

Event-based Learning: A Case Study on Language Support for WorldSkills Competitors

Dilys Wai-mui SUNG and John Yuk-lun NG
Languages Planning and Development Office
Vocational Training Council

1 June 2018

OPPORTUNITIES • ACTION • SUCCESS

良機 • 實幹 • 成功





Skills Olympiad
1950
WorldSkills
75

6 / 45

Improving our world with the power of skills

Team Hong Kong

WorldSkills Oct 2017 (Abu Dhabi)

competitors

+ interpreters

+ subject specialists

Shortlisted Competitors

Students /graduates of

- Clothing Industry Training Authority (CITA)
- Construction Industry Council (CIC)
- Vocational Training Council (VTC)
- Local secondary schools

Staff of Electrical & Mechanical Services
Department (EMSD)



Curriculum Development

learning outcome

- social interactions
- short presentations
- handling the press

+ research

- official website
- you tube channel
- describing
- explaining
- complimenting

+ interviews

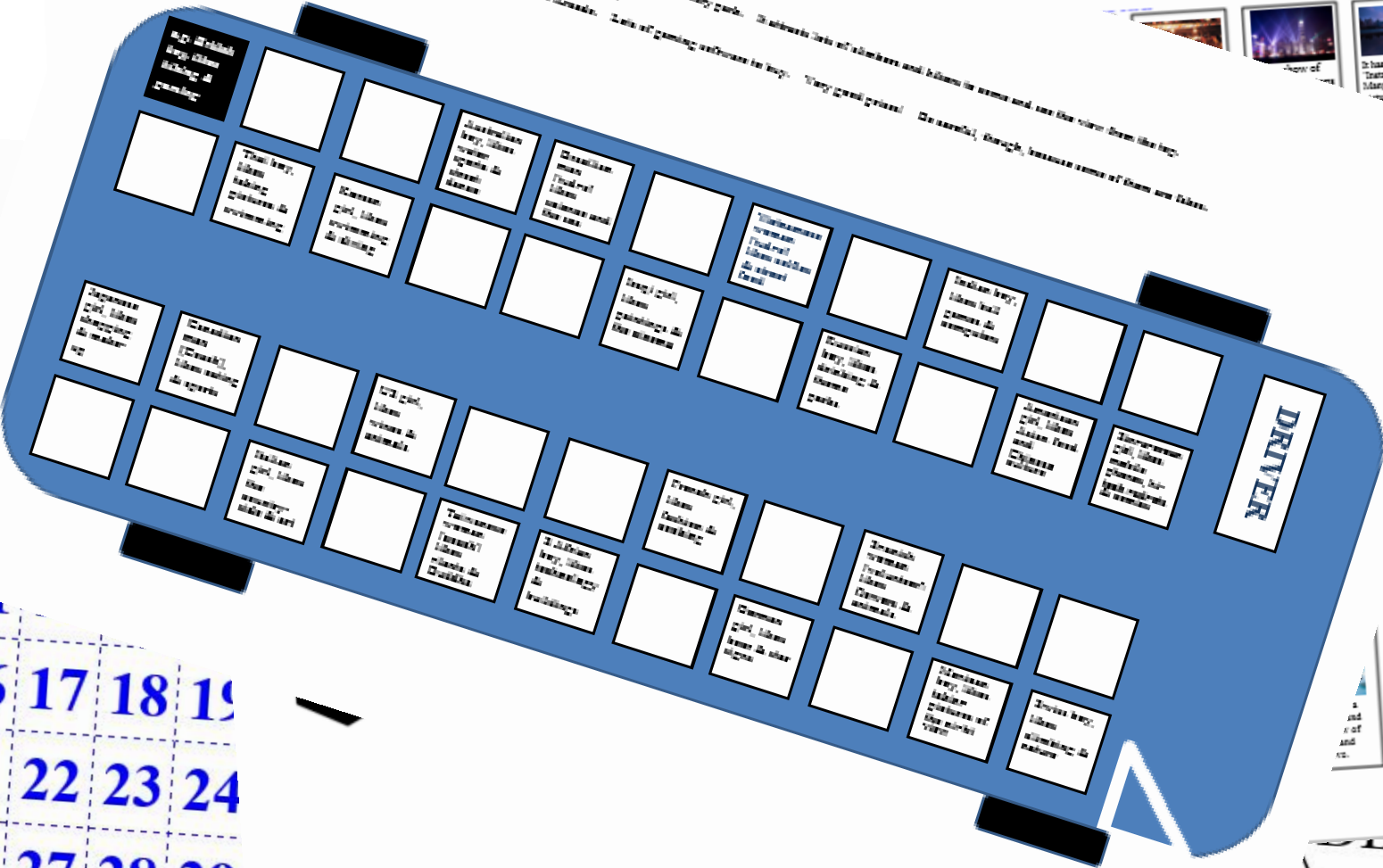
- former competitor
- coach
- interpreter
- visits
- flights
- souvenirs

