

Chapter 1: Background

The 21st Century sees us facing substantial changes in the economic structure within a globalized world. To meet the challenges posed by these unprecedented changes, education systems and measures must progress in tandem to sustain the development of Hong Kong. It was in this context that the Education Commission (EC), after extensive consultation, submitted to the Government the *Reform Proposals for the Education System in Hong Kong* in September 2000. The proposals were accepted by the Chief Executive in his Policy Address in October 2000, which kicked off the reform of the education system in Hong Kong.

The Education Reform, which is student-focused, aims "to enable every person to attain all-round development in the domains of ethics, intellect, physique, social skills and aesthetics according to his/her own attributes so that he/she is capable of life-long learning, critical and exploratory thinking, innovating and adapting to change; filled with self-confidence and a team spirit; willing to put forward continuing effort for the prosperity, progress, freedom and democracy of their society, and contribute to the future well-being of the nation and the world at large". Concerted efforts and coordination of the community are required to put in place various Education Reform initiatives in a comprehensive and coherent manner.

Major Initiatives of the Education Reform

The Education Reform initiatives are wide-ranging and intertwining. There are, broadly speaking, seven major initiatives in the blueprint of the Education Reform - curriculum reform, assessment mechanisms, language education, support for schools, professional development, student admission systems and increase in post-secondary education opportunities. They can be summed up in the diagram below:

