



To News Editors
For Immediate Release

4 December 2007

International Student Assessment Programme Shows HK Students' Outstanding Performance in Science, Mathematics and Reading

In the recent Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA 2006), Hong Kong 15-year-old students perform well compared with their international counterparts. They rank second in Science, remain the top in Mathematics, and advance to the third in Reading among 57 participating countries and regions worldwide.

Hong Kong scores 542 and ranks second in **Science**, only behind Finland (563). In **Mathematics**, Chinese Taipei (549), Finland (548), Hong Kong (547) and Korea (547) together rank the top with no statistically significant difference between their scores. In **Reading**, Hong Kong scores 536 and advances from the tenth in 2003 to the third position in 2006, led only by Korea and Finland (See Figure 1). Moreover, the socio-economic status of students is found to have modest impact on students' performance, suggesting that all Hong Kong students have relatively high quality and high equity of educational opportunities (See Figure 2).

The three-yearly Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), organized by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), compares and evaluates the effectiveness of education systems by assessing how well 15-year-olds near the end of compulsory education have acquired the knowledge and skills essential for participating in society.

In Hong Kong, PISA 2006 was commissioned by Education Bureau to the Hong Kong Centre for International Student Assessment of the Hong Kong Institute of Educational Research at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The survey was implemented during May through July 2006. 4,645 students from 146 secondary schools including government, aided and private schools were randomly selected for the assessment. Students were assessed of their ability to apply knowledge in science, mathematics and reading to deal with daily life matters.

Note to Editors

Media Invitation

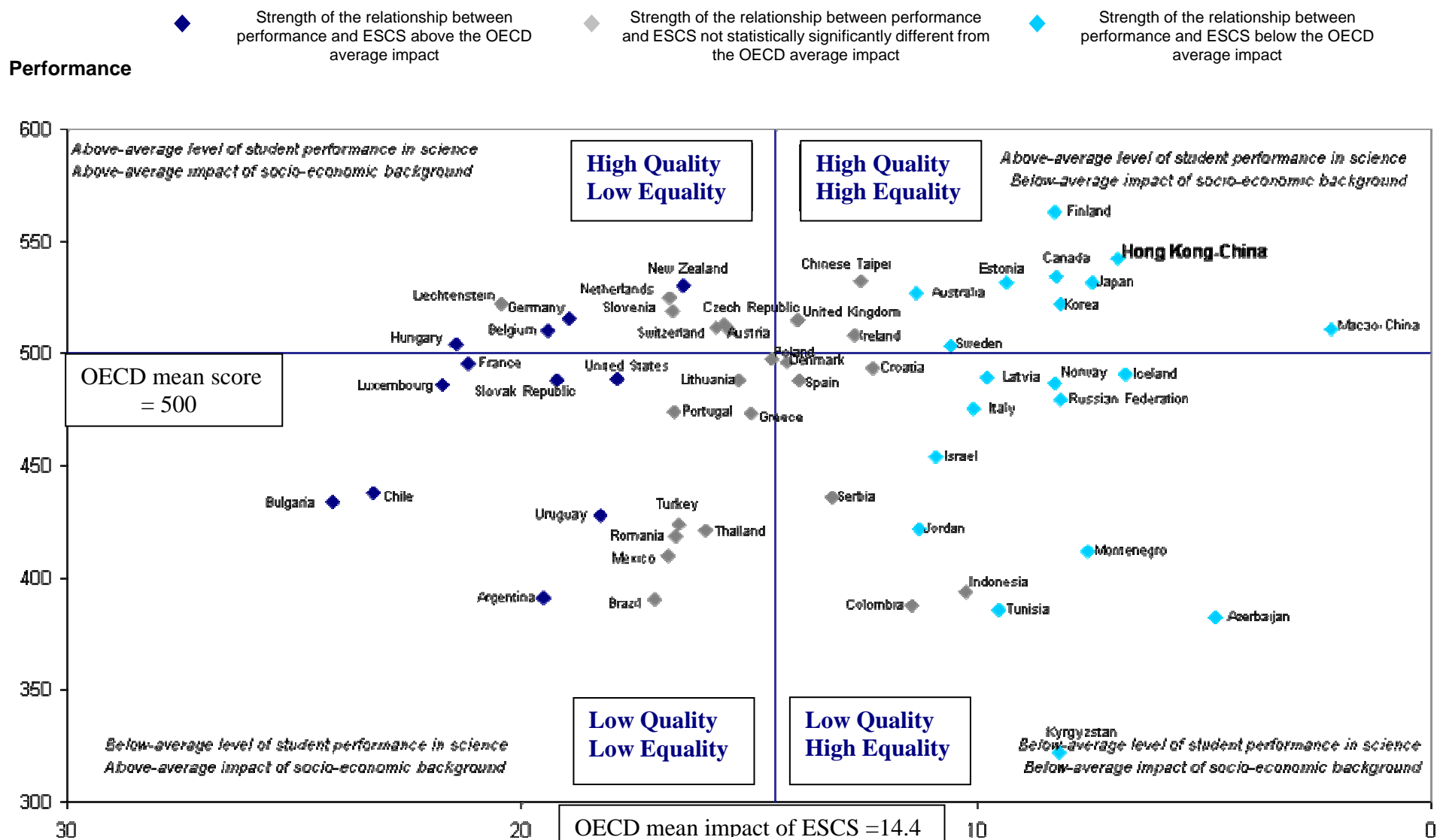
OECD will announce the international results of PISA 2006 today (4 December). A press conference will be held tomorrow to analyze the performance of Hong Kong students and the various factors impacting on performance (e.g. gender, immigrant status, and parental involvement). Media representatives are cordially invited to the press conference with details as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 5 December 2007
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Venue: Room B5, Ho Tim Building, Chung Chi Campus, CUHK, Shatin
Enquiry: [Chan Tsz-ling](#), Communications and Public Relations Office, CUHK
(Tel: 2609 8896)

