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Mrs. Fanny Law C/O EMB 16<sup>th</sup> Floor Wu Chung House 213 Queen's Road East Wanchai H.K. <u>embinfo@emb.gov.hk</u>

November 2, 2006

Dear Mrs. Law,

## Re : Clarification of EMB's policy for French Language under the new 334 system

First of all, congratulations on your transfer from one significant post to another in the government, which only shows that your ability is well appreciated.

As teachers of French in Hong Kong, we do, on the one hand, appreciate very much your determination and efforts in carrying out various changes in the education system over the past years. On the other hand, however, we also fear that your transfer will subsequently lead to further delay in EMB's confirmation of a number of uncertainties concerning the future of French teaching in secondary education. These points have to be finalized as soon as possible so that schools offering French, primary and secondary alike, could start recruiting French learners with the most updated & reliable information to supply to both interested students and parents. We cannot help worrying that, without any definite answers to many of our queries so far, all that has been previously presented to you and Professor Arthur Li as queries & suggestions will have to inevitably be reviewed by your successor, Mr. Wong Hung Chiu, who will have to take time to understand the full picture of the current & the future situations of French at secondary level before coming up with decisions on relevant policies, and this unnecessary delay is not what we want to see in the near future.

The main purposes of this letter are to invite you to instruct EMB to confirm shortly to us and all parties concerned (primary and secondary schools offering French):

- i) the status of French under the new 334 system (core as an alternative to Chinese (the status quo) or one of the required electives?)
- ii) the finalized French curriculum under the new 334 system
- iii) the finalized public exam to be adopted for French
- iv) the finalized syllabus of the public exam for French

We understand that you have to serve the ICAC with immediate effect, but we hope you could comfortably leave your old post having a great impact on French as a school subject with the unfinished "French task" more or less completed, leaving behind as few uncertainties as possible. Thanks in advance for your special attention to our concern!

Sincerely,

Jean-Luc REY President H.K. Association of French Teachers