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Dear Principals and Teachers,

**Fine-tuning Arrangements for the
Medium of Instruction for Secondary Schools**

I am pleased to announce today that the fine-tuned MOI arrangement for secondary schools will be implemented from the school year of 2010/11 starting with Secondary One level. Under the policy objective of “upholding mother-tongue teaching while enhancing students’ proficiency in both Chinese and English”, the fine-tuning aims to increase students’ opportunities to be exposed to and use English at junior secondary levels.

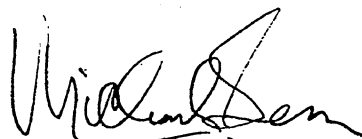
Throughout the past year, I have had intensive discussions over the MOI issue with the education sector and various parties of the community. Most of them expressed the view that while mother-tongue teaching could help students overcome their language barriers in learning and effectively enhance their motivation and dedication to learn, they also saw the need to fine-tune the current arrangement whereby secondary schools are categorized into “Chinese-medium schools” and “English-medium schools”. Opportunities for the students to be exposed to, and use English, on top of the foundation of learning in their mother tongue, are essential in enabling them to strengthen their abilities to learn and communicate in English, preparing them to meet the challenges of globalization. This move is to address the developmental needs of Hong Kong as well as to enhance Hong Kong’s status as an international city.

With the fine-tuning of the MOI arrangements, secondary schools can enjoy more flexibility to adopt diversified modes of MOI arrangements progressively with regard to student ability, teachers' readiness and other school-based support measures. The key to success of the fine-tuning arrangements therefore hinges upon schools' professional judgment to devise appropriate MOI arrangements to suit their students' abilities, interests and needs, catering for learners' diversities. Without an energetic, dedicated and professional school principals and teaching force, we would not be able to realize the full benefits of the fine-tuning. I sincerely hope that schools will consider the actual circumstances of their own schools in a diligent manner and make good use of the flexibilities allowed under the fine-tuning before deciding on the appropriate MOI to be adopted. Any changes in MOI arrangements should not be made in haste; otherwise, this will only reap contrary effects and render the whole attempt fruitless. I hereby appeal to all school principals to maintain close communication with your teaching team in the planning process and give thorough consideration to their views whilst placing students' interest as the primary concern.

During the implementation of the fine-tuning, the Education Bureau will work together with schools in close partnership and provide full support to all school principals and teachers. We will organize a series of workshops to facilitate schools to devise their school-based MOI arrangements. We also plan to provide professional training and support, with the provision of supply teachers, for content subject teachers switching from CMI to EMI teaching. We will further conduct a study on English extended learning activities and develop related teaching resources for teachers. Furthermore, if we find any school's MOI arrangement not professionally sound, and that the learning of students is hampered, we will take decisive actions to ensure that the fine-tuning will progress in an orderly and healthy manner.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all school principals and teachers for their untiring efforts in nurturing our students. The fine-tuning of MOI will bring new opportunities and challenges. Let us join hands in our efforts towards enabling each and every student to realize their full potential.

Yours sincerely,



(Michael M. Y. Suen)
Secretary for Education