Foreword

In the face of globalization and the development of a knowledge-based society, education reform assumes an important role in meeting the everchanging expectations and demands of the community.

The education reform is not only an arduous task, but also an enormous and complex exercise involving different sectors and implementation agencies. In order to achieve the vision of "life-long learning and allround development", the close coordination and cooperation among various stakeholders is of supreme importance.

The Education Commission is responsible for coordinating the work of various major education executive and advisory bodies on the reform, dealing with issues relating to the interface between different education sectors or bodies and reporting on the progress to the public regularly so as to maintain transparency. This booklet, the first Progress Report on the overall education reform, is published by the Education Commission in collaboration with various major education executive and advisory bodies. It is hoped that through the enhanced communication with various sectors, mutual understanding and trust may be promoted and close partnerships forged in order to proceed with the reform.

The community holds high expectations for the education reform. However, the enhancement of the quality of education is a long development process and, as for reforms implemented in other places of the world, difficulties and challenges are inevitable. This may be especially true for frontline educators. We must, therefore, render them the greatest support and encouragement, and provide them with concrete assistance, to enable them to make real improvements in the quality of education and develop students' potential to the full.

(Rosanna WONG Yick-ming)
Chairman
Education Commission