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# Make the UK your chosen destination

Post-event report of Education UK schools and colleges exhibition 2012

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# 1. Event fact file

#### Hong Kong

Venue	Regal Hong Kong Hotel, Basement 1 and 2, 88 Yee Wo Street, Causeway Bay Hong Kong, 13 October 2012
Opening hours	1300 – 1800
Stand costs	£1327.37
Sponsors	Bank of East Asia Limited
	Jones Lang Lasalle
Seminars	Articulation between Hong Kong new education system and UK education
	Preparing your child for a place at a top-ranking university and medical school
	How to choose the right subjects for GCSEs, A-levels and the IB Diploma
	Further education colleges: affordable options for academic or vocational study
	Boarding school, state college or private college: How to choose?

### 2. Key statistics

Attendance	Hong Kong		
	2012	2011	
Total number of visitors	960	870	
Total number of exhibitors	36	24	

\*A full list of exhibitors can be found in Appendix 1

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Visitors' primary market	Hong Kong		
interests	2012	2011	
Preparatory school	2.9%	4.8%	
Junior secondary school	19.6%	20.7%	
GCSE	19.0%	16.6%	
A-Level	24.9%	25.8%	
International Baccalaureate Diploma	9.9%	12.2%	
University Foundation	9.1%	6.3%	
Vocational based education	0.7%	0.0%	
Undergraduate	8.2%	7.4%	
UK summer programmes	5.1%	6.3%	
Others, please specify:	0.7%	0.0%	
Total (rebased to number of responses, not number of respondents as each respondent may answer more than one of the above)	262 responses	169 responses	

Demographics of visitors	Hong Kong		
	2012	2011	
Parent of Primary School pupil	18.7%	9.9%	
Parent of Secondary School pupil	56.9%	30.2%	
Parents - others	8.2%	45.4%	
Students	11.8%	13.0%	
Others	0.4%	1.5%	

\*Source: exhibition visitors' survey 2012

### 3. Impact of marketing plan

The promotional budget was increased compare with previous years due to the increase in number of exhibitors. We maximised the return on this investment through a strategically-targeted and increasingly integrated campaign. We expanded our poster campaign and outdoor promotion, as well as having postcard insertions at the targeted parent magazine.

#### Print advertisement

 Supplement articles/advertorials and advertisements in mass-circulation newspapers, which is the most popular source of education news for parents. In particular, advertorials allowed us to include more information, including the benefits of UK education, feature stories and institution advertisements as well as event details and seminar programmes. Around 66 per cent of responses cited print

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advertisements/ supplement articles in newspapers as a source of finding out about the exhibition.

#### Online promotion

- We also focused our on-line promotion on internal and external channels. We achieved high impact by placing more content and in more prominent spacing on the British Council and Education UK websites, e-newsletters and mail shots. Our e-newsletters and our website promotion accounted for 36.1% of our visitors.
- We increased our spending on online advertising by purchasing web banners on local popular websites and online newspapers. We also negotiated a special deal with our key media partner, Ming Pao, to place our advertorials online on mingpao.hk. Total internet advertisement accounted for nearly 6.1 per cent of responses on source of awareness.

#### Outdoor promotion

• We increased our spending on the outdoor promotion, and we used East Rail line, the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) 4-sheet poster advert for the first time, which is one of the most popular forms of public transport, with a daily footfall of over 4 million people. They accounted for 14.5% of the event awareness.

#### <u>Others</u>

- We maximised our internal promotions with posters and leaflets throughout the teaching centre, and large-scale wall displays and video on the first floor of the BC building.
- Our press releases successfully leveraged the media interest in the local education reforms and the event received coverage from 3 local newspapers and one magazine after the event.

