

Mr. Michael M.Y. Suen,
15/F, Wu Chung House,
213 Queen's Road East,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong.
Email: edbinfo@edb.gov.hk

BY EMAIL & BY POST

November 21, 2007.

Dear Mr. Suen,

Re: Consultation Document on the Third Strategy on Information Technology in Education

Members of the Hong Kong Information Joint Council (<http://www.hkitjc.org.hk>) has read the captioned document issued by the Education Bureau dated October 2007; and would like to raise the following issues for your consideration:

- (1) Refer to point 29. The funding for recurrent expenses is insufficient for a school to hire a full time IT professional to manage the school's IT system. This is because:

(1.1) The salary for a technical staff is set to be around \$9k. This is far below the market price for an experienced IT graduate.

(1.2) Although the school will be free to adjust its allocated budget to compensate (1.1), this however could only be achieved with the reduction of their recurrent expenses, e.g. toner for printers, Internet access, etc. This in turn would lower the overall IT effectiveness of the school.

(1.3) It is observed that most technical staff leave their posts within 2 years. In addition to low salary, this is due to lack of career prospect.

SUGGESTION: The Government should support schools to establish a master pay and career scale enabling technical staff to better plan their career. It is further suggested that the scale should align with similar structures in the Government for civil servants.

- (2) Refer to point 32. Based on the feedbacks of some of our members in the school sector, it was found that the ITeHelp service was not very useful and hence scarcely used.

SUGGESTION: Re-assess the effectiveness of ITeHelp before further investment.

- (3) Refer to point 33. It is indeed important to assist the parents in "Information literacy". But it is equally important, if not more, for students. Although point 1(a), Annex A, has pointed out that the "Information Literacy Framework for primary and secondary school students ..." was completed. It is unclear what the implementation plan would be. In particular, due to growing number of destructive instances, e.g. e-bullying, the issue of "IT Ethics" really needs immediate attention.

SUGGESTION: Develop clear implementation plan in "Information Literacy" (especially in IT ethics) in school. This must be backed up by appropriate resources.

I do hope that the above comments are helpful to you in finalising the said IT Education document. In the meantime, should you have any questions about them or about ITJC, please do not hesitate to contact myself at 2609-8220 or by email: kfwong@se.cuhk.edu.hk.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kam-Fai Wong', written in a cursive style.

Kam-Fai WONG (Prof)
President, HKITJC