ZMATH 2012a.00105
Leong, Yew Hoong; Tay, Eng Guan; Toh, Tin Lam; Quek, Khiok Seng; Dindyal, Jaguthsing
Reviving Pólya’s ”look back” in a Singapore school.

Summary: This study is based on the stance that Polyà’s ”Look Back,” though understudied, remains relevant to Mathematics curricula that place emphasis on problem solving. Although the Singapore Mathematics curriculum adopts the goal of teaching Look Back, research about how it is carried out in actual classroom practice is rare. In our project, we focus on a redesign of a teacher development programme that is targeted to help teachers realize Polyà’s original vision of Look Back in the classroom. We report the cases of two teachers who have participated in the teacher development programme: their thinking about Look Back (through interview records) and their interpretation of Look Back in their classroom practice (through video records). By bringing these two spheres of data together, we discuss their degree of ”buy-in” to Look Back in the overall problem solving enterprise.

Classification: B50 D59
Keywords: problem solving; Polyà’s stages; teaching methods; faculty development; professional development; interviews
doi:10.1016/j.jmathb.2011.07.005