Education Bureau Circular No. 5/2009
Extension of Deadline for Submission of Draft Constitutions
of Incorporated Management Committees

[Note: This circular should be read by
(a) Supervisors of all aided schools and persons-in-charge of school
sponsoring bodies; and
(b) Supervisors / Heads of Government, Direct Subsidy Scheme and Caput
schools and Heads of Sections – for information]

Summary

This circular informs all aided schools of the extension of the deadline for
the submission of draft constitutions of incorporated management committees
(IMCs) from 1 July 2009 to 1 July 2011.

Background

2. The Education Ordinance was amended in 2004 to require all aided schools
to set up and be managed by their IMCs. The relevant provisions regarding IMCs
came into effect on 1 January 2005. School sponsoring bodies of aided schools are
required to submit by 1 July 2009 draft constitutions for the purpose of setting up
IMCs to manage their schools.

3. The Ordinance also stipulates that the Legislative Council (LegCo) may, by
a resolution, amend the deadline to a date after 1 July 2009 but before 2 July 2011.

Details

4. The LegCo passed a resolution on 20 May 2009 to extend the deadline for
the submission of draft IMC constitutions by two years, i.e. from 1 July 2009 to 1
July 2011. The resolution is published in the Gazette today (22 May 2009).

5. The extension of the deadline for the submission of draft IMC constitutions will allow more time for non-IMC schools to make reference to the actual experience of IMC schools and learn more about their operation. This will also allow school sponsoring bodies, in particular the larger ones, more time to prepare for the establishment of the IMC. According to the resolution passed by the LegCo, all aided schools must submit their draft IMC constitutions to the Permanent Secretary for Education by 1 July 2011. The relevant provision of the Ordinance does not allow further extension of the deadline.

Support for schools

6. Currently, a one-off cash grant of $350,000 will be provided to schools to assist them to deal with matters arising from the establishment of their IMCs. The disbursement of this one-off grant will still be applicable up to the 2010/11 school year. Any unspent amount will be clawed back at the end of the 2011/12 school year. After establishing their IMCs, schools may, in the following school year, claim reimbursement of IMC-related expenditure up to a ceiling of $350,000. With the deadline for submission of draft IMC constitutions extended by two years, this reimbursement arrangement will also be extended accordingly. Other supporting measures will remain applicable.

Briefing Session

7. A circular memorandum will be issued separately in due course to invite schools which have yet to submit their draft IMC constitutions to attend a briefing session during which the procedures of establishing IMCs and the points to note will be explained.

Enquiries

8. If you have any enquiries, please contact the School-based Management Section on 2892 6658.

Mrs Betty IP
for Permanent Secretary for Education