



21 October 2010

2009/2010 Newsletter No. 3

Dear Colleagues,

Warm greetings from the Executive Committee to you all, especially to the new principals.

It has been more than a month since the commencement of the new school year. During the last few weeks, many things have happened in the education arena with the issue of class structure stealing the limelight. Our Association has been working closely with principals in the 18 districts on the optimal solution to enhance the quality of education in Hong Kong.

There are other issues related to the implementation of the New Academic Structure (NAS). Perhaps you have noticed that there are more student leaders from S5 and S6 coming out to compete for the various leadership posts. Schools and teachers also begin to realize the 'menace' of the preparation for IES and SBA. With all these happenings, the once much debated refined MOI policy has been implemented in many schools stealthily.

Before you are bogged down by your busy schedules and massive undertakings, I would like to share with you the following matters:

1. **New Membership Drive**

The annual membership drive is now under way. For the new principals who are not members yet, you are cordially invited to join us as a new member. Please fill in the Membership form attached - full membership for current and new principals.

2. **Associate Membership Drive**

We value very much the participation of Vice-Principals in our Association as Associate Members. Please encourage and support your Vice-principals to join our Association. At the same time, former and retired principals are much welcome to stay with us.

3. **Membership Renewal**

Please fill in the enclosed renewal form for your membership. We are grateful for your continuing support in the past year and look forward to having you again as an active, enthusiastic member.

4. New Subscription

As resolved in the AGM in December 2009, the annual subscription would be \$200.00 for full and associate members. The fee has not been raised for nearly 20 years! The one-off subscription for former and retired principals would be \$300.00.

5. Decline in student population and capitalizing the opportunity to enhance education quality

Since 2007, the Association has been working with the Education Bureau on capitalizing the opportunity of the decline in student population to implement small class teaching to enhance quality education. Our efforts attributed to the policy of reduction in the class size and eventually capping the maximum at 36 per class.

To further develop along that line, a Liaison Committee comprising representatives from the 18 districts was set up in December 2009 and the Committee began their first round of professional exchanges among themselves through more than 10 meetings and dialogues with the Education Bureau. Besides our Chairman, there are six members from our Executive Committee joining the Liaison Committee as representatives of their districts. The action resulted in the programme of "Optimisation of Class Structure on a voluntary basis" (自願優化班級結構計劃) in March 2010 with the voluntary participation of 23 schools.

In August 2010, the Liaison Committee started another round of meetings. In the process, our Association had a very sincere review of our past efforts and several articles including "Our foot prints" (我們的足跡) have been circulated to members for reference. A press conference was held in September to openly express our concerns. These keen efforts have solicited the positive responses from the Education Bureau and a few proposals have been put forward for consultation purposes. I am sure by the time you receive this newsletter, the Education Bureau has already put forward a revised plan on dealing with the issue.

Looking at the process, we feel much encouraged and heartened to see the joint efforts of so many colleagues, regardless of whichever organizations they represent. It is really a pleasure to work in one heart for the betterment of Hong Kong education and our future generations.

6. Implementation of the NAS

I would like to thank members' kind responses to our series of questionnaire regarding the implementation of the NAS. Challenges in Liberal Studies have specially been highlighted and the report was compiled and sent to the Education Bureau for their reference and follow-up. With the kind efforts of many, the government has responded positively to earmark and disburse the Liberal Studies Curriculum Support Grant in September. Though the grant has come at an odd time of the year, it will provide some support to ease teachers' burden. We will continue to work with the EDB and HKEAA to iron out issues of concern.

7. Annual General Meeting

We are holding our Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 9 December 2010** (from 9:00 a.m. till lunch time) and have invited Professor Edmond Ko Inq-ming (高彥鳴教授) for a Part Two of his talk on "Building a Learning Paradigm Schools" in last December. This time, Professor Ko would unveil the joint endeavour with the EDB to put theory into practice. The theme will be "**Building Learning Paradigm Schools: Engaging students as Deep Learners**". Schools would have a chance to join the project at different level of involvement so that their staff and students would gain insight and practical tips on reflection through the OLE platform. So do not miss this precious chance and mark the date in your diary.

Besides, the Executive Committee is planning to hold a special programme in the AGM as a finale to our 45th anniversary celebrations. Details of the AGM will be announced in a separate letter later.

8. Representation in SSPA

Upon the retirement of Sister Wong May May, the Executive committee has decided to nominate our Chairman, Dr. Yuen Pong Yiu, to serve in the SSPA committee till the end of the serving term on 31 August 2011.

9. Going Digitized

To help conserve energy and resources, the Executive Committee has decided not to send you the membership and contact list through post. Instead all the information can be found in the Association website at www.hkahss.edu.hk. This year, though we will try to send you messages (newsletter or special news) through post or fax, we will send the e-version to you if you provide us with your e-mail address in the membership form. It is much hoped that after one year's practice, we can communicate through the e-world.

I will write soon on the Annual General Meeting, and would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone another successful and fruitful academic year. Please take it easy with the many tasks on hand and 'work and play' in an effective and efficient way!

Mrs Ruth Lee
Honorary Secretary