

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

To cope with the challenges of the 21st Century, education in Hong Kong must keep abreast of the global trends and students have to empower themselves to learn beyond the confines of the classroom. The school curriculum, apart from helping students to acquire the necessary knowledge, should also help the younger generation to develop a global outlook, to learn how to learn and to master life-long skills that can be used outside schools. The curriculum should also cultivate students' positive values and attitudes to achieve the educational aims of promoting whole-person development and life-long learning.

To achieve this goal, the Curriculum Development Council started its holistic review on school curriculum in 1999. Over the last two years, we have proceeded our work in parallel with the progress of the education reform and widely consulted the education profession and various sectors of the community. All of them have shown encouraging support. In fact, the success of any education and curriculum reforms hinges on the devotion of each and every aspiring individual. It can hardly be accomplished with merely the effort of one or two government departments or schools, or the aid of one or two educational theories or schools of thoughts. To fulfil this crucial education mission for the benefit of this generation and the generations to come, we have to gather the strengths of all parties concerned to co-operate and work fully and harmoniously.

Looking back on our longstanding curriculum development work, I must take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Curriculum Development Council and officers of the Education Department who are responsible for curriculum development. Throughout the entire process, they have spared no effort to initiate the curriculum reform and have demonstrated their unswerving team spirit to the full.

Since 1999, we have been exchanging our views and sharing our concerns with different sectors of our society, including relevant government departments, schools, teachers, parents, sponsoring bodies, tertiary institutions, associations and educational societies, educational advisory bodies, employers, etc. Open consultation was carried out on the draft curriculum framework in November 2000. Then, we spent half a year to consolidate the valuable opinions and suggestions collected during the consultation period and incorporate them into the final proposals of this report. In the report, we have set out short-term and medium-term plans for the curriculum in the next 10 years, which are based on our local situations and existing strengths, our experiences gained in the implementation of curriculum development, the findings of research studies as well as international theories on curriculum development. We have also taken into consideration the actual conditions of schools in general, the students' needs and the potential difficulties that teachers may encounter in carrying out school-based curriculum development.

Many schools have started to develop their own school-based curriculum based on the direction we previously set. They have also joined forces with other schools to form school-based curriculum development teams and to optimise the use of resources. I would specially like to take this opportunity to call on more schools, educators and members of the community to take part in bringing the school education in Hong Kong to the fore-front of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and to transform the schools in Hong Kong to dynamic "Learning-to-learn" bases with unbounded creativity. Let us strive to work for the progress of our society, for the prosperity of our country and more importantly, for the betterment of the future masters of Hong Kong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HK Ching', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. CHENG Hon-kwan, GBS, JP  
Chairman of Curriculum Development Council