

FOREWORD

Educators, parents and policy makers should be informed on how well our education system works in nurturing students. The 2006 assessment of OECD/PISA provides valuable information for Hong Kong to examine the quality and equality of our educational system from an international as well as a comparative perspective. Have our students acquired the competencies essential for meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century? Are our students well prepared for life-long learning? How do various family and school factors impact on our students' cognitive and attitude outcomes? These are the questions that this *Third HKPISA Report* attempts to address.

By providing stakeholders of the education community with "reason" and "data," the *First and Second HKPISA Reports*, published after PISA 2000 and PISA 2003, have provided the basic information for evaluating the quality and equality of education in Hong Kong. This report will extend our understanding of the education system by providing a longitudinal perspective. It is hoped that it can provide: (i) researchers with the opportunity for examining the current state of affair of our education system and the outcome of educational reforms over time; (ii) policy makers with the information for formulating policies that are responsive to global development; and (iii) teachers and parents with a broader view beyond the local context to look at their children's learning. With the vision of a better future for all children regardless of their social background, we hope stakeholders can find in this report robust "rationale" and "evidence" in support of their decision and action.

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