

Scmp 9 JAN 84

Abolish JSEA, says commission

The Education Commission is expected to call for an end to the much-criticised Junior Secondary Education Assessment system — but the curtain is not set to fall until 1991.

The abolition of the dreaded JSEA, which selects the most able students for aided Government school places in forms four and five, is one of the major recommendations in the first report of the commission.

The report, passed by the Executive Council yesterday morning, will be made public today at a press conference given by the chairman of the commission, Mr Q.W. Lee.

The commission has given the thumbs down to the idea of an open university for Hongkong.

Instead, the focus will be put on increasing the number of higher education places in the universities and post-secondary colleges of education.

On improving the quality of teaching, it is understood that the commission will propose a large-scale programme of refresher training for serving teachers.

The long-awaited report represents six months of deliberations by the commission headed by Mr Lee who is a banker and an Executive Councillor.

The commission was set up last March with a brief to advise the Government on an overall education policy.

The commission looked into six major issues raised by the Llewellyn team and these were: the question of whether or not to abolish the JSEA, a policy on the medium of instruction, improvements to teacher training, distance learning, education research and the financing of educational services.