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中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育統籌局
Education and Manpower Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref. : EMB(CD)SD/ENET/1

電話 Telephone : 2892 6188

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

傳真 Fax Line : 2893 8761

Education and Manpower Bureau
16/F Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East
Wan Chai,
Hong Kong

11 November 2003

Supervisor/Principal
All secondary and primary schools
provided with a NET under the NET schemes

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Introduction of an Adjustment Mechanism for the Special Allowance
under the Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Scheme**

I write to inform you that the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) plans to introduce a mechanism to automatically adjust the rate of Special Allowance now payable to the NETs recruited under the NET schemes of primary and secondary schools.

The Special Allowance is meant mainly to subsidize NETs on housing expense when they come to serve in schools in Hong Kong. The existing rate of the allowance at HK\$13,000 per month, was set in 1997 and has not been adjusted since then. On the other hand, the cost for meeting accommodation needs in Hong Kong has changed significantly over the years and it may move up or down in the years to come. We believe that a fairer and more flexible mechanism that can allow us to reflect such change, and any change that may take place in future, should be put in place. For that matter, we plan to introduce a mechanism that makes reference to the percentage change of the local rental index for adjusting the Special Allowance.

Our intended mechanism, if approved in due course, will take effect from the 2004/05 school year. The new Special Allowance rate, estimated to be about HK\$ 10,561 per month on the basis of the change of the local rental index since the present rate was set, and the adjustment mechanism, shall be applicable to serving NETs in those cases where their contracts are renewed, and to any newly recruited NETs, starting from the 2004/05 school year. Contracts now already in force will not be affected. We shall promulgate details when ready.

May I draw your attention to the above, and also solicit your help to present the content of this letter to the NET in your school to keep him or her informed of the development. If you or your NET have any enquiries, please contact Mr. P S LAI on 2126 5292.

Yours faithfully,



(Chris WARDLAW)
for Secretary for Education and Manpower

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