

Annual General Meeting, 14 November 2006

Chairperson's Report

1. Introduction:

The last school year, 2005-06, has been a busy year for all of us. In addition to our routine work as an administrator and a school leader, we had to prepare our schools for the challenges brought about by the new MOI policy, the new SSPA mechanism and the "3+3+4" Reform. The Executive Committee of the Association met many times to discuss the various issues and we also met with EMB personnel and other interested parties to exchange views and ideas. In all this, we have always borne in mind the interests of the community, of the education sector and of our members, especially the well-being of our staff, our students and their parents, and we are convinced that what is good for our members is good for Hong Kong youths, for their parents, for our staff and for the future of Hong Kong.

2. Meetings:

Our AGM was held on 25 November 2005 at La Salle College. We were honoured to have Dr Li Yuet Ting, CBE, JP to be our Guest of Honour.

The Executive Committee met formally five times during the past year, on 20 October 2005, 19 December 2005, 15 March 2006, 24 May 2006 and 19 September 2006. Representatives of the Executive Committee attended an EMB briefing on "Action for the Future – Further Consultation on Career-oriented Studies and the New Senior Secondary Academic Structure for Special Schools." They met with their counterparts of the Association of Hong Kong Chinese Middle Schools and EMB personnel to discuss the MOI for Liberal Studies in the NSS Curriculum. Having discussed the position of the Association on "Class Structure under 3+3+4" with Prof Arthur Li, Secretary for Education and Manpower (SEM) and Mrs Fanny Law, Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower (PSEM), the Association later made its stand known to the Education Panel of the Legislative Council.

3. Co-operation with Other Organisations:

The Association has continued its co-operation with the Labour Department in the "I.T. Seed Programme of the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme" and with the Lions Clubs International District 303 in the "Lions International Youth Exchange 2007 Scholarship Environmental Essay Competition."

In the past year, eight member schools of the Association were invited by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (HKGCC) to take part in the Pilot Business-School Partnership Programme 2005-06, in which each participating company adopted a school for a year and developed activities with the school to enhance students' knowledge of the business world, language skills, etc. After an evaluation meeting on the Programme attended by representatives of the Executive Committee and members of the Manpower Committee of the HKGCC, the HKGCC has launched the HKGCC-AEMSS Business-School Partnership Programme 2006-07. Fourteen member schools will participate in the Programme and they will meet their matching companies tomorrow. We are grateful to the HKGCC and their member companies for providing this service to our members and we hope the relationship will continue to flourish in the years ahead.

And, for the first time in history, The Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools, The Association of Hong Kong Chinese Middle Schools, The Association of English Medium Secondary Schools, The Hong Kong Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools Council, The Association of Principals of Government Secondary Schools, The Caput Schools Council and The Hong Kong Private Schools Association joined hands to conduct a questionnaire on “School-Based Assessment in English and Chinese.” Afterwards, The Association of Hong Kong Chinese Middle Schools, The Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council, The Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools, The Association of English Medium Secondary Schools and The Association of Principals of Government Secondary Schools organised, and Hong Kong Education City co-organised, the “English Seminar cum Mini-Fair.” The event was a huge success and those who participated left with a lot of ideas and materials on improving the teaching and learning of English in their schools.

In addition to the above, we have expanded our network and participated in seminars, workshops, ceremonies, etc., including:

Organisation	Topic
Commission on Youth	青年發展工作研討會
Commission on Youth	2006 年青年高峰會議「當中國走向世界 - 香港青少年的發展與承擔」
Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority	Briefing Session on 2006 Territory-wide System Assessment Results
Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority	Open Forum on Handling the Use of Mobile Phones in Public Examinations
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	社區體育發展策略 - 深化學校體育推廣計劃及善用學校體育設施
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	學校體育推廣計劃 - sportACT 獎勵計劃開展儀式暨 2006 FUN FUN 動嘉年華
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	香港體育 全方位發展
The Young Entrepreneurs Development Council Ltd.	YDC School- Company Partnership
香港小學學生輔導專業人員協會	「摘星：成長」之「科科 A 有玄機」
漢榮書局有限公司	「中國全方位透視 - 學界閱讀報告大賽」頒獎典禮
軍民同樂活動籌委會、中國人民解放軍駐香港部隊、德育關注組、教育統籌局	香港青少年軍事夏令營開營典禮、結業典禮
香港資助小學校長會	丙戌年春節聯歡聚餐暨第十二屆理事就職典禮
Hong Kong Private Schools Association	Annual Dinner
EMB	Opening Ceremony of EMB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre
EMB	愛我中華賀國慶 2006「迎奧運賀國慶」全港學界慶祝國慶文藝匯演
香港文化藝術界	慶祝中華人民共和國成立五十七周年國慶酒會

4. Looking Ahead:

The dust has now mostly settled on MOI, SSPA and “3+3+4.” With the transfer and retirement of many senior officials in EMB, especially the replacement of Mrs Fanny Law by Mr Raymond Wong as PSEM, and the rumoured departure of Prof Arthur Li as SEM in July 2007, many who have played major roles in the formulation of education policies in the last few years have left or will leave the scene. Their legacies, however, will be with us in the years ahead.

In the coming years, we shall continue to keep an eye on the implementation of the MOI policy: we shall continue to demand, for the good of students, of their parents and the community as a whole, that government provides places in EMI schools for all students who have the ability and the desire to learn in English, and that EMI schools be given the discretion to decide for themselves the MOI for Liberal Studies. With the steady decline in student population, we shall pay particular attention to the number of EMI-capable students and the number of schools that can remain EMI in September 2010.

In the last few years, the Association has expended most of its energy on policy matters. In the next few years, we shall be able to devote more time and energy to promote the use of English as the medium of instruction in schools, to organise professional development activities for our teachers and learning activities for our students.

To accomplish all this and more, we need your continued support and participation. In the discussion to follow, please contribute your opinions and suggestions.

5. Vote of Thanks:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all member schools, EMB, HKGCC and other organisations for their support and co-operation this year. Thanks are also due Mrs Anson Chan and Mr Kwan Ting Fai for kindly agreeing to be our Patron and Adviser respectively. Special thanks go to members of the Executive Committee, who have given generously of their time and effort to advance the causes and further the objectives of the Association.

Although I shall be retiring at the end of this school year, I shall always have the well-being of Hong Kong students, of the Association, of its member schools, of its Executive Committee, of its teachers and students in my heart. I shall do whatever I can in the service of Hong Kong and of the Association.

May the Association continue to grow and prosper.