

Gifted Education in HK - a mini-Symposium

Tai Kai Ng

Executive Director, Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE), Hong Kong and
Chair Professor in Physics, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Abstracts

This mini-symposium aims to introduce to the North American Chinese audience recent developments of Gifted Education (GE) in Hong Kong, and the challenges and opportunities pose to the GE community as a result. Since 2000, the Education Bureau (EDB) of the Hong Kong Government has taken a proactive role in establishing a government-led platform to systematically and strategically explore and develop programs for gifted students to realize their potentials. With the establishment of the Program for the Gifted and Talented, CUHK at 1995; the establishment of the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE) in 2008; the entering of CTY Summer Program into Hong Kong in 2010 and the establishment of the Center of the Development of Gifted and Talented (CDGT), HKUST at 2011, GE becomes a focus of attention in the education community; and new challenges and opportunities appear in the research and design of students, parents and teachers programs.

Representatives from HKAGE, CTY and CDGT will introduce themselves and present some of their works in this mini-symposium. The titles and abstracts of the 3 presentations are

Talk 1: “Gifted Education in Hong Kong and HKAGE”

Tai Kai Ng, Executive Director, HKAGE

In this talk I shall describe briefly the development of Gifted Education (GE) in Hong Kong, in particular the works of HKAGE which is a Hong Kong Government initiated organization in charge of implementing the Government’s Gifted Education policy in the Territory. GE is a rapidly growing sector of education in HK (and Asia). I shall describe the overall GE eco-environment, the positioning of GE in the education sector, the programs and services we offer to students, teachers and parents and the challenges and difficulties we face. We are now moving towards developing a long-term strategy that addresses fundamental questions of GE in HK (and Asia) and are actively seeking collaboration with local and oversea universities like HKUST, CUHK and CTY-JHU.

Talk 2: “Gifted Education in Hong Kong – CTY experience”

Jon Goldstein, Deputy to the Director, East Asia, CTY, Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth’s (CTY) Growth in Hong Kong and China

This talk and question and answer session will briefly cover the history of CTY’s presence in Hong Kong and China over the last few years, including some research questions that CTY hopes to begin addressing over the next few years with HKAGE and other GE providers in Hong Kong. Since 1979, CTY has been providing challenging summer and online programs for students identified through above-grade-level testing, and since 2010, when we first opened a summer site in Hong Kong, we have seen increasing numbers of students coming from Hong Kong and China. We have seen high qualification rates and participation rates in our programs, but with these students come challenges and opportunities when adapting our programs to the Hong Kong educational environment. Working with other HK GE providers, we are moving towards a long-term strategy that addresses some essential research questions around the identification of students in Hong Kong and China.

Talk 3: “Nurturing Gifted Learners in Hong Kong through a University-Secondary School Collaborative Program”

Moon Ling Shirley Kwok, Advisor, Center for the Development of Gifted and Talented, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) has been conducting science fun programs for primary school students to raise the interests of students in sciences and became the region’s official body for training the HK teams for International and Asian Physics Olympiad since 2003. The Center for the Development of the Gifted and Talented (CDGT) was formed in 2010 to offer an accelerated “Dual Program (DP)” to secondary school gifted learners who are dually enrolled in secondary schools and taking advanced level university courses at HKUST that suited their interests. Elements of affective education are infused into the program to help both gifted learners and their parents understand the social and emotional needs of gifted students. The program is supported by a GE professional team that helps (1) parents and teachers to understand the unique character of these students; (2) gifted students to cope with fierce competition and failure and finally (3) establish a harmonious environment for students’ peer sharing and pursuit of their academic and affective needs. We report here this successful approach with more details and the future development we are undertaking.