

LEGCO PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES

Progress Report on the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged

Purpose

We last briefed Members on the implementation of the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (PFD) vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2162/07-08(01) at the Panel meeting on 12.6.2008. This paper updates Members on the position of the PFD after four rounds of applications and on the arrangements for the Fifth Round.

Background

2. The \$200 million PFD was launched in March 2005 following the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (Paper No. FCR (2004-05)34) in December 2004. It aims to promote tripartite partnership of the Government, business sector and welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in working for the benefit of the disadvantaged groups. Under the PFD, the Government provides matching grants to donations in cash or in kind made by business organisations to support NGOs in implementing social welfare initiatives.

Updated Progress

Overview

3. By February 2009, a total of 177 projects implemented by 81 NGOs had been approved, involving PFD grants of over \$67 million. These projects attracted 347 business partners, benefiting about 600 000 disadvantaged persons. A summary of all the successful applications to date is at **Annex**.

The Fourth Round

4. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) invited applications for the

Fourth Round from January to June 2008. Further facilitating measures were introduced, including raising the maximum amount of the PFD grant for each project from \$1 million to \$2 million and allowing each NGO to submit up to ten applications in each round. These measures aimed at providing NGOs with a greater incentive to secure larger amounts of sponsorships, so that more disadvantaged people can benefit. NGOs could also implement more projects to cater for different users.

5. The facilitating measures were effective in encouraging NGOs to form new partnerships and sustain existing ones. A total of 80 projects were approved, involving 47 NGOs which had secured contributions from more than 170 business partners, including over 140 new ones. Of the 47 NGOs, 35 were previous grantees which proposed new projects in this round by forming new partnerships or pursuing new initiatives with old partners. Over \$37 million was granted in total, representing an increase of more than 130% over the \$16 million granted in the Third Round. The amount of grant for each project ranged from about \$16,000 to \$2 million, and the duration of the projects ranged from four months to four years. The facilitating measure which allowed NGOs to submit up to ten applications per round had benefited four NGOs while raising the maximum grant for each project enabled 11 projects to receive matching grants of \$1 million to \$2 million each.

The Fifth Round

6. The Fifth Round of applications was launched on 29 January 2009 and is open until 31 July 2009. As a special measure to assist vulnerable individuals or families affected by the recent financial crisis, the maximum amount of PFD grant has been raised to \$3 million per project for projects which can strengthen support for these individuals or families, such as those providing employment assistance, counselling or professional support on financial management, etc. With the business partners' contributions, the budget for such projects can reach \$6 million each. The maximum PFD grant for projects serving other disadvantaged groups remains at \$2 million per project.

Publicity

7. SWD widely publicises the PFD, in order to encourage the submission of worthy proposals which can help the disadvantaged groups, and promote tripartite partnership for the benefit of welfare development in the long term. SWD's publicity efforts include distributing leaflets, booklets,

newsletters; arranging experience-sharing sessions with NGOs, business corporations and other interested parties; introducing PFD to business chambers and stakeholders concerned at the district level; organizing events to recognize contributions of NGOs and business partners; and promoting the PFD to the public through exhibitions and press briefings, etc. Members of the Advisory Committee on PFD also participate in various publicity activities of projects funded by the PFD.

Monitoring

8. To ensure that the PFD can meet its objectives and operate smoothly, SWD will continue to collect feedback from the NGOs, their project staff, business partners and service users. SWD also closely examines progress and evaluation reports submitted by the grantees.

Advice sought

9. Members are invited to note the progress of the PFD.

Social Welfare Department
March 2009

**The Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (PFD)
Summary of Successful Applications**

| | 1st Round (Mar 05 – May 05) | 2nd Round (Oct 05 – Dec 05) | 3rd Round (July 06 – Jul 07) | 4th Round (Jan 08 – Jun 08) | Total |
|--|--|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| No. of Approved Projects | 29 | 14 | 54 | 80 | 177 |
| No. of NGOs | 29 | 14 | 41 | 47 | - |
| No. of New NGOs | 29 | 14 | 26 | 12 | 81 ^{Note 1} |
| No. of NGO grantees submitting new applications | - | - | 15 | 35 ^{Note 2} | - |
| No. of Business Partners | 80 | 29 | 108 | 174 | - |
| No. of New Business Partners | 80 | 29 | 93 | 145 | 347 ^{Note 3} |
| Amount of Grant Allocated | HK \$ 8.9M | HK\$ 4.5M | HK\$ 16M | HK\$ 37.8M | HK\$ 67.2M |

Note 1 - A total of 81 NGOs had applied for PFD to implement 177 projects in the past four rounds of applications.

Out of these 81 NGOs, 40 had received funding from PFD to run more than one project.

Note 2 - Out of these 35 NGOs, 11 had applied for funding in the 3rd Round.

Note 3 - A total of 44 business partners had sponsored more than one PFD project.