

Hong Kong University Graduates Association Education Foundation

Seminar on Secondary School Curriculum Reform – Looking Back and Looking Forward

Time: 2 December, 2017 (Saturday), 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 a.m.

Venue: Hong Kong Productivity Council, 78 Tat Chee Road, Kowloon Tong (Kowloon Tong MTR Station Exit C1)

Guest Speakers

Professor Kerry Kennedy, Advisor (Academic Development), formerly Chair Professor of Curriculum Studies, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Human Development and Associate Vice-President (Quality Assurance) at the Education University of Hong Kong.

Mr. Sheridan Lee, Principal Assistant Secretary (Curriculum Development), EDB

Miss Lee Suet Ying, Chairperson, Hong Kong Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools; School Head, Ho Yue College and Primary School.

Experienced Teacher Commentators

One Chinese Language teacher

One Liberal Studies teacher

One Science and Mathematics teacher

Participants

Members of the education community, Education Foundation members, members of the public who are interested in education

Language

Cantonese and English

Synopsis

The HKSAR government started large-scale education reforms in 2001, with “Learning to Learn” as the overarching principle. At the secondary level, the launching of the New Senior Secondary (NSS) academic structure and curriculum since 2009 and the subsequent setting up of the HKDSE are the most important.

After over 15 years of development, the secondary school curriculum is facing many new challenges. The government has introduced new initiatives, including life planning education and STEM. A revised Secondary School Curriculum Guide was announced this year, recommending strengthening of basic law education and Chinese culture. In her Policy Address in October 2017, the Chief Executive announced making Chinese History a compulsory and independent subject at the lower secondary level. At the same time, there have been mounting criticisms of the NSS curriculum, e.g. advocating a reduction of the weighting of the four core subjects, the abolition of Liberal Studies, allowing students more opportunity to choose science and mathematics, and changing university entrance requirements. In addition, many educators contend that secondary schooling is still dominated by an examination-oriented culture, and fails to cater for student diversity.

With this background, we believe it is an opportune time to review the accomplishments of the secondary education reform, and examine the challenges ahead.