The Language Support Programme

Jan – Aug 2017
21 hrs

Sample Activities

Activity 4 - I Guess That ...
 Examples:
 Q: Where should I go when I visit Hong Kong?
 A: You should go to the beach.
 Q: What is the best thing to eat in Hong Kong?
 A: Dim sum.
 Q: What is the best thing to do in Hong Kong?
 A: Visit the Victoria Harbour.



Cards Level 2 (for Questioners see key for each group)
 Adapted from pp 38 - 41 Activity Book by Jane



Activity 3 - Collaborating (Question Cards Level 1 for Questioners see key for each group)

CW A place with many big shopping malls and big department stores.	O A theme park with lots of sea animals and the biggest aquarium in the world.	F You can take a ride on this and see the skyline of both sides of the harbour.	SL It is a show of lights on the tops of the tall buildings along both sides of the harbour.	WP It has a nickname of 'Starline Pier'. Many people take pictures here after rain for the 'rainbow usage' and post them on Instagram.
C An outdoor island festival for the 'Sun Festival' and The New Street Parade.	RB A beach on HK Island with some Chinese-style stone lions and a bridge.	FW It takes place in big festivals at night in the harbour. Lights up the skyscrapers.	R7 A very important sport competition in HK. Attracts lots of big teams to play. And some very good players.	AS A place with a lot of handprints and displays of many famous movie stars in it.
D A theme park with lots of games and cartoon characters, plus a few hotels as well. Liked by many mainland tourists.	SM A museum with lots of displays about the outer space and science. Features a 180° space theatre.	BB A very big festival of the holy man (Wu Zhi) on Lantau Island. Next to a big temple (Po Lin).	S A place on the south side of HK Island with a beach, many bars and restaurants and a great market.	T You can take a ride on this on HK Island. It is slow so you can take pictures and see things clearly.
I This is the tallest building on HK Island. It houses the head office of many big companies.	DB The rowing race takes place in the water once a year in a Chinese festival, with teams from the Chinese New Year.	W Many people come to this temple in Kowloon for good luck in the Chinese New Year.	LR The country park here attracts lots of climbers and hikers to come and see the view from the top.	G A shopping centre with lots of newest models of computers and electronic gadgets, sold at very good prices.
PT A building on the top of the HK Island with lots of shops, restaurants and a museum.	LYM A fishing village in East Kowloon with lots of seafood restaurants.	TS A great market in Mongkok with lots of stalls selling local goods, street performance and fortune tellers.	CC You can take a ride on this and see the view of Lantau Island from there.	LK A place on HK Island with many bars where Westerners drink and socialize.

16 17 18 19
 21 22 23 24
 26 27 28 29

LYM TS LR LK
 CC

FIRST THING TO DO BACK IN HK
 GO BACK 4 SPACES
 AMERICA'S GOT TALENT (TV SHOW)
 THROW AGAIN
 SHOPPING
 FAVOURITE MOBILE APP

Sample Output (1)

- A **short introduction** of personal background to fellow competitors
- A **short introduction** about the competition to a media interviewer
- A **chat** with fellow competitors on a visit at a local technical school in Abu Dhabi
- A **short presentation** of competition works to adjudicator(s)
- A **transactional dialogue** with an immigration officer while checking in at the airport

Sample Output (2)

- A **conversation** about recommendations for a holiday in HK for selected personalities based on a card game e.g. competitor from Finland (aged 19) / computer engineer who likes gaming and hiking
- A **conversation** with a competitor about filling in immigration forms and health declarations on board
- A **chat** with new friends exchanging contacts (social media) and souvenirs (role play based on role cards)
- A **short speech of thanks** to an audience at prize presentation

How close is this to EBL?

- ✓ Higginbotham (2009): 'an extension of the task-based approach, with 'much of the task **preparation done in the classroom**' and 'some sort of main **event or performance open to the public**'
- ✓ Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority (2018): 'learning that takes place in response to **planned events** in **real-life contexts**'

How close is this to immersion?

- ✓ Predominantly English speakers in **competition**, most of the time (→L2)
- ? Prep class held in **local classroom** (w/ locals)
- ? Presence of interpreters (some occasions)
- ? Immersion usually concerned with curricular activities (dissemination of academic content)



Outcomes

87.5% 'Teaching and learning materials were helpful to my learning.'

