

Foreword

In this changing world of the 21st Century, our younger generation needs to be equipped with a broad based knowledge, high adaptability, independent thinking and the ability for life-long learning. The Education Commission, in its *Reform Proposals for the Education System in Hong Kong* released in 2000, aptly made "Learning for Life, Learning through Life" the aim of education for the 21st Century. For over six years, we have been putting in place progressively a diversified and sustainable system of education which provides more choices and opportunities, lays emphasis on quality and encourages life-long learning. Today we are happy to say that we have launched all the proposals laid down in the 2000 blueprint of the Education Reform.

The Education Reform is a mammoth and complex task. Reform proposals spanned across areas which are interrelated. Adjustments in one area may have significant impact on other areas. Changes will inevitably give rise to anxiety, difficulties and challenges. In implementing the reform initiatives, our educators have worked diligently with devotion and commitment. Expected improvements are now gradually taking place in teaching and learning in schools. Our efforts are bearing fruits. The Education and Manpower Bureau and the education sector seem to have sailed through the most difficult period in the establishment of rapport and partnership.

We will continue to uphold our motto, which is "all for the students, for all students and for the good of all students". We will also do our best to maintain a harmonious and trustful relationship with the education sector, working together with our partners to create a better future for our system of education. Here I would also like to give special thanks to our educators for their dedication and hard work in grooming our younger generation. I would also like to thank Members of the Education Commission who, under the leadership of Dr Rosanna Wong, have been providing us with valuable advice on different domains of education. We are grateful to Dr Wong and Members of the Education Commission for all they have done to improve the quality of education in Hong Kong.



Arthur K C LI

Secretary for Education and Manpower

In 2000, the Education Commission recommended reforming the education system, with the objective of constructing a system conducive to life-long learning and all-round development. These reforms can be seen in the context of keeping pace with the progress of a knowledge-based economy in Hong Kong in the 21st Century. With the concerted efforts of all parties concerned, all items of the Education Reform have gradually been implemented. The Education Reform has reached a new milestone, and is being consolidated.

The Education Reform was always going to be a challenging task. As with other places around the world, Hong Kong also had to face some testing times, as different sectors with differing foci and differing visions contributed their opinions. Along with a declining student population, and the changing social climate and family structure, it was inevitable that discussions would ensue, further exacerbating the difficulties. However, we are very pleased to have a group of dedicated and professional educators who have been working for the Education Reform, always keeping the best interests of students as their prime concern.

Looking back on what have been achieved over the past six years, we are reassured that the Education Reform is progressing in the right direction. We have no doubt that there are many more challenges to face, but we are confident of moving forward. We believe that this is possible with the education sector, parents, members of the public and the Government all working in partnership towards the provision of quality education to all young people in Hong Kong.

The Education Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of the Education Reform by coordinating various initiatives and maintaining open communication with different sectors in the community. As we go forward, I would like to pay special tribute to all the frontline educators whose hard work, commitment and dedication to their calling has been the backbone of education in Hong Kong.



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Chairman
Education Commission