Figure 1 Performance of 15-Year-Old Students in Scientific, Mathematical, and Reading Literacy in PISA 2006

Science			Mathematics			Reading		
	Mean	S.E.		Mean	S.E.		Mean	S.E.
Finland	563	(2.0)	Chinese Taipei	549	(4.1)	Korea	556	(3.8)
Hong Kong-China	542	(2.5)	Finland	548	(2.3)	Finland	547	(2.1)
Canada	534	(2.0)	Hong Kong-China	547	(2.7)	Hong Kong-China	536	(2.4)
Chinese Taipei	532	(3.6)	Korea	547	(3.8)	Canada	527	(2.4)
Estonia	531	(2.5)	Netherlands	531	(2.6)	New Zealand	521	(3.0)
Japan	531	(3.4)	Switzerland	530	(3.2)	Ireland	517	(3.5)
New Zealand	530	(2.7)	Canada	527	(2.0)	Australia	513	(2.1)
Australia	527	(2.3)	Macao-China	525	(1.3)	Liechtenstein	510	(3.9)
Netherlands	525	(2.7)	Liechtenstein	525	(4.2)	Poland	508	(2.8)
Liechtenstein	522	(4.1)	Japan	523	(3.3)	Sweden	507	(3.4)
Korea	522	(3.4)	New Zealand	522	(2.4)	Netherlands	507	(2.9)
Slovenia	519	(1.1)	Belgium	520	(3.0)	Belgium	501	(3.0)
Germany	516	(3.8)	Australia	520	(2.2)	Estonia	501	(2.9)
United Kingdom	515	(2.3)	Estonia	515	(2.7)	Switzerland	499	(3.1)
Czech Republic	513	(3.5)	Denmark	513	(2.6)	Japan	498	(3.6)
Switzerland	512	(3.2)	Czech Republic	510	(3.6)	Chinese Taipei	496	(3.4)
Macao-China	511	(1.1)	Iceland	506	(1.8)	United Kingdom	495	(2.3)
Austria	511	(3.9)	Austria	505	(3.7)	Germany	495	(4.4)
Belgium	510	(2.5)	Slovenia	504	(1.0)	Denmark	494	(3.2)
Ireland	508	(3.2)	Germany	504	(3.9)	Slovenia	494	(1.0)
Hungary	504	(2.7)	Sweden	502	(2.4)	Macao-China	492	(1.1)
Sweden	503	(2.4)	Ireland	501	(2.8)	<i>OECD average</i>	492	(0.6)
<i>OECD average</i>	500	(0.5)	<i>OECD average</i>	498	(0.5)	Austria	490	(4.1)
Poland	498	(2.3)	France	496	(3.2)	France	488	(4.1)
Denmark	496	(3.1)	United Kingdom	495	(2.1)	Iceland	484	(1.9)
France	495	(3.4)	Poland	495	(2.4)	Norway	484	(3.2)
Croatia	493	(2.4)	Slovak Republic	492	(2.8)	Czech Republic	483	(4.2)
Iceland	491	(1.6)	Hungary	491	(2.9)	Hungary	482	(3.3)
