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Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-20

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Education

Session No. : 18

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-EDB001

(Question Serial No. SV016)

Head: (156) Government Secretariat: Education Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (-) Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education (Mrs Ingrid YEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

This is a follow-up question in relation to Reply Serial No. EDB005:

Did the Education Bureau finance the publication of the handbook entitled “China Model: National Conditions Teaching Manual” by the National Education Services Centre? If yes, what was the amount of subsidy involved? What was the Government’s role in the production of the handbook?

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The Education Bureau (EDB) sponsored the then National Education Services Centre (the Centre) in Tsing Yi to render various national education services for teachers and students and schools may choose to join or use the services. Activities organised by the Centre included Mainland exchange programmes, seminars and production of learning and teaching resources. The production of “China Model: National Conditions Teaching Manual” was commissioned by the Centre to a post-secondary institution. It has never been reviewed nor issued by the EDB and is not the teaching material published by the EDB.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-EDB002

(Question Serial No. S112)

Head: (156) Government Secretariat: Education Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (-) Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education (Mrs Ingrid YEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

With reference to Reply Serial No. EDB005, in which the Education Bureau (EDB) points out that in the school years from 2011/12 to 2018/19, the Curriculum Development Institute did not provide any subsidy for external parties to compile teaching resources. However, it is learnt that "China Model: National Conditions Teaching Manual" was published with EDB's subsidy in the 2011/12 school year. Please advise on the following:

1. Which section of the EDB was responsible for financing "China Model: National Conditions Teaching Manual"? Please provide the amount of subsidy, a breakdown of the subsidy and the selection criteria.
2. Did the EDB provide subsidy for external parties to compile teaching resources in the school years from 2011/12 to 2018/19? If yes, please provide the list of the organisations subsidised, the titles of the related teaching resources and the criteria for selecting organisations to undertake the compilation task.
3. Does the EDB have plans to provide subsidy for external parties to compile teaching resources in the coming year? If yes, please provide the list of the organisations to be subsidised, the titles and subject areas of the related teaching resources, and the criteria for selecting organisations to undertake the compilation task.

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin (LegCo internal reference no.:)

Reply:

1. to 3.

All along, the Education Bureau (EDB) has been developing diversified learning and teaching materials, including resource packages, online references and compact discs, etc. for teachers. The compilation of learning and teaching materials is mainly taken up by the

professional staff of the EDB. The EDB also develops teaching materials in collaboration with external parties, such as post-secondary institutions and other non-governmental organisations as necessary (For instance, collaborating with the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong in the sex education domain of values education). The contents of teaching materials published by the EDB are compiled, commented on and reviewed by its professional staff, and are issued for use by schools through circular memoranda, circulars and the EDB's website, etc. Teaching materials developed by other institutions or organisations, including those with subsidy from the EDB for supporting their daily operations, for teachers' reference will not be reviewed and issued by the EDB. They are not considered as teaching materials published by the EDB.

The EDB sponsored the then National Education Services Centre (the Centre) in Tsing Yi to render various national education services for teachers and students. Schools may choose to join or use the services offered. Activities organised by the Centre included Mainland exchange programmes, seminars and production of learning and teaching resources. The production of "China Model: National Conditions Teaching Manual" was commissioned by the Centre to a post-secondary institution. The manual has never been reviewed nor issued by the EDB and is not considered as the teaching material published by the EDB.

The EDB did not subsidise any parties outside the Government to compile teaching materials from the 2011/12 to 2018/19 school years. The EDB has no plan to do so.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-EDB003

(Question Serial No. S122)

Head: (156) Government Secretariat: Education Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (4) Secondary Education
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education (Mrs Ingrid YEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

With reference to Reply Serial No. EDB150, the Education Bureau (EDB) has pointed out that the Task Force on Review of School Curriculum is conducting a review on school curriculum framework and assessment as a whole, including the curriculum of Liberal Studies (LS). However, it is learnt that the position of Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Liberal Studies/Cross-curricular Studies) of the Curriculum Development Institute has been left vacant for quite some time now. The section head is indispensable to both reforming or managing the operation of the LS curriculum. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. How long has the position of Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Liberal Studies/Cross-curricular Studies) been left vacant? Why has the position stayed vacant for a prolonged period?
2. Are there cases where the position of Chief Curriculum Development Officer for other core subjects be left vacant for a prolonged period?
3. At what stage is the process of recruiting/selecting a candidate for the position?
4. What are the recruitment procedures and criteria?
5. When does the EDB expect the position to be filled?