### 4. Conclusions and follow up

### 4.1 Key recommendations for institutions

- Since the launch of the new secondary curriculum in September 2009, the reforms were believed to still play a significant role in motivating parents and students into considering alternatives. When asked on our survey whether they think the quality of Hong Kong schools has improved over the last five years, 89 per cent of the visitors answered 'no' or 'not sure', (compared with 84 per cent in the last survey) and 79 per cent were not confident or not sure that the new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) will be recognised internationally for university access (compared with 75 per cent in the last survey). So, the articulation of the HKDSE to UK education and implications of Hong Kong's new education system for studying in the UK will clearly continue to be focal points for this market for the next few years. Institutions, as well as the British Council, will need to be able to clearly articulate to students and parents the entry requirements from the new qualification, and be able to provide advice on pathways available to them at different stages of education. Institutions should state entrance requirements and pathways available on their websites and on their promotion materials at the exhibition.
- Apart from the obvious, on-going need for information about the implications of local education reforms on studying in the UK, there is also strong demand for parents and alumni sharing. Visitor responses show that the reason for its popularity is that parents and students are interested in common issues faced by their experienced counterparts in Hong Kong, and value their advice on how to overcome them. So, it is suggested that institutions can invite their alumni to attend the exhibition and share their life in UK with the visitors.

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 The UK institutions, especially for the newcomers of Hong Kong market are recommended to organise other promotional activities leading up to exhibition, which can help to generate more traffic and enquiries during the exhibition.

# What learning points have you picked up for marketing your institution? General

- Bring more literature
- Very informative is required
- Many parents are looking for schools for younger kids. Further Education is not really understood
- Still good interest in coming to the UK for school
- Needed more clarify in banner about being a state 11-18 school
- · Popularity of A-levels decreasing need to think of ways round new education system
- More school hunting
- Highlight our main selling points better: 90% full boarding very low number of overseas pupils (6% from outside Europe)
- There are less British Passports
- Using good agent very important

#### Promotion-related

- Bigger range of more specific marketing materials would be helpful
- Promoting our foundation year in-country would be beneficial for us as there was a lot of interest
- Enhance publicity

### 4.2 Key recommendations for the British Council

Below is a summary of areas commented on by institutions, and our response in terms of follow-up actions. Suggestions and comments received from institutions are listed in full in Appendix 4:

#### Catering

• Several institutions commented that coffee/ tea and catering are required during the exhibition. We will consider having refreshments for exhibitors next year and providing few bottles of water per booth.

#### Timing and venue of the event

 Some exhibitors commented on the size of the venue being a bit cramped for the large number of visitors, and some of them suggested extending the length of the exhibition. This is obviously a consideration we will look into for our next event, particularly if it continues to grow in scale. However, moving to a larger venue and extending the length of the exhibition will affect the participation fee for exhibitors, we will evaluate the cost effectiveness of these suggestions before changing the exhibition format.



# Appendix 1: List of participating institutions

Booth No.	Institution
1	Abbey DLD Group of Colleges
2	Adcote School
3	Bellerbys College
4	Bosworth Independent College
5	Cambridge Education Group - CATS College, CSVPA, LFoC
	Caterham School
6	Queen's College
	The Royal High School, Bath
_	Dulwich College
7	Roedean School
8	EF International Academy
9	Ellesmere College
10	Glenalmond College
11	Gower College Swansea
12	The Harefield Academy
13	Highbury College Portsmouth
14	Howell's School, Denbigh
15	The University of Hull - International Foundation Course
16	John Leggott College
17	University of Kent - International Foundation Programme
18	Leweston School
19	Lomond School, Helensburgh, Scotland
20	Mander Portman Woodward Schools
21	Moira House Girls School
22	Newbury Hall School
	Pembrokeshire College
23	Llandrillo-Menai International
24	Shaftesbury School
25	St Edmund's College
26	Study Links International Guardians
27	The Read School
28	Trinity School
29	Wellington School
30	Westbourne School
31	Windermere School
32	Ashbourne College
Sponsor	~
The Bank of I	East Asia
	aSalle, International Properties
	,

