

EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM No. 99/2022

From : Secretary for Education

To : Heads of Primary and Secondary Schools

Ref : EDB(CD)PSHE/ADM/150/1/31(1)

Date : 6 June 2022

“Teaching the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression”

Teacher Seminars cum Field Visits Series, Teaching Support Programme and Learning and Teaching Resources

Purpose

This is to inform heads and teachers of primary and secondary schools about the captioned programmes and learning and teaching resources.

Background

2. In the 1930s, Japan successively orchestrated the “September 18 Incident” and the “Lugouqiao Incident”, instigating the invasion of China. The Chinese nation united as one and bravely resisted the aggressors, constituting an indelible part of the contemporary history of China. Chinese military and civilians demonstrating loyalty and bravery in safeguarding the nation played an important part for the Allies of the Second World War in the World Anti-Fascist War. Also, during the War of Resistance, the people in Hong Kong actively supported the country against invasion, and demonstrated the spirit of solidarity in confronting the national crisis by raising a great amount of resources and funds for the country’s resistance against Japanese aggression. Subsequent to the outbreak of the Pacific War, Japanese troops invaded Hong Kong in December 1941. The military and civilians in Hong Kong persevered with resistance. The East River Column and the Hong Kong-Kowloon Independent Brigade even rescued people from the cultural sector, the Allies and international friends in Hong Kong at that time, which demonstrated that Hong Kong and the motherland were inextricably bound

together by blood.

3. The education about the history of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression is an important learning content in the secondary history education in Hong Kong. In both junior and senior Chinese History and History curricula, there are topics that enable students to gain a comprehensive understanding of the relevant history, so as to cultivate students' senses of belonging and identity towards the Chinese race and nation, and nurture the value of cherishing peace. For example, the topic of "Japanese aggression and the War of Resistance against Japan" in Secondary 3 Chinese History enables students to learn about the background of Japanese aggression over China, as well as the course and results of the War of Resistance, the fall of Hong Kong and the anti-Japanese activities; the topics of "International conflicts and crises in the 20th century (I) – the two world wars" and "Hong Kong during the Japanese occupation" in Secondary 3 History provide students with historical background of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression from a broader perspective, such as the relations among countries in Europe, America and Asia, reasons for their conflicts between the two world wars, and the formation and aggression of the Axis power, while understanding the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong and the difficult life of people in Hong Kong under Japanese occupation. There are also relevant topics in the senior secondary Chinese History and History curricula, enabling students to profoundly learn the history of our forefathers during the War of Resistance, thereby cultivating their affection for the country and international perspectives.

Details

4. The EDB has always been attaching great importance and making ongoing efforts to promote the teaching of the history of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. Soon after the commencement of this school year, the Personal, Social and Humanities Education

(PSHE) Section of the Curriculum Development Institute (CDI) has launched the “Teaching the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression” programme series, such as “The September 18 Incident and the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression” seminar cum sharing session by veterans of the War of Resistance in September 2021 and the “Remember History, Cherish Peace: 84th anniversary of Nanjing Massacre” school commemorative activities and teacher seminars that organised by the EDB in December last year. Besides, the EDB has developed relevant learning and teaching resources to enhance teachers’ strategies and effectiveness in teaching relevant topics. Programmes series on “Teaching the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression” will continue in 2022, including a) Seminar series on the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in Hong Kong. As this year marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the East River Column and the Hong Kong-Kowloon Independent Brigade, relevant seminars and field visit activities will be organized to help teachers and students understand the role and contribution of Hong Kong during the War of Resistance, and experience the patriotic spirit and heroic deeds of waging waves of resistance in defending the territory and safeguarding the nation by people in Hong Kong during the War; b) Seminars on the new perspectives concerning history studies of the War of Resistance, such as understanding the importance and significance of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in the historical development from a broader perspective like the international situation at that time as well as the World Anti-Fascist War, and c) A pilot scheme on teaching “September 18 Incident” through innovative drama education programme so as to support teachers’ teaching and enhance students learning interest in studying history. Interested teachers can refer to [Annex 1](#) for more details. Teachers may enroll in the teacher seminars cum field visits series through the Training Calendar System, and for the teaching support programme and learning and teaching resources, please refer to the relevant circular memoranda issued by the EDB at a later stage.

Contact Person

5. For enquiries, please contact Ms KWONG Lai-sheung (2892 6528) or Mr HO Man-shek Alex (2892 5867) of the PSHE Section, CDI, EDB.

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for Secretary for Education

1. “Teaching the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression” Teacher Seminars cum Field Visits Series

Course ID	Course Title	Date
CDI020211640	“September 18 Incident and the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression” seminar cum sharing session by veterans of the War of Resistance	17 September 2021
CDI020211878	“Remember History, Cherish Peace”—— The Nanjing Massacre from the perspectives of China and Japan	13 December 2021
CDI020221148	Series on the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in Hong Kong (1): Briefing session of the interactive web map of the spatial history project “Hong Kong 1941”	21 February 2022
CDI020221109	Series on the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in Hong Kong (2): Reappraising the Battle of Hong Kong in 1941 from the spatial perspective: research methods and the making of an interactive web map	23 February 2022
To be confirmed	Series on the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in Hong Kong (3): Application of the interactive web map of the spatial history project “Hong Kong 1941” in history lessons - Sharing session on e-learning strategies	July – August 2022
To be confirmed	Series on the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in Hong Kong (4): “The Fall of Hong Kong and Resistance against Japanese Aggression”	July – August 2022
To be confirmed	Seminar on “Studying the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and Hong Kong from New Perspectives”	September – October 2022 (Tentative)
To be confirmed	Series on the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in Hong Kong (5): “Historic sites about The East River Column and Resistance against Japanese Aggression in Sai Kung District” seminar and site visit	October – November 2022 (Tentative)

2. ‘Teaching the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression’ Teaching Support Programme

	Name of the Programme	Relevant Link / Date
1	Pilot Scheme on “Teaching on the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression”—— “September 18 Incident” Drama Education Programme	September – November 2022 (Tentative)

3. “Teaching the History of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression” Learning and Teaching Resources*

	Name of the Resources	Relevant Link / Date
1	The 70th anniversary of the victory of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression: Selections from the Hsu Chung Mao Collection	https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/references-and-resources/history/70th_victory_album.html
2	Learning and Teaching Package for “History of War in China”	https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/references-and-resources/chinese-history/war-history.html
3	「九一八事變與抗日戰爭」歷史專題簡報 (Chinese version only)	https://www.edb.gov.hk/tc/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/references-and-resources/chinese-history/learningandteachingppt/index.html
4	New Inspirations in Learning and Teaching New Resource Pack for the Revised Curriculum of Junior Secondary History (Volume 1)	https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/references-and-resources/history/new_inspirations_volume_1.html
5	《想·創——中國歷史學與教資源套》（第三輯） （相關部分）（電子版） (Chinese version only)	Tentatively scheduled for uploading in July-August 2022

*As some contents may contain cruel scenes in wars, the above materials should be appropriately adopted and selected according to students’ age and learning progress as well as other school-based factors.