

The Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") welcomes and supports the Government's proposed injection of funds into the Arts and Sport Development Fund ("ASDF"). Since its establishment, the ASDF has been helping elite athletes to prepare for four important Major Games namely the Olympic Games, Asian Games and National Games as well as the Paralympic Games for athletes with disabilities, enhancing their performance and thereby bringing pride and honour for Hong Kong.

Since October 2004 when the HKSI was reconstituted, the HKSI has received over \$24 million from the ASDF to enhance our Elite Sports athletes' preparation for Major Games, resulting in a total of 33 medals achieved in these Games. Thanks to the additional support from the ASDF, the HKSI was able to provide additional coaches and training partners, overseas training programmes and sports equipment as well as more intensive on-field scientific support to the targeted athletes to meet their specific training needs for these Major Games, and in return outstanding results had been achieved over the years.

With the flexible approach of the ASDF in supporting sports initiatives on a project basis, the HKSI is looking for enhanced cooperation with the ASDF in providing special funding to support new initiatives in the elite training perspective especially after the Redevelopment of the HKSI, so as to provide a good environment in which sports talent can be identified, nurtured and developed to pursue sporting excellence.

With Government's increased support to sports in the recent years, especially on the enhanced support to elite athletes, the HSKI is confident that Hong Kong will achieve good results in the coming Major Games, and will continue to work closely with the Government to bring our elite sport to a new height.