

Section 7 : Increase in Education Opportunities

(1) Increase in Senior Secondary Education Opportunities

Target

To provide all S3 students studying in publicly-funded schools, who have the ability and wish to continue with their studies, with subsidized S4 or training places.

Progress

- The S3 students concerned have been provided with sufficient S4 or training places.
- In the 2006/07 school year, there are a total of 12 senior secondary schools (SSS) with diversified curricula to meet the different capabilities and learning needs of students.

Tasks Ahead

- To enable students to complete the six-year of secondary education under the NSS academic structure in the same school under normal circumstances.
- 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.

Progress

- The overall post-secondary participation rate for the 17-20 age cohort has increased to 66% in the 2005/06 school year.
- Interest-free start-up loans have been approved to support non-profit-making education providers in providing accredited self-financed post-secondary programmes.
- Five pieces of land were allocated to non-profit-making post-secondary education providers for the construction of purpose-built premises through competitive land grant exercises in 2003 and 2004.
- Grants have been approved for post-secondary education providers to conduct institutional reviews and programme validations.
- The Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary students has been significantly enhanced with effect from the 2006/07 school year.
- 20 institutions offered over 25 000 accredited full-time self-financed post-secondary places for senior secondary school leavers in the 2005/06 school year.
- To increase the articulation opportunities for sub-degree graduates, the UGC-funded institutions have decided to provide a total of 1 680 publicly-funded senior year undergraduate places for the 2005/06 to 2007/08 triennium.
- The register containing detailed information on accredited full-time self-financed post-secondary programmes has been updated.
- The *Career Guidance Handbook* on further education opportunities for senior secondary school graduates has been published in collaboration with the Hong Kong Association of Careers Masters & Guidance Masters.
- The Annual Information Expo for Secondary School Leavers was organized in July 2006 to provide one-stop service on further education and employment opportunities.

- Publicity events have been organized to promote recognition of the sub-degree qualifications.
- The EMB has initiated a review of the post-secondary education sector. Report of Phase 1 of the review was released for public consultation in March 2006.

Tasks Ahead

- The UGC plans to create on top of the approved provision of a total of 1 680 senior year undergraduate places for the 2005/06 to 2007/08 triennium, some 2 000 additional senior year undergraduate places at UGC-funded institutions starting from the 2006/07 school year to provide more articulation opportunities for sub-degree graduates. Of these 2 000 new places, 254 Year 2 undergraduate places are provided in the 2006/07 school year.
- The EMB will embark on Phase 2 of the review of the post-secondary education sector to look at, among others, the support measures for institutions and the quality assurance measures.
- The provision of financial assistance to needy students will continue.
- Senior school leavers will continue to be provided with useful information on further education opportunities.
- The EMB will continue to step up publicity to enhance the understanding of the public on sub-degree qualifications and the prospects for employment or further studies so as to promote recognition of these qualifications.