

Section 7: Increase in Education Opportunities

(1) Increase in Senior Secondary Education Opportunities

Target

To provide all Secondary 3 students studying in publicly funded schools, who have the ability and wish to continue with their studies, with subsidized Secondary 4 or training places.

Last Year's Progress

- The Secondary 3 students concerned have been provided with sufficient Secondary 4 or training places.
- In the 2004/05 school year, there are a total of 11 senior secondary schools (SSS) with diversified curricula to meet the different capabilities and learning needs of students.

Tasks Ahead for the Coming Year

- To continue supporting SSS in offering diversified curricula to give parents and students more choices.

(2) Increase in Post-secondary Education Opportunities

Target

To support the progressive increase in post-secondary education opportunities so that 60% of senior secondary school leavers will have access to post-secondary education by the 2010/11 school year.

Last Year's Progress

- The overall post-secondary participation rate for the 17-20 age cohort increased to 53% in the 2004/05 school year.
- A series of support measures was provided to support the emergence of education providers for accredited full-time post-secondary programmes.
- There are 20 institutions of accredited full-time post-secondary programme offering 14,200 places for senior secondary school leavers in the 2004/05 school year.

- Interest free start-up loans were approved to support non-profit-making education providers in providing accredited self-financed post-secondary programmes.
- Four pieces of land were allocated to non-profit-making post-secondary education providers for the construction of purpose-built premises through a competitive land grant exercise in mid-2003. Besides, applications for another four pieces of land were invited in 2004.
- Grants were approved for post-secondary education providers to conduct institutional reviews and programme validations.
- Financial assistance was provided to post-secondary students.
- A website containing a study programme database and detailed information on accredited full-time self-financed post-secondary programmes was created and maintained.
- The Career Guidance Handbook on further education opportunities for senior secondary school graduates was published in collaboration with the Hong Kong Association of Careers Masters & Guidance Masters.
- Annual Information Expo for Secondary School Leavers was organized since 2003 to provide one-stop service on further education and employment opportunities.
- EMB has worked with the mass media and non-Government organizations to promote recognition of accredited full-time post-secondary programmes.

Tasks Ahead for the Coming Year

- Subject to the availability of resources, there are plans to increase second- and third-year undergraduate places in UGC-funded institutions in order to provide more articulation opportunities for sub-degree graduates.
- To continue to provide support measures for institutions.
- To continue to provide financial assistance to needy students.
- To continue to provide senior school leavers with useful information on further education opportunities.
- To continue to step up publicity to enhance the understanding of the public on sub-degree qualifications and its prospects for employment or further studies so as to promote recognition of these qualifications.