#### Pharmacy and Pharmacology

# Appendix 2: Visitors' survey results

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1. Are you currently:		
Parent of primary school pupil	49	18.7%
Parent of Form One/Year Seven student	22	8.4%
Parent of Form Two/Year Eight student	36	13.7%
Parent of Form Three/Year Nine student	27	10.3%
Parent of Form Four/Year Ten student	29	11.1%
Parent of Form Five/Year Eleven student	27	10.3%
Parent of Form Six/Year Twelve student	8	3.1%
Parent of Form Seven/Year Thirteen student	0	0%
Primary school pupil	1	0.4%
Form One/Year Seven student	11	4.2%
Form Two/Year Eight student	3	1.1%
Form Three/Year Nine student	3	1.1%
Form Four/Year Ten student	4	1.5%
Form Five/Year Eleven student	8	3.1%
Form Six/Year Twelve student	1	0.4%
Form Seven/Year Thirteen student	0	0%
Associate Degree student	0	0%
Higher Diploma student	0	0%
Undergraduate student	0	0%
Postgraduate student	0	0%
Recent graduate	1	0.4%
Others	1	0.4%
Not completed	31	11.8%
Total	262	100%

2. Are you male or female?			
Male	112	42.7%	
Female	150	57.3%	
Total	262	100%	

3. What is your nationality?		
HKSAR/BNO Passport Holder	165	63 %
People's Republic of China (PRC) Passport Holder	20	7.6%
British Passport Holder	63	24.0%
Other, please specify:	13	5.0%
Not completed	1	0.4
Total	262	100%

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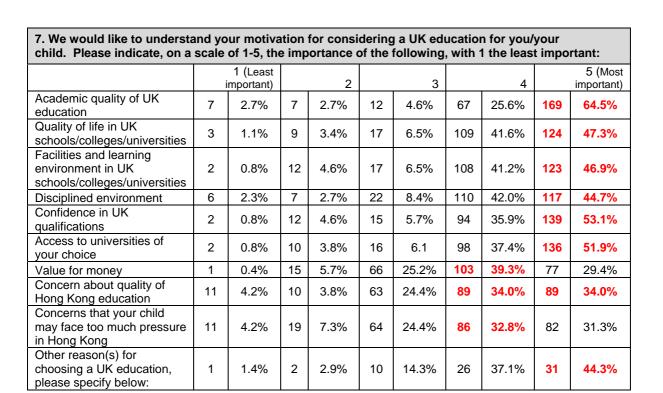
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4. Are you a:		
Hong Kong permanent resident	234	89.3%
Hong Kong resident	19	7.3%
Visitor to Hong Kong from Mainland China	1	0.4%
Visitor to Hong Kong from elsewhere (please specify):	3	1.1%
Not completed	5	1.9%
Total	262	100%

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5. If you are school student, or are parent of a school student, what type of school do you/your child attend now?				
Local public school	77	29.4%		
Local private school (including Direct Subsidy Scheme school)	104	39.7%		
International/ESF school 37 14.1%				
Overseas boarding school	19	7.3%		
Not completed 25 9.5%				
Total 262 100%				

6. What programme of study are you interested in?			
Preparatory school	13	2.9%	
Junior secondary school	89	19.6%	
GCSE	86	19.0%	
A-Level	113	24.9%	
International Baccalaureate Diploma	45	9.9%	
University foundation	41	9.1%	
Vocational based education	3	0.7%	
Undergraduate	37	8.2%	
Summer programme	23	5.1%	
Others, please specify:	3	0.7%	
Total	453	129%	



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8. Do you think the quality of Hong Kong education has improved over the last five years?							
Yes	30	11.5%					
No	162	61.8%					
Not sure	70	26.7%					
Total	262	100%					

Pharmacy and Pharmacology

9. Are you confident that the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education will be recognised internationally for university access?						
Yes	56	21.2%				
No	96	36.3%				
Not sure	110	42.5%				
Total	262	100%				

10. Are you confident that the new Senior Secondary Curriculum will be suitable for your child?								
Yes	27	10.3%						
No	99	37.8%						
Not sure	136	51.9%						
Total 262 100								

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11. Is the move to four-year undergraduate degree courses in Hong Kong make you more or less likely to choose three-year courses offered by UK universities?

