

Chairperson's Annual Report 2013 - 2014

Medium of Instruction Policy

With the commencement of the next 6-year cycle in the school year 2016/17 where the performance of the 2014/15 and 2015/16 S1 student intake will be used to assess the eligibility of secondary schools to use English as the MOI, we are fully aware that some of our member schools will be affected due to the marked drop in student population during this period, despite their hard work and effort in upholding their teachers' capability and the provision of various school supporting measures.

In addition to the school survey conducted in the previous year, our executive committee members have kept close contact with our member schools to collect their opinions and suggestions in relation to this issue. The executive committee of AEMSS had a meeting with Mr. Kevin Yeung Yun Hung, Under Secretary for Education, in March 2014, during which we expressed the concerns of our member schools over the impact of the declining Secondary one student population on the medium of instruction (MOI) policy of secondary schools in the new 6-year cycle. We strongly urged EDB to review the ability of primary school students to learn in an environment using English as the MOI, the 3 basic criteria (i.e. "student ability", "teacher capability" and "support measures for schools") for adopting English as the MOI at secondary schools, and in particular the percentage of eligible students who can learn in an English medium secondary school. The same requests were sent to Mr. Eddie Ng Hak Kim, Secretary for Education, in May 2014. A reply from EDB was received on 23 June 2014. However there was no solid reply on the issue.

Another survey was conducted at the beginning of this new school year in September 2014 to collect more data to reflect the impact of the 2014 SSPA Allocation results on the eligibility rate of student capability of learning in English as the medium of instruction. The summary of the survey results will be discussed later today and will be presented to the Education Bureau in due course.

Here I have to thank all the Principals for their support in collating, analysing and reviewing the relevant information for the Association so that we can continue to negotiate with the Education Bureau and look for supporting measures to improve the opportunity for local students to learn better and more efficiently in an environment using English as the medium of instruction.

School-Business Partnership Programme

This was the 13th year that the AEMSS jointly organized the partnership program with the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, and 27 companies and 25 schools joined the Program. Each pair of the business-school partners engaged in a series of activities that included CEO talks, interview workshops, company tours, job shadowing, summer internships as well as volunteer work. Through these activities, students from our member schools better understood their own strengths and weaknesses, built their confidence and gained transferable work skills from school to the real world, so as to prepare themselves for their future career paths.

Visit to CUHK

The AEMSS would like to express its sincere appreciation to the hospitality of Professor Joseph J Y Sung, Vice-chancellor and President of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and his group of dedicated staff, for hosting an interflow meeting with the principals and careers teachers of our member schools in January 2014. More than 50 participants from 47 member schools attended the meeting during which the Vice-chancellor and his staff gave a briefing on the admission policy and recent development of the University. Our member principals and teachers also shared our views on the impact of non-JUPAS admission policy on local students.

Lion's International Youth Exchange Scholarship

The 14th Lions International Youth Exchange Scholarship Essay competition was jointly organized by the AEMSS, Lions Clubs International District 303 and other parties. Students participating in this competition had to submit an essay in English of around 1000 words. Around 50 entrants were selected to attend an interview to present their essay orally. The top ten finalists were invited to prepare a PowerPoint presentation together with 5 contestants from Mainland China, and take the stage at the Mikiki Centre on 1st March 2014. Ms Carol Yang, the vice-chairperson, represented our Association as the Guest of Honour and adjudicator for the finals.

Drama Fest

The annual Drama Fest is one of the key events hosted by the Association. This year there were 41 entries from member schools which gave their performances in 6 different sessions of modern drama and another 6 entries for the Shakespearean session in April 2014. The schools awarded the most outstanding performance awards were invited to showcase their production and share their joy again at the Outstanding Performances cum Prize Presentation Ceremony held at Tsuen Wan Town Hall on 5th May 2014. We were honoured to have Mr. Eddie Ng Hak Kim, Secretary for

Education, to be our Guest of Honour to officiate the ceremony and present the prizes to all winners. Once again, I must express my gratitude to Ms Ada Kwong and all the English teachers in her subcommittee for arranging all the details of the programme, and the Principals of all the host schools for their generous and continuous support to make our Drama Fest a success.

Public Speaking

In collaboration with the Hong Kong Schools Debating and Public Speaking Community, the AEMSS organized 2 identical full day workshops to students of our member schools to introduce them to the different categories of public speaking used in the World Individuals Debating & Public Speaking Championships (WIDPSC), namely Persuasive Speaking, Interpretive Reading, and Impromptu Speaking. 121 students and 15 teachers from 30 member schools participated in this new event. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Steven Lee from the Hong Kong Schools Debating and Public Speaking Community (HKSDPSC) for offering his help in organising the workshops.

Liaison with other Education Councils, HKEAA and EDB

Our Executive Committee members also represented the Association to attend various meetings with the HKEAA and EDB, and liaise with other education councils to share the views and concerns of our member schools on different education issues and public examinations arrangements.

To conclude my report for 2013 – 2014, I have to take this opportunity to thank all the principals and teachers of our member schools for their support and advice provided throughout the year. My wholehearted thanks also extend to members of the executive committee for their dedicated effort and hard work. The road ahead is still full of changes and challenges, especially on issues on the medium of instruction policy, the drop in student population, the increase in demand from our stakeholders, and the insufficient provision of resources from the Education Bureau. May we continue to work hand in hand to provide the best environment for the growth and development of our younger generations.