

Progress of the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme

The Central Policy Unit (CPU) briefed the Panel on Education on the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) on 21 February 2013. This note sets out the latest progress.

2. The PPRFS 2013-14 was launched on 16 July 2013. Details of the Scheme have been posted on CPU's web site (www.cpu.gov.hk). To increase the Scheme's flexibility and to cater for potential applicants' needs, applications are accepted throughout the year. Applications are processed once received. Vetting normally takes about three to four months. These arrangements allow the launch and completion of research in a more flexible and timely manner.
3. To encourage and support more academics and researchers to conduct public policy research, the Scheme is not only open to academics from the eight UGC-funded institutions, but also academics who are teaching undergraduate or above programmes at local tertiary institutions and researchers at local non-profit-making think tanks. This would further foster a culture of public policy research in Hong Kong.
4. To better address the current policy research needs of the community and the Government, CPU has formulated 21 indicative research areas for reference by tertiary institutions and think tanks. Applicants can also propose their own research areas for consideration by the Assessment Panel and CPU. Whenever a research need is identified, CPU would invite applications on special research topics.
5. To ensure academic freedom and quality of research, an Assessment Panel comprising 10 local experienced academics is responsible for the assessment of applications. The panel and reviewers, who are academics and experts outside the panel assessed the applications according to the assessment criteria and details already announced. A declaration of interests system is in place to ensure that assessments are fair and just.
6. To enhance the transparency of the Scheme, all research reports will be uploaded onto CPU's web site. CPU will organise seminars and workshops to encourage academics, researchers, experts, practitioners, officials and other stakeholders to exchange views on on-going or completed research.

7. As of mid-October 2013, 49 applications were received. The total funding sought was about \$30 million. After the assessment, the CPU decided to fund, on the advice of the assessment panel, 20 projects with a total funding of about \$8 million. Another 5 projects are being processed.

8. The funded projects cover a wide spectrum of policy