More likely	86	32.8%
Less likely	6	2.3%
No impact	97	37.0%
Not sure	63	24.0%
Not completed	10	3.8%
Total	262	100%

12. Have you now got all the information you need?						
Yes	132	50.4%				
No	123	46.9%				
Not completed	7	2.7				
Total	262	100%				

#### 13. If you would like more information please let us know what you would like:

- Application and entrance exam
- How to choose UK schools
- Problems that the students met when living in the UK
- High school information and the application process to university
- Challenge found in studying overseas
- It would be good if school representatives host the consultation counters
- Application process and method
- Year 12-13 A-level school
- How to choose boarding schools
- Summer courses in London
- Schools information
- England College information
- How to prepare from HKDSE to GCE A-level and university foundation program
- School name and fee
- State boarding school for 13 year old and 17 year old student
- University requirement
- More information on different independent boarding schools in UK
- Home stay Information
- More information on independent schools
- Foundation course
- Difference in quality of education in state schools and private school
- More seminars on different systems and institutions in UK
- How to choose a suitable school for my kid
- Top 10 Girls' Schools in UK

14. Will you be making an application to the UK now?							
Yes	166	63.4%					
No	76	29.0%					
Not completes	20	7.6%					
Total	262	100%					



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15. Where do you usually go to look for information about overseas study?							
Newspaper	93	35.5%					
Internet	120	45.8%					
Friend/relative	84	32.1%					
British Council office	122	46.36%					
School where you are studying	15	5.7%					
Education consultant/agent	83	31.7%					
Others	8	3.1%					
Total	525	200.4%					

16. How did you find out about this information day and seminar? (You can choose more than one)							
Oriental Daily	15	5.7%					
Sing Tao	26	9.9%					
Apple Daily	25	9.5%					
Headline	45	17.2%					
South China Morning Post (SCMP)	17	6.5%					
Ming Pao	33	12.6%					
Metro	11	4.2%					
AM 730	10	3.8%					
Smart Parents	25	9.5%					
KCRC 4-sheet posters	38	14.5%					
Apple Daily Online	1	0.4%					
babykingdom.com	10	3.8%					
Discuss.com	2	0.8%					
mingpao.com	3	1.1%					
British Council website	75	28.6%					
British Council Facebook	13	5.0%					
Friend/relative	38	14.5%					
British Council e-newsletter	20	7.6%					
British Council office	21	8.0%					
facebook	5	1.9%					
Others, please specify:	1	0.4%					
Total	434	165.6%					

17. Did you find the content of the seminar useful?								
	,	Yes	No		Total # of responses			
Articulation between Hong Kong new education system and UK education	62	87.3%	9	12.7%	71			
Preparing your child for a place at a top-ranking university and medical school	68	90.7%	7	9.3%	75			
How to choose the right subjects for GCSEs, A- levels and the IB Diploma	60	87%	9	13%	69			
Further education colleges: affordable options for academic or vocational study	24	63.2%	14	36.8%	38			
Boarding school, state college or private college: How to choose?	52	80%	13	20%	65			

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#### 18. Please suggest seminar topic(s) about UK boarding school for our future reference

- Introduction of selected schools
- Ranking of boarding schools
- UK state and private boarding school list
- Problem the students will face when they live in UK alone
- What factors parents and students could consider in choosing boarding schools
- School information
- Life in UK Boarding School
- Private school introduction
- music, Visual Arts
- Top high schools
- How to prepare for entrance exam
- Subjects available for year 12 13
- How to choose major subjects
- GCSE/ A-level course
- Pre school and Senior school
- More school information
- The new system

19. Have you taken part in any of the following activities organised by the British Council in the last 12 months?								
English language course	46	17.6%						
Education exhibition	52	19.8%						
UK education seminar	36	13.7%						
IELTS	9	3.4%						
BULATS	1	0.4%						
Others	0	0%						
No 147 56.1%								
Total	291	111.1%						

