

## 9. CONCLUSION

### ***Accomplishment in TSA 2010***

Last year in June, the Education Bureau announced closure of all primary schools due to the outbreak of Human Swine Influenza in Hong Kong. Written assessments of TSA in primary schools were not conducted and the relevant data could not be obtained. 2010 TSA was successfully conducted with full support from all collaborative parties and cooperation from schools in Hong Kong this year. The findings show that the performance of P3 students in 2010 is close to the performance in 2008. Chinese Language is the best among three subjects (attainment rate: 85.9%). The attainment rates in both English Language (attainment rate 79.2%) and Mathematics (attainment rate: 87%) are relatively close to those in 2008. The performance of P6 students is stable in general and slightly higher than 2008. The attainment rates of the three subjects are: Chinese Language 77%, English Language 71.6%, and Mathematics 84.2%. There is no significant difference in the results of S3 students between 2009 and 2010. Attainment rates for the three subjects are: Chinese Language 76.8%, English Language 69.2%, Mathematics 80.1% respectively. On the whole, 2010 TSA results of P3 and P6 are approximately the same as 2008 and the performance of S3 students in 2010 TSA is steady as compared to the 2009 results.

Every year after the release of TSA results, schools can download school reports from the Basic Competency Assessment website to collect the students' performance for their own school. HKEAA uploads the question papers and marking schemes of the current assessment to the website for teachers' references. Also, information in Chapter 6-8 in this report is most valuable. Students' performances supported by exemplars for all Key Learning Stages and detailed analyses on strengths and weaknesses of students' performance are listed. Schools can make use of the information to check their students' learning progress and to enhance the design of teaching. HKEAA expects the TSA reports and relevant information can help teachers to have a better knowledge on students' learning ability and to provide appropriate support to those in need.

## **Support for Non-Chinese Speaking Students (NCS)**

EDB and HKEAA worked together to set up measures to support NCS in taking Chinese Language assessments in the TSA. These measures were implemented successfully in 2010 TSA:

- (1) Schools with NCS students were given an option to implement newly-introduced facilitation measures, depending on NCS students' needs and parents' views;
- (2) Schools concerned provided separate venues to the non-Chinese speaking students, to facilitate implementation of special arrangements such as reading instructions, questions and/or options not applicable to Chinese-speaking students;
- (3) A bilingual version of "instructions to students" was provided in the form of a supplementary sheet in Reading, Writing, Listening and CAV assessments to enable NCS students to have a better understanding of the requirements for answering questions;
- (4) For the Oral Assessment, oral examiners followed the instructions prepared by HKEAA and delivered them verbally to all students taking the oral assessments;
- (5) In the Listening assessments, the questions, including the answer options for multiple choice questions, were read aloud for NCS students.

## **Second stage of the pilot study of Oral Marking Automation (OMA)**

Last year, Chinese Language was used as a controlled test in the Oral Marking Automation (OMA) pilot study. This year, English Language was chosen for the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage pilot study. The full pilot study was completed by July 2010 with promising results showing that the computer system can save time spent on entering scores and calculation of marks. However, the study also found that substantial resources will be required and therefore careful consideration and further study on the possibility of implementing OMA is essential.

## **Assessment Literacy Training (ALT) for primary school teachers**

This year, HKEAA conducted various basic ALT courses to primary school teachers following past practices. Apart from the basic courses, thematic courses and seminars on Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics were conducted to enhance teachers' understanding of "Assessment for Learning" and to help teachers make the

best use of the assessment data to enhance teaching and learning. Thousands of teachers have already attended the ALT courses or seminars. In addition, HKEAA also organized Assessment Policy training activities co-conducted by the Secretary General, school heads and experienced school teachers. The activities were welcomed by attendants. School administrators understood better the planning of assessment policy in schools and teachers have further enhanced their understanding of the principles of assessments.

### ***The Way Forward***

In 2011, HKEAA will streamline and optimise the administration work on assessments. HKEAA will also enhance the communication with various stakeholders by conducting TSA seminars and meetings with people at different levels and sectors for experience sharing and exchanging of views. It is anticipated that such activities will help to address the different needs of the public and bring benefits to students in their learning.