



# Implementing assessment change in Hong Kong: Issues and strategies



Dr David Carless  
Faculty of Education

**Abstract:** This presentation discusses school-based assessment from a management of change perspective. As a starting point, it suggests some characteristics of recent reforms in Hong Kong and relates them briefly to two well-known initiatives, NET (Native-speaking English teacher) and TOC (Target-oriented curriculum). I suggest that expectations of reforms are sometimes unrealistic and that this can lead to successes being downplayed; the reality is that innovations often produce a mix of positive, negative and unintended consequences.

The presentation then summarises a number of positive elements of SBA and links them to relevant aspects of the current reform agenda. The prospect for the integration between SBA and assessment for learning is potentially powerful, but one that will require changes of mindset, professional development and support.

A revised version of an exploratory framework (first proposed in Carless, 2005) was used to analyse a set of factors impacting on the implementation of SBA. Not surprisingly, teachers' understandings and beliefs are identified as key elements in the change process. The presentation will conclude by suggesting some strategies by which teachers might be supported to implement SBA effectively.

---

*Dr David Carless is an Associate Professor in the Division of Language and Literature, Faculty of Education, University of Hong Kong. Previously he was Senior Lecturer in the English Department of the Hong Kong Institute of Education. His main research interests are in the areas of alternative assessment, task-based teaching and the management of educational change.*

16 February 2006 (Thursday), 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.  
LG06 Hui Oi Chow Science Building, Faculty of Education  
The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road  
Chair: Dr Stephen Andrews

**All are welcome! Enquiries: Cathy Cheung at 2241 5391, Email:  
cathycyw@hkucc.hku.hk**