

For information

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**Subcommittee on Race Discrimination (Formal Investigations) Rules,
Race Discrimination (Investigation and Conciliation) Rules and
Code of Practice on Employment
under the Race Discrimination Ordinance**

**Funding support for activities to promote racial harmony and
support services for ethnic minorities**

Purpose

In response to issues raised by a Member at the Subcommittee meeting of 12 June 2009, this paper explains the selection of organisations for funding grants to promote racial harmony and provide support services to ethnic minorities in Hong Kong and monitoring of their performance.

Background

2. Since the establishment of the Race Relations Unit in 2002, Government has been providing funding grants to non-government organisations (NGOs) to provide support services for ethnic minorities and organize educational, cultural and community participation activities to promote racial harmony. The major services and activities are listed in Annexes A and B.

3. In this relation, we have provided additional resources to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) for the implementation of the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) and the related promotion and public education efforts on racial equality. An additional recurrent subvention of \$1.05 million has been provided to the EOC starting from the 2009/10 financial year for this purpose. Separately, we have reserved an additional recurrent subvention of around \$4 million for the EOC to implement the RDO, subject to the assessment with the EOC on their resource needs.

Selection

4. The selection of NGOs to operate the concerned services and activities is conducted in a fair, objective and competitive manner. The assessment criteria are set out when inviting applications from eligible organisations. These criteria include the merit and viability of the proposal, whether the proposal meets the stated objectives, the experience of the applicant and financial consideration. As an illustration, the assessment criteria in respect of the support service centres for ethnic minorities, as provided in the project brief issued in December 2008, are set out at **Annex C**.

5. Before deciding on the organisations to receive such grants, the proposals of the applicants were assessed in accordance with the criteria, in order to select the most suitable organisations. As the process is a competitive one, applicants may not be selected as they did not meet fully the eligibility criteria or more suitable organisations were chosen in accordance with the selection criteria.

Monitoring and review mechanisms

6. The performance of the organisations in carrying out the activities is kept under monitoring and review to ensure cost effective use of public funds. These include examination of reports of the sponsored activities by the organisations concerned, conducting visits to such

services and activities and requiring participants to fill in questionnaire to provide an assessment of the activities from their perspective. We also receive feedbacks from the ethnic minority communities through various channels from time to time on the services and measures provided.

7. For services which are provided on a longer term basis (as opposed to one-off projects funded under the funding scheme), we also consider whether to renew the funding grant of these services to the organisations concerned from time to time, taking into account the effectiveness of the services, the performance of the organisations, and the feedback from the users and the community.

8. The Government will continue to provide such support services and activities through engaging suitable NGOs. We will continue to conduct the selection process in a fair, objective and competitive manner and implement suitable review and monitoring measures as appropriate.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
June 2009

Annex A

Services and activities provided through NGOs
since the establishment of the Race Relations Unit

Services and activities	Organisations receiving funding grant to provide services / activities	Annual recurrent budget
Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme	Annual funding programme. See <u>Annex B</u> for the list of organisations receiving funding in 2008-09	\$600,000
Community Development Teams for Ethnic Minorities from South Asia	Christian Action Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited	\$2,800,000
Community Support Teams for Ethnic Communities	Pakistan Islamic Welfare Union Incorporated (HK) Ltd. Hong Kong Integrated Nepalese Society	\$640,000
Cross-cultural Learning Programme for Non-Chinese Speaking Youth	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service Caritas Hong Kong The Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong (Cheung Sha Wan Centre)	\$700,000
Support Service Centres for Ethnic Minorities	Hong Kong Christian Service International Social Service Hong Kong Branch Christian Action Yuen Long Town Hall Management Committee Limited	\$1,600,000 (additional \$800,000 of one-off setting up cost)

Annex B

Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme 2008-09

List of Sponsored Activities

Name of organisation	Name of project
Hong Chi Winifred Mary Cheung Morninghope School	Racial Harmony Festival
Matteo Ricci College Kowloon	Harmony in Multi-culture 08
The Salvation Army Tuen Mun East Integrated Service for Young People	Caring in Community of Fu Tai
The Salvation Army Yaumatei Integrated Service for Young People	Our Snapshots
Jockey Club Shek Yam Children & Youth Integrated Services Centre	"Integration pioneer" cultural exchanges
Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists- Shan King Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre	Hand in Hand - Join Together Racial Integrated Project 2008
Mission To New Arrivals Limited	A Wonderful Life
Hong Kong Christian Service (Kwun Tong Happy Teens Club)	Action Hunter
Caritas Charles Vath College	Integration project "Move and pause!"
United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL-HK)	Identifying Common Humanity as a Step Forward in Cultural Harmony
Delia Memorial School (Hip Wo)	Multicultural Festival 2008-09
Far East Overseas Nepalese Association (FEONA-HK)	"Lets Celebrate Nepali Festival Together, Make Hong Kong Culturally Prosperous"
Union Nepalese Domestic Workers in Hong Kong (UNDW)	Celebrating Festival Together Enhances Cultural Understanding
Christian Action - Domestic Helpers and Migrant Workers Programme	Hong Kong is Our Home - Information Expo
Chinese YMCA Chai Wan Centre	Understanding colours

Name of organisation	Name of project
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong South Kwai Chung Children & Youth Integrated Services Centre	"World in the kitchen" integration project
Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong	Understanding Our Rights on Equal Opportunity
Methodist Centre - Sai Wan Ho Integrated Children and Youth Services	Be a "Culture Seeker"
Hong Kong Weaving Mills Association Chu Shek Lun Secondary School	Project H - Learn and play together
Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children Children & Family Services Centre	Integration for all (racial integration project)
H.K.S.K.H Lady MacLehose Centre	"Let's appreciate one another" - multi-racial parent-child support project
Hong Kong Integrated Nepalese Society	Nepalese Women Festival (TEEJ)
Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Service for Young People - Wong Tai Sin	Nation of Harmony. Caring Community Project
YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College	We are Different, We are United
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong (Hin Keng Centre)	Social harmony project on "no racial boundary"
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Jockey Club Shatin Integrated Services Centre	"Joyful Rainbow" Equal Races Enhancement Project"
St James' Settlement Wan Chai Integrated Family Service Centre	"Green Fun Adventure " Family Project

Support service centres for ethnic minorities

Major considerations for assessing the applications include the following –

- (a) viability and merit of the proposals
- (b) experience, past performance and capability of the applicant NGOs in providing support services to ethnic communities
- (c) expertise and qualification of personnel involved in carrying out the programmes
- (d) capability to network and cooperate with other organizations to deliver the supportive services and to make appropriate referrals
- (e) attainment levels for the output and outcome indicators mentioned in the project brief (and other performance assessment tools, if any, proposed by the applicant NGOs)
- (f) the time by which the centre will come into operation; and
- (g) budget and cost-efficiency.