20. How would you rate the quality of service you have received (from British Council staff)?							
Excellent	71	27.1%					
Good	171	65.3%					
Average	15	5.7%					
Bad	0	0%					
Very bad	0	0%					
Not completed 5 1.9%							
Total	262	100%					



21. How likely is it that you would recommend British Council events to a friend or colleague?											
Please select one number on a scale between 0 and 10 where: 0 = Very unlikely to recommend; 10 = Very likely to recommend											
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
0	2	0	2	3	20	19	40	85	34	57	262
0%	0.8%	0%	0.8%	1.1 %	7.6%	7.3%	15.3%	32.4%	13.0%	21.8%	100%

22. For the below questions, please tick one box to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements

	Stron	igly agree		gree in eneral		ner agree disagree		agree in eneral		trongly sagree	То	otal
This event met my expectations	35	13.4%	194	74.0%	31	11.8%	2	0.8%	0	0%	262	100%
Overall, this was a high quality exhibition	38	14.5%	196	74.8%	26	9.9%	2	0.8%	0	%	262	100%
I have acquired new knowledge and/or skills from taking part in this event/activity	42	16.0%	180	68.7%	37	14.1%	3	1.1%	0	%	262	100%



# Appendix 3: Exhibitors' survey results

Have you attended this country event before?					
Yes	17	53.1%			
No	15	46.9%			
Total 32 100%					

What was your main aim for coming?					
Recruitment	13	40.6%			
Profile raising	1	3.1%			
Both	18	56.3%			
Total	32	100%			

What is your primary market interest in this event? (please indicate)			
Vocational qualifications	4	12.5%	
Pre-university foundation course	9	28.1%	
Post-16 A-level or equivalent	25	78.1%	
GCSE or equivalent	17	53.1%	
Junior secondary	11	34.4%	
Primary	4	12.5%	
UK summer programme	4	12.5%	
Guardianship	1	3.1%	
Corporate Branding	1	3.1%	
Total	76	237.5%	

Does the cost of participating in this event represent value for money to your institution?			
Yes	24	75.0%	
No	2	6.3%	
Unsure	6	18.8%	
Total	32	100%	

# What recommendations have you got for the future of this particular event for British Council? <u>Event timing/duration</u>

- Over 2 days Sat and Sun
- Give more opportunities for schools to run a presentation or workshop during fair hours
- Extend the length of the exhibition
- Start late to allow visitors to come after lunch time

#### <u>Venue</u>

- Bottles of water available
- Snacks provided
- More water please otherwise great
- Tea or coffee could be provided
- Offer some food and drink for sure
- Being sat at a table for 5 hours is a challenge, it would have be nice to have been offered water if not a sandwich
- Crapped area with too little circulation space, Change layout

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#### **Others**

- Perhaps some awareness of the Scottish Examination system
- Keep it focused just on schools fewer tertiary institutions if possible. Message clearer this way
- Ensure literature about schools is accurate
- More advert in specific topic in the market

#### What market developments have you noticed by coming?

#### Subject/course interest

- Pre-university courses
- DSE students or parents convinced they'll need to enter university foundation year instead of year 1, still confusion over this
- Much more familiarity with the IB
- 1 year A-level courses
- More popularity in the IB

#### Others

- Younger age raise
- Students study abroad are now younger (therefore boarding popular) + 1 year foundation
- The market moves to early studies. i.e. growing number of students age 10-12
- Students seem to be looking to come to UK earlier than before and are unsure on whether it is necessary to complete HK high school before coming
- Parents much more aware than the last time, I was here 3 years ago
- Mixed feeling about when to study overseas
- Increase younger age interest
- HKDSE related market changes
- More concerns over HKDSE or UK study

# What learning points have you picked up for marketing your institution? <u>General</u>

- Bring more literature
- Very informative is required
- Many parents are looking for schools for younger kids. Further Education is not really understood
- Still good interest in coming to the UK for school
- Needed more clarify in banner about being a state 11-18 school
- Popularity of 2 A-Levels decreasing need to think of ways round new education system
- More school hunting
- Highlight our main selling points better: 90% full boarding very low number of overseas pupils (6% from outside Europe)
- There are less British Passports
- Using good agent very important