Latvia	490	(3.0)	Luxembourg	490	(1.1)	Latvia	479	(3.7)
United States	489	(4.2)	Norway	490	(2.6)	Luxembourg	479	(1.3)
Slovak Republic	488	(2.6)	Lithuania	486	(2.9)	Croatia	477	(2.8)
Spain	488	(2.6)	Latvia	486	(3.0)	Portugal	472	(3.6)
Lithuania	488	(2.8)	Spain	480	(2.3)	Lithuania	470	(3.0)
Norway	487	(3.1)	Azerbaijan	476	(2.3)	Italy	469	(2.4)
Luxembourg	486	(1.1)	Russian Federation	476	(3.9)	Slovak Republic	466	(3.1)
Russian Federation	479	(3.7)	United States	474	(4.0)	Spain	461	(2.2)
Italy	475	(2.0)	Croatia	467	(2.4)	Greece	460	(4.0)
Portugal	474	(3.0)	Portugal	466	(3.1)	Turkey	447	(4.2)
Greece	473	(3.2)	Italy	462	(2.3)	Chile	442	(5.0)
Israel	454	(3.7)	Greece	459	(3.0)	Russian Federation	440	(4.3)
Chile	438	(4.3)	Israel	442	(4.3)	Israel	439	(4.6)
Serbia	436	(3.0)	Serbia	435	(3.5)	Thailand	417	(2.6)
Bulgaria	434	(6.1)	Uruguay	427	(2.6)	Uruguay	413	(3.4)
Uruguay	428	(2.7)	Turkey	424	(4.9)	Mexico	410	(3.1)
Turkey	424	(3.8)	Thailand	417	(2.3)	Bulgaria	402	(6.9)
Jordan	422	(2.8)	Romania	415	(4.2)	Serbia	401	(3.5)
Thailand	421	(2.1)	Bulgaria	413	(6.1)	Jordan	401	(3.3)
Romania	418	(4.2)	Chile	411	(4.6)	Romania	396	(4.7)
Montenegro	412	(1.1)	Mexico	406	(2.9)	Indonesia	393	(5.9)
Mexico	410	(2.7)	Montenegro	399	(1.4)	Brazil	393	(3.7)
Indonesia	393	(5.7)	Indonesia	391	(5.6)	Montenegro	392	(1.2)
Argentina	391	(6.1)	Jordan	384	(3.3)	Colombia	385	(5.1)
Brazil	390	(2.8)	Argentina	381	(6.2)	Tunisia	380	(4.0)
Colombia	388	(3.4)	Colombia	370	(3.8)	Argentina	374	(7.2)
Tunisia	386	(3.0)	Brazil	370	(2.9)	Azerbaijan	353	(3.1)
Azerbaijan	382	(2.8)	Tunisia	365	(4.0)	Qatar	312	(1.2)
Qatar	349	(0.9)	Qatar	318	(1.0)	Kyrgyzstan	285	(3.5)
Kyrgyzstan	322	(2.9)	Kyrgyzstan	311	(3.4)	United States	m	m

Figure 2 Performance in Science and the Impact of Economic, Social and Cultural Status (ESCS)



Source: OECD PISA 2006 international report, Figure 4.10