INVEST IN ECCE AS A COST-EFFECTIVE APPROACH FOR HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Case Example of
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

Mrs Betty Ip, Deputy Secretary for Education
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China
BACKGROUND

- Social Welfare Department
  (Child care centres for children aged 0-6)

- Education Bureau
  (Kindergartens for children aged 3-6)

Harmonisation
- Social Welfare Department
  (CCCs for children aged 0-3)
- Education Bureau
  (KGs for children aged 3-6)

1982
Rent and Rates Reimbursement Scheme

1995
Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme

2005

2007
Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme
BACKGROUND

- Kindergartens in Hong Kong
  - Privately run
  - Characterized by adaptability, diversity and vitality
  - Provide services for children aged 3-6
  - No. of kindergartens in 2012/13: 950
  - Total number of KG students in 2012/13: 165 000
  - Gross enrolment rate of children aged 3-6: 100%
BACKGROUND

Government Investment in Kindergarten Education (HK$ million)

- 2006-2007
- 2007-2008
- 2008-2009
- 2009-2010
- 2010-2011
- 2011-2012
- 2012-2013
PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION VOUCHER SCHEME

Aim:
- for all children aged 3-6 to receive affordable and quality kindergarten education

Features:
- **Parental choice**: direct fee subsidy for parents
- **Well-qualified teaching staff**: a minimum entry requirement at diploma level
- **Accountability**: a quality assurance mechanism (self-evaluation with external review)
PRE-PRIMARİY EDUCATİON
VOUCHER SCHEME (VOUCHER SCHEME)

- A non-means tested subsidy
- 2 components in the initial 4 years
  - Subsidy to parents
  - Subsidy for teacher development / professional upgrading
INCREASE INVESTMENT IN KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION VOUCHER VALUES FROM 2007 TO 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Voucher Value (HK$)</th>
<th>Fee Subsidy (HK$)</th>
<th>Teacher professional development (HK$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/2008</td>
<td>13 000</td>
<td>10 000</td>
<td>3 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/2009</td>
<td>14 000</td>
<td>11 000</td>
<td>3 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/2010</td>
<td>14 000</td>
<td>12 000</td>
<td>2 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010/2011</td>
<td>16 000</td>
<td>14 000</td>
<td>2 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/2012</td>
<td>16 000</td>
<td>16 000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/2013</td>
<td>16 800</td>
<td>16 800</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014</td>
<td>17 510</td>
<td>17 510</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO KGS

- **One-off School Development Grant**
  - 2006/2007: $500 per student & capped at $135 000 per KG with a total spending of $70 million
  - 2013/14: ranging from $150 000 to $250 000 per KG with a total spending of $165 million

- **Fee remission / Meal subsidy**

- **Parents Teacher Association Grant**
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO KGS (CONT’D)

- School-based support for non-Chinese speaking students
- Integrated Programme, Early Education and Training Centre, and Special Child Care Centre for students with special education need
- On-going training, seminars, experience sharing sessions for in-service teachers
CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT KGS

- Parent-Teacher Associations
- Non-Government Organisations
- Universities
- Teacher Exchange Prog with Mainland
- Other government departments including Social Welfare Department & Health Department
PRESENT PROGRESS

- **Participation rates**
  - number of non-profit-making KGs with local curriculum participating in PEVS in 2012/13: 735 (97%)
  - number of KG students receiving the voucher increased from 111 000 in 2007/08 to 129 000 in 2012/13
PRESENT PROGRESS

**Professional Qualification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>KG teachers holding C(ECE)</th>
<th>KG teachers holding degree</th>
<th>KG teachers pursuing training</th>
<th>Total number of KG teachers</th>
<th>% of KG teachers pursuing or holding C(ECE) or higher qualifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/2008</td>
<td>2647</td>
<td>1036</td>
<td>3412</td>
<td>9867</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/2009</td>
<td>3397</td>
<td>1155</td>
<td>3216</td>
<td>9387</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/2010</td>
<td>4082</td>
<td>1480</td>
<td>3001</td>
<td>9548</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/2011</td>
<td>4769</td>
<td>2066</td>
<td>2658</td>
<td>9837</td>
<td>96.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/2012</td>
<td>5224</td>
<td>2832</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>10372</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/2013</td>
<td>5583</td>
<td>3812</td>
<td>1384</td>
<td>11083</td>
<td>97.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRESENT PROGRESS

Quality Assurance Framework

- School self-evaluation and external review
- First round of quality review completed to all PEVS KGs in 5 years (2011/12)
- School self-evaluation mechanism promotes evaluation of school’s effectiveness with reference to children’s learning and whole-person development
WAY FORWARD

- A Committee was set up in April 2013
  - To make practicable recommendation on the implementation of free KG education
  - To make recommendation on the provision of quality KG education
WAY FORWARD

Committee on Free KG Education

- International Expert Panel
- Sub-Committee on Objectives, Teacher Professionalism and Research
- Sub-Committee on Operation and Governance
- Sub-Committee on Funding Modes
- Sub-Committee on Catering for Student Diversity
- Sub-Committee on Communication Strategy

Focus Groups
1. School Sponsoring Bodies
2. Parents
3. KG principals
4. KG teachers
5. Academics
THANK YOU!