#### Promotion-related

- Bigger range of more specific marketing materials would be helpful
- Promoting our foundation year in-country would be beneficial for us as there was a lot of interest
- Enhance publicity

What is your assessment of the visitors?			
Good number and good quality	22	68.8%	
Good quality only	3	9.4%	
Good number only	6	18.8%	
Disappointing	1	3.1%	
Total	32	100%	



Have you developed new or built on existing feeder<br/>or agent relationships by coming?Yes2268.8%No928.1%Not completed13.1Total32100%

Chemistry

Have you developed other links by coming?			
Yes	14	43.8%	
No	16	50.0%	
Not completed	2	6.3	
Total	32	100%	

How was the support to your business needs from British Council before and during the event?			
Unsatisfactory	0	0%	
Satisfactory	16	50%	
Good	16	50%	
Total 32 100%			

How do you rate the quality of actual event management, logistical arrangements, venues and any ceremonies, receptions or other functions?			
Unsatisfactory	0	0%	
Satisfactory	13	40.6%	
Good 19 59.4%			
Total	32	100%	

Please comment on how this year's event compares to previous years.			
Same, Worth coming	18	56.3%	
Same, not worth coming	2	6.3%	
More worthwhile	5	15.6%	
Less worthwhile	1	3.1%	
Not completed	6	18.8	
Total	26	100%	

Finally, will you be attending this event this time next year?			
Yes	15	46.9%	
No	1	3.1%	
Undecided	15	46.9%	
Not completed	1	3.1%	
Total	32	100%	

#### Additional comments:

- I have enjoyed this event very much. We have made good contacts today with some serious enquiries which will result in further meetings next week
- Perhaps a followings event might be useful a day or too late specifically for students who would like to know more about specific institutions and for apply to them

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- Since event is getting bigger and busier, which is great. I think it's important to have bigger area for the next year event. Very close location of tables to each other and therefore too crowded for customers actually to access the desk and the representative
- More profile and promotion for further education colleges prior to the event
- Better than last year, more 14-18 year old. Last year too many young children, unsuitable for our institution
- It would depend on a corporate point of view what our needs as a department are
- It would be better if we can keep our materials at the hotel for collection after the events
- very pleasing so far I cannot give you some answers now as I will not know until later
- Good event for fact finding and getting more information about current market situation
- It would depend on the number of schools
- Coffee available? Spread type of schools more evenly to avoid bunching or queuing
- Excellent event
- Thanks for a great location same again on the floor plan next year please
- Very pleased with events Thank you



# Appendix 4: Advertising and promotion plan (media plan)

	Media	Format (number of insertions)	Duration
Print		Print advertisement (8)	8 October –
	Chinese		12 October
	newspapers	Full page supplement (1)	27 September –
		Half page supplement (1)	11 October
	Chinese	Print advertisement (1) +	25 September &
	Magazine	30,000 postcards insertion	3 October
Outdoor	KCRC	4-sheet light box (85)	6 – 12 October
	Central Pier Billboard	Billboard (1)	7 – 13 October
Promotion items	Posters and leaflets	10,000 copies distributed at the British Council and sent to 500+ agent contacts and libraries.	Early September
Online	Apple Daily online	Online banner at Local News Homepage	1 – 13 October
	Discuss.com	Online banner at local forum	28 September –
			12 October
	Baby Kingdom	Online banner at local forum	30 September –
			13 October
	eDM	Direct mailing campaign to 13,000	3 October,
	members of local discussion foru		10 October
	Online pre- registration	E-mail for pre-registration, with a chance to win London Olympics 2012 Routemaster bus modelcinema vouchers	September – October
	Facebook	Event promotion on our BC and Education UK Facebook	October
	Websites	Exhibition information posted to Education UK and BC websites	August – October





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**Outdoor promotion** 

