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30 March 2010

The Hon. Cyd Ho Sau-lan
Room 602
Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Fax: 2151 9011)

Dear the Hon. Ho,

Dear Cyd.

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

Thank you for your interest in the captioned Scheme. I am pleased to inform you that the 2010/11 exercise of the Scheme was successfully concluded. Details of the selection process, as well as the results of the Scheme, are listed below for your reference.

The Research Grants Council (RGC) launched the first-ever Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (the Fellowship) in September 2009 to attract the best and brightest students around the world (including Hong Kong) to pursue their PhD studies and research in UGC-funded institutions. A total of 2 996 applications from 100 countries / regions worldwide were received. The seven participating institutions, namely City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Lingnan University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and The University of Hong Kong, nominated 370 applicants to compete for the Fellowship.

The RGC set up two Selection Panels, namely Science, Medicine, Engineering and Technology Panel and Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Studies Panel, for selecting awardees of the Fellowship. There are a total of 36 members for the two panels, comprising 21 overseas and 15 local academics who had good experience in recruitment of research postgraduate students for top-notch institutions. To avoid any conflict of interest, the local

academics conducted assessment of the applications by means of a blind review. Furthermore, 16 overseas Panel Members came to Hong Kong in late February to assess the shortlisted applications at a two-day meeting.

It is encouraging that the debut of the scheme has attracted such outstanding applicants. The RGC decided to offer Fellowships to the best qualified applicants who could also gain admittance to the top universities in the world. After a rigorous evaluation process, 148 candidates were offered the Fellowship and 115 have accepted. Among these awardees, 71 (62%) candidates are from the Mainland and 10 (9%) from Hong Kong. The remaining 34 (29%) come from other parts of the world – including 11% from Europe, 10% from other Asian countries, 5% from America, 2% from Africa, and 1% from Australia. Most of the awardees will study in the fields of Engineering (31%) and Physical Sciences (27%), while the rest will study in areas relating to Biology and Medicine (16%) and Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Studies (26%). A summary of the awardees statistics is set out at **Annex**.

In view of the high quality awardees in the first round exercise, we believe that it is a good starting point for our Scheme to establish its reputation, and for Hong Kong to be known as an ideal place for students to pursue their research careers. We hope that in the near future, together with the increasing achievements of Hong Kong institutions in the tertiary education sector worldwide, the ‘Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme’ will be one of the most desired scholarships among elite students from around the world.

Should you have any enquiries on the ‘Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme’, please feel free to contact Miss Jenny Yip, Secretary of the RGC (Tel: 2844 9942) or Mr Anthony Chan, Deputy Secretary of the RGC (Tel: 2844 9916).

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



(Roland Chin)
Chairman

Research Grants Council

Encl.

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

Statistics of Awardees for admission to PhD programmes in the 2010/11 academic year

A. By Institution

	Number of Awardees	Percentage
City University of Hong Kong	5	4.3%
Hong Kong Baptist University	4	3.5%
Lingnan University	1	0.9%
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	30	26.1%
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	15	13.0%
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	34	29.6%
The University of Hong Kong	26	22.6%
Total:	115	100.0%

B. By Broad Discipline

Science, Medicine, Engineering & Technology		
	Number of Awardees	Percentage
Engineering	36	31.3%
Civil Engineering, Surveying, Building & Construction	6	5.2%
Computing Science & Information Technology	9	7.8%
Electrical & Electronic Engineering	17	14.8%
Mechanical, Production & Industrial Engineering	4	3.5%
Physical Sciences	31	27.0%
Chemical Engineering	1	0.9%
Physical Sciences	23	20.0%
Mathematics	7	6.1%
Biology & Medicine	18	15.6%
Biological Sciences	9	7.8%
Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences	9	7.8%
Total:	85	73.9%

Humanities, Social Science and Business Studies		
	Number of Awardees	Percentage
Administrative & Social Studies	8	7.0%
Arts & Languages	13	11.3%
Business Studies	3	2.6%
Education	3	2.6%
Law, Architecture, Town Planning & Other	3	2.6%
Professional & Vocational Subjects		
Total:	30	26.1%

C. By Place of Origin

Country/ Region	Number of Awardees	Percentage
Asia	93	80.9%
China	71	61.7%
Hong Kong	10	8.7%
India	2	1.7%
Korea South	2	1.7%
Malaysia	2	1.7%
Philippines	2	1.7%
Indonesia	1	0.9%
Iran	1	0.9%
Pakistan	1	0.9%
Singapore	1	0.9%
Africa	2	1.7%
Nigeria	1	0.9%
South Africa	1	0.9%
Oceania	1	0.9%
Australia	1	0.9%
Europe	13	11.3%
Germany	3	2.6%
United Kingdom	3	2.6%
Netherlands	2	1.7%
Belgium	1	0.9%
Czech Republic	1	0.9%
Greece	1	0.9%
Ireland	1	0.9%
Italy	1	0.9%
America	6	5.2%
Canada	2	1.7%
U.S.A	2	1.7%
Mexico	1	0.9%
Venezuela	1	0.9%
Total:	115	100.0%

D. By Gender

	Number of Awardees	Percentage
Female	55	47.8%
Male	60	52.2%
Total:	115	100.0%