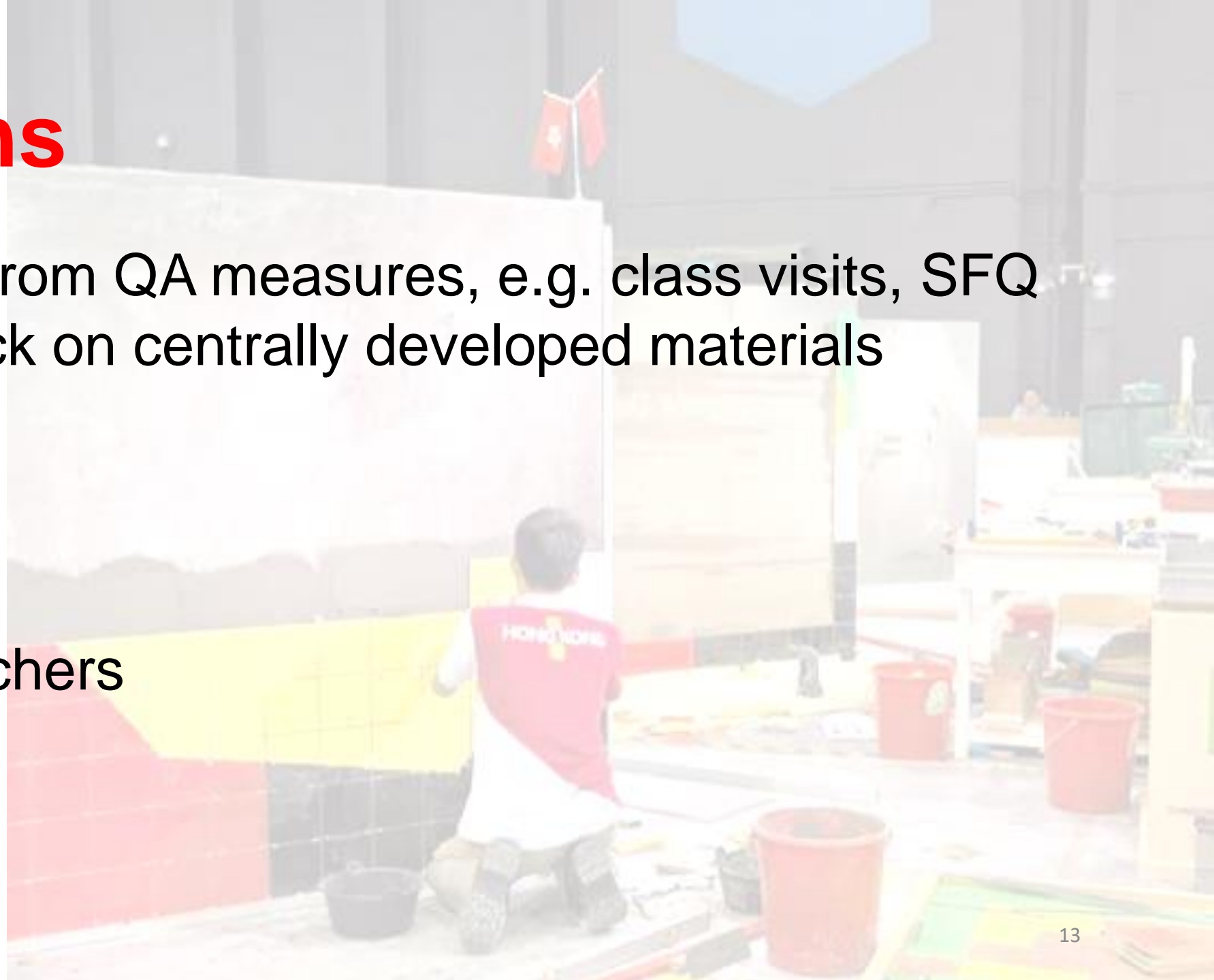
87.5% 'I was encouraged to ask questions and take part in class activities.'

81.2% 'Overall, I am satisfied with the teaching.'

Reflections

Data collected from QA measures, e.g. class visits, SFQ results, feedback on centrally developed materials

- Downsizing
- Simplifying
- Note for teachers



The Way Forward

- Language training for overseas exchange programmes
- Coaching for MCs for important functions, e.g. international conferences
- Coaching for student actors/actresses for shooting of MOOC videos
- Other possibilities e.g. mock job interviews, graduation project presentations / industrial attachment sharing sessions (attended by employers)

Q & A

Thank you!