



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref. : EDB(CD)/ISS/60/1/3 (8)

電話 Telephone : 2892 5801

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真 Fax Line : 2117 9240

9 September 2009

Concern Group for Hong Kong Science Education
(email address: hkscied@gmail.com)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**New Senior Secondary Biology and Combined Science
Curriculum and Assessment Guide**

Thank you for your letter received on 15 August 2009. We appreciate the keen interest of your group in the learning and teaching of Evolution and science education in Hong Kong. Your views and suggestions have been duly considered, and our response is set out at the **Annex**.

We would like to thank you again for your valuable sharing with us on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr CHEUNG Kwok-wah)
for Secretary for Education

Encl.

New Senior Secondary Biology and Combined Science Curriculum and Assessment Guide

The Biology curriculum framework aims to provide biology-related learning opportunities to help students to develop scientific literacy. The broad aims of the Biology curriculum are to enable students to construct and apply knowledge of biology; understand the nature of science in biology-related contexts; develop the ability to make scientific inquiries; and think scientifically, critically, and creatively. There are curriculum emphases to strengthen students' understanding of the nature of scientific inquiry in biology, the interconnections between science, technology, society and the environment, and biology as a dynamic body of knowledge.

In the topic "Evolution", the emphasis is put on Darwin's Theory as it is currently the most widely accepted scientific theory on evolution. Students are expected to understand the process and mechanism of evolution based on Darwin's Theory. Through studying the historical development of evolution theory, students should recognise that biological knowledge and theories are developed through observations, hypotheses, experimentations and analyses, and are aware of the dynamic nature of biological knowledge.

Creationism and Intelligent Design are not included in the Biology Curriculum framework nor are they considered as an alternative to Darwin's theory.

In Topic II "Genetics and Evolution" of the Biology curriculum, only evolution is included as it is supported with evidence to explain the origin of species. In addition to Darwin's Theory, students are encouraged to explore other explanations on evolution such as that of Jean Baptiste Lamarck and Sir Alfred Russel Wallace. The exploration of other explanations on evolution is meant to supplement the learning of Darwin's Theory.

In addition to the advice and support as given in the Curriculum and Assessment Guide, the Education Bureau has been organising professional development programmes for enriching Biology teachers' knowledge on the topic "Evolution" and enhancing their understanding of the focuses of learning. More than 400 teachers have attended the programmes in these few years.