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin (LegCo internal reference no.:)

Reply:

(1-5)

The position of Head of Liberal Studies in the Curriculum Development Institute (CDI) had been left vacant since 1 March 2018. The positions of the Chief Curriculum Development Officers (CCDO) of the CDI, responsible for undertaking professional leadership in education, are held by staff of either the Inspector grade or Curriculum Officer grade. As to whether a particular post is to be filled by the staff of either grade, the Education Bureau (EDB) will base its decision on actual operational needs. As is the case for positions in other grades of the EDB, the time it takes to fill a vacant CCDO post varies according to the availability of suitable talents who are capable of assuming leadership. No matter the post is filled through open recruitment or internal promotion, the EDB will adhere to the principle of making appointments on the basis of merits and appoint those with sufficient qualifications and expertise to take up the leadership role. If a suitable candidate for the post cannot be identified, the EDB will consider meeting its operational needs through other arrangements, such as temporary staff redeployment or acting appointment. To maintain the quality of professional leadership in the EDB, it is imperative that we adopt a rigorous approach to the selection of capable staff members from the professional grades to take up curriculum development duties. The new Head of Liberal Studies has assumed office in mid-April.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-EDB004

(Question Serial No. S123)

Head: (156) Government Secretariat: Education Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (7) Post-secondary, Vocational and Professional Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education (Mrs Ingrid YEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

Please provide this Committee with statistics on Education Bureau-approved arboriculture and horticulture programmes offered by degree-awarding education institutions, vocational training and related institutions in the past 3 years, together with the name, the professional qualifications to be awarded and the number of graduates of these programmes each year.

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung

Reply:

Arboriculture and horticulture programmes at degree or above level offered by degree-awarding post-secondary institutions in the 2016/17 to 2018/19 academic years are set out below:

Academic year	Institution	Name of programme	Professional qualifications to be awarded	Number of graduates in the past 3 academic years
2016/17-2018/19	The University of Hong Kong (HKU)	Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Studies	According to the information provided by HKU, graduates of the Master of Landscape Architecture programme may seek relevant professional qualifications from the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (HKILA) after accumulating relevant work experience and passing the professional examinations. Completion of the Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Studies programme or Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture programme is the entry requirement for the Master of Landscape Architecture programme.	2015/16: 14 2016/17: 17 2017/18: 22 (provisional figure)
2016/17-2018/19	HKU	Master of Landscape Architecture		2015/16: 30 2016/17: 29 2017/18: 32 (provisional figure)
2018/19	HKU	Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture		Not applicable (The programme is first offered in the 2018/19 academic year.)
2016/17-2018/19	Vocational Training Council (VTC) – Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi)	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Landscape Architecture	-	2016/17: 70 2017/18: 36 (The first cohort of students graduated in the 2016/17 academic year.)
2016/17-2018/19	VTC –THEi	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (Honours)	-	2017/18: 7 (The first cohort of students graduated in the 2017/18 academic year.)

2016/17-2018/19	VTC – School for Higher and Professional Education	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Landscape Architecture	-	2015/16: 22 2016/17: 28 2017/18: 21
2016/17-2018/19	VTC –THEi	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Horticulture and Landscape Management	<p>According to the information provided by VTC, graduates of the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Horticulture and Landscape Management programme are eligible to apply for membership of the following associations after accumulating 1 to 3 years of relevant work experience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Membership of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture (UK) 2. Accredited Arboricultural Practitioners, HKILA 3. Technician Membership of the Arboricultural Association (UK) 4. Certified Arborist of the International Society of Arboriculture (USA) 	2017/18: 14 (The first cohort of students graduated in the 2017/18 academic year.)

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