Supplementary Information on

FCR(2010-11)1 : **Transfers to Funds**
(Subhead 990 Payment to the Disaster Relief Fund)

for the FC Meeting on 1 April 2010

As requested by the Chairman of the Finance Committee (FC), supplementary information on the previous grants from the Disaster Relief Fund for snowstorm and earthquake victims in the Mainland and the $9 billion injection into the Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas (the Trust Fund) is provided below.

Grants from the Disaster Relief Fund

Grants for snowstorm victims in the Mainland

2.   On 5 February 2008, the FC approved a provision of $250 million for the Disaster Relief Fund to address the need for grants to provide emergency relief to snowstorm victims in the Mainland.   The following grants were subsequently made on the advice of the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee –

- $100 million to the provincial government of Guizhou Province (貴州省政府);

- $100 million to the provincial government of Hunan Province (湖南省政府);

- $10 million to the municipal government of Shaoguan of Guangdong Province (韶關市政府); and

- grants totalling $28.72 million for seven organisations to carry out relief programmes for the snowstorms victims.

3.   The Administration reported to the FC on how the grants were disbursed vide letters on 27 October 2008 and 19 December 2008.   Copies of the evaluation reports from relief organizations were also provided to the FC on 2 September 2009. The Administration is satisfied with the reports which confirm that prompt relief was provided to the victims in need.

Grants for earthquake victims in the Mainland

4.   On 14 May 2008, the FC approved a provision of $350 million for the Disaster Relief Fund to address the need for grants to provide emergency relief to earthquake victims in the Mainland.   The following grants were subsequently made

on the advice of the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee –

- $300 million to the Disaster Relief Headquarters of the Central People's Government (中央人民政府抗震救災總指揮部);

- $0.8 million worth of supplies for environmental cleansing and disinfection to the Relief Command of Yingxiu Town, Wenchuan County (汶川縣映秀鎮抗震救災指揮部);

- $4.3 million worth of tents to Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Sichuan Provincial People's Government (四川省人民政府港澳事務辦公室); and

- grants totalling $21.24 million[Note] for five organisations to carry out relief programmes for the earthquake victims.

5.   The Administration reported to the FC on how the grants were disbursed and provided copies of the evaluation reports from relief organizations vide a letter on 8 October 2009.   The Administration is satisfied with the reports which confirm that prompt relief was provided to the victims in need.

Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas

6.   The FC approved on 18 July 2008, 20 February and 3 July 2009 a total amount of $9 billion for injection into the Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas (the Trust Fund) to enable HKSAR's support of reconstruction work in Sichuan.   The Administration agreed to report the progress of the reconstruction work to the LegCo Panel on Development on a half-yearly basis. To this end, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in conjunction with the Development Bureau submitted three progress reports to the Panel on Development at its meetings on 3 February, 18 June and 24 November 2009.   The reports covered the latest progress of the HKSAR's reconstruction projects in the three stages, funding applications received from non-government organizations and their participation in the support work, and information on project management, monitoring and auditing arrangements.   We will submit the fourth progress report to the Panel on Development in May/June 2010.

Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
March 2010

[Note]   It excludes a grant of HK$7.5 million approved for Hong Kong Red Cross to carry out a relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan as Hong Kong Red Cross subsequently withdrew the application.