

 創新科技署署長
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

香港特別行政區政府創新科技署

Innovation and Technology Commission

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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4 November 2008

Dr. Hon. Samson Tam Wai-ho, JP
LegCo Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
3rd floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

Dear Dr. Tam,

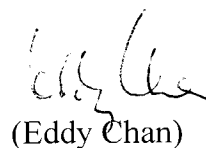
LegCo Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

At the Panel meeting held on 21 October 2008, you requested the Administration to provide information on the R&D projects undertaken by local universities that were successfully converted into industrial applications in the past five years.

The Government set up the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) in 1999 to provide funding support for midstream/downstream R&D projects, both platform and collaborative research projects, undertaken by universities, research institutes, industry support organizations and trade/industry associations. From past experience, upon completion of the R&D projects, it may take some time to commercialize project deliverable for transfer to the market and industrial applications. It is therefore not easy to keep track of such information. That said, according to the information provided by the six local universities and Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, exclusive and non-exclusive licence of the technologies/deliverables developed for 73 platform projects completed in the past five years have been granted to individual industrialists, companies and other interested parties. This figure serves as a broad indicator showing the industrial applications of ITF projects.

The University-Industry Collaboration Programme (UICP) set up under the ITF with an aim to encourage private sector companies to leverage on universities' knowledge and resources. This is also intended to encourage collaborative commercial R&D projects, thereby assisting industries in developing new products and improving production process and technology. As at the end of September 2008, 175 collaborative projects have been funded under the UICP which aim to produce R&D outcome for commercialization or technology applications.

Yours sincerely,



(Eddy Chan)

Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

c.c. Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications & Technology)
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Attn: Mr. Wallace Lau)