

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Education

Disbursement of the Language Fund

At the Panel meeting on 7 February 2005, Members agreed to a proposal to inject \$500 million into the Language Fund for the continued operation of the Professional Development Incentive Grant Scheme for Language Teachers (PDIGS) and for strengthening support of language education at the pre-primary and primary levels in the light of the first Territory-wide System Assessment results. Members also agreed to our plan to submit the proposal to the Finance Committee (FC) for consideration on 25 February 2005, but requested that the Administration should provide further details on the use of the Language Fund for Members' reference.

2. This paper provides three sets of relevant figures for Members' reference –

- (a) Breakdown of committed Language Fund projects by relevant language (Annex A);
- (b) Profile of applicants to PDIGS by subject and level taught (Annex B); and
- (c) Provision of support by the Task Force of Language Education (Annex C).

3. As mentioned above, we plan to submit the injection proposal to FC for consideration on 25 February 2005.

Education and Manpower Bureau
February 2005

Breakdown of Language Fund Projects by Relevant Language

Relevant Language	Number of Projects Completed / Committed	Grant Disbursed / to be Disbursed (\$ million)
English	112	260.4
Chinese	104	58.2
Putonghua	43	63.8
Chinese & Putonghua	5	6.6
Cross Languages	28	325.3
Total	292	714.3

**Professional Development Incentive Grant Scheme
for Language Teachers**

Profile of Applications by Applicants' Subject and Level of Teaching

	English	Chinese
Applications Approved		
<i>Primary</i>	998	1734
<i>Secondary</i>	491	508
<i>Primary / Secondary</i>	79	114
Total Approved	1568	2356
Applications Received		
*Total Received	1780	2529

* Applications received but not yet approved are under process.

Statistics on the Task Force of Language Support

I. Members of the Task Force

Subject Specialized in	Current Strength of Team
Chinese	38 *
English	17
Total	55

* Including 15 language experts from the Mainland under a Guangdong-Hong Kong exchange programme.

II. Support received by Schools

Subject Supported	Number of Schools receiving support in the Subject
Chinese	180
English	Over 160
Total	Over 340