

## 9. CONCLUSION

### ***Accomplishments in TSA 2011***

The implementation of the 2011 TSA as well as the release of assessment results were carried out smoothly. Oral assessments of English and Chinese Languages including Chinese audio-visual assessment for primary schools were conducted successfully in April and May 2011. Written assessments for P3, P6 and S3 levels in Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics were also conducted successfully in mid June and at the end of June 2011.

The performance of students in TSA 2011 was stable and largely the same as that in 2010. Detailed figures are listed in Chapter 4. This year, P3 students performed slightly better in the two language subjects. The attainment rate for Chinese Language is 86.4% and English Language is 79.8%. The attainment rate for P3 Mathematics is 87.0% which is exactly the same as last year. The performance of P6 students is also stable in general. The attainment rate of P6 Chinese Language is 77.2%, English Language is 71.7% and Mathematics is 84.1%. There is no significant difference in the results of S3 students between 2010 and 2011. Attainment rates for the three subjects are: Chinese Language 76.7%, English Language 69.2%, Mathematics 80.1%. Although the territory-wide performance was largely steady, variations in schools are noted. When comparing results from 2010 with those of 2011 and taking into account all schools in Hong Kong across three subjects/levels, a number of schools recorded more than +/- 10% fluctuation in their BC attainment rate. For 2011, the percentage of schools with the above mentioned fluctuation total 19% in Chinese Language, 21% in English Language and 17% in Mathematics. Schools can refer to the school reports for details.

The 2011 TSA results are released in mid November. With the designated user account and password sent to each school by mail, schools can start to download their own school report and other reports from the Basic Competency Assessment website in the afternoon on the date of the release of results. The school account is active for about one month from the date of the release of results allowing schools to view and download the results or reports during that period. In the meantime, the Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) uploads the question papers and marking schemes to the website for teachers' reference. A TSA report is also prepared, which details information on the administration of the TSA, reports on the results and

provides further information about the P3, P6 and S3 students' performances supported by exemplars and detailed analyses on the strengths and weaknesses of students' performance. The TSA report is uploaded to the BCA website for public access. Teachers can make use of the information to gain a better understanding about their students' learning progress or to adjust teaching strategies to meet the different learning needs of students in school.

### **Facilitation Measures on Assessment**

Some new facilitation measures were implemented in the conduct of 2011 TSA that enhanced the administration of the assessments. A new video clip on the invigilation of TSA was produced to help schools become familiar with the procedures and arrangements on the assessment days. The video clip was shown to the Assessment Administration Supervisors (AAS) during the briefing session and uploaded on the BCA website.

The roles and responsibilities of the Assessment Administrative Supervisor (AAS) and the Assessment Administrative Assistant (AAA) have been further clarified in the briefing session and also in the *"Quick Guide"*.

Measures for supporting the Non-Chinese Speaking Students (NCS) in taking TSA Chinese Language assessments were successfully implemented for the second time in 2011. Good practices like the provision of the bilingual version of "instructions to students", reading aloud of instructions, question stems or multiple-choice options by the invigilator were followed as in the previous year. In general, such measures are welcomed by schools concerned. This is proven by the results of the TSA administration survey conducted amongst the AASs of all participating primary and secondary schools. For two consecutive years, the average satisfaction index for services related to NCS reached 3.8 out of 5. The surveys have an average return rate close to 70%.

### **New Arrangement on TSA Seminars**

Every year after the release of assessment results, the Education Bureau (EDB) and the HKEAA will jointly conduct TSA seminars for school teachers. A new arrangement was introduced last year to provide most benefits to teachers. HKEAA subject managers and senior officers of different levels served as the main presenters giving their professional views and analyses on students' performance and their strengths and weaknesses in relevant seminars. Experienced school principals and teachers were

also invited to share their experiences in how to make use of TSA data to enhance teaching and learning in school. Around 3,500 teachers attended the TSA seminars. Positive feedback was received after the seminars and the audience found the information shared by the speakers useful and it enhanced their knowledge of assessment. The new arrangement is a good format and will be considered when organizing the 2011 TSA seminars for teachers.

### **Training and Communication**

Apart from TSA seminars, the HKEAA also conducted various basic programs on Assessment Literacy Training and briefing sessions for school teachers. About 4,500 teachers attended these seminars, training courses and briefing sessions. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2011, the HKEAA subject team colleagues presented seminars on item setting principles and techniques at the EDB “Let's Shape up Assessment to Benefit Learning Symposium”. Their experiences were shared with the participating teachers.

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

Since 2004, the first year the TSA was conducted in P3, up until 2011, full implementation has taken place now for all P3, P6 and S3 students for several years. The results and analysis on students' performance have been providing fruitful and valuable feedback to school and teachers. The TSA has been and is continuing to be proven as a fair and open assessment that provides reliable data for feedback on learning and teaching for different levels in Chinese, English and Mathematics. The valuable data collected in the TSA are widely welcomed by schools and teachers in Hong Kong. The HKEAA will go on making every effort to provide the best TSA services in future and also to promote the benefits of the TSA for both learning and teaching to schools and various stakeholders.

In 2011, experience sharing sessions on the BCA project have been conducted for visitors from Australia, Singapore, Tianjin and Macau. It is expected that similar activities may be arranged to a larger extent in coming years. Various school visits and onsite presentations on both the TSA and Student Assessment (SA) to schools will continue to be arranged. In the coming year, it is expected that more schools and target groups such as education related departments of institutions and universities, parent associations and other interest groups will be liaised with and more promotional events about the TSA as well as the SA will be organized.