

Project Title : Professional Development in Enhancing English across the Curriculum

Leading University : The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Participating UGC-funded University(ies) : City University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Project Leader(s) : Dr Julia Chen, English Language Centre, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Layman Summary of Proposal

While the integration of content and language instruction is becoming more common in the United States of America and in parts of Europe, this type of instruction is fairly new in Hong Kong. This project offers systematic professional development opportunities to academic staff in various departments in The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and City University of Hong Kong to implement English Across the Curriculum (EAC) for their students. Professional development will cover areas such as integrating content and language in discipline subjects, and developing an EAC approach in teaching and assessment. Both generic professional development training and specific professional development support will be offered to academic staff in the disciplines and in the English language teaching centres. Generic training will be given by experts from local and overseas institutions in the form of seminars and workshops, while project team members from each institution will conduct in-depth consultations with discipline academic staff and offer support and resources in integrating more English learning in discipline content subjects. A seminar will be held near the end of the project to share good practices developed through the project.

Layman Summary of Final Report

The project focused on developing university teaching staff's skills to help undergraduate students pay more attention to English language use in non-English language subjects, such as compulsory and elective subjects in students' major studies. The project provided numerous opportunities for professional development opportunities for faculty

staff in the practices of EAC. It also provided staff in Hong Kong's higher education sector with opportunities to learn from local and overseas experts in the topic of EAC. These were achieved via workshops, meetings, sharing sessions, an open-to-Hong Kong one-day Symposium and a two-day international conference, where local and overseas experts shared their experiences and good practices. The project's effectiveness was evaluated by a number of direct and indirect measures, including feedback questionnaire on professional development events, staff and student surveys, and examination by the project team and its collaborators as well as external assessors of students' writing before and after the project's intervention. All in all, the project has produced highly positive results.