.

Ongoing Initiatives

We are:

- Improving language education and the language proficiency of our people, i.e. biliterate in written Chinese and English and trilingual in Cantonese, Putonghua and spoken English through a package of measures recommended by the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research.
- Rationalising and simplifying the teaching grade structure of public sector schools.
- Continuing with our comprehensive programme of education reforms to help promote students' balanced, all-round development and enhance learning and teaching effectiveness through reforming the curricula, teaching methods and assessment mechanism.
- Planning with schools still operating in bi-sessional mode to work towards enabling all primary school students to study in whole day schools.
- Conducting parallel reviews of the Medium of Instruction Policy and the Secondary School Places Allocation System.
- Implementing the University Grants Committee's recommendations of the Higher Education Review.
- Setting up a qualifications framework and the associated quality assurance mechanism.
- Continuing to oversee and promote reforms in legal education including conversion of the local Bachelor of Laws course from three to four years and incremental changes to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws.

- Developing a cultural, arts, sports and youth network in the Pearl River Delta.
- Facilitating the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong, highlighting our status as an international city.
- Improving the governance and operation of cultural services in Hong Kong, including libraries, museums and performance facilities; and encouraging stronger involvement of the cultural sector and the community in the process.
- Continuing consultation on measures to provide temporary protection to the most meritorious historical buildings, and to assess the heritage value of selected historical buildings.
- Enhancing the work on the promotion of youth development in conjunction with the Commission on Youth, particularly on civic and social participation of youth.
- Enhancing the work on the promotion of civic education outside schools in conjunction with the Committee on Promotion of Civic Education, particularly on measures targeting young adults and the working population.
- Enhancing the work on the promotion of racial harmony.
- Formulating a comprehensive development package for the integrated arts, cultural and entertainment district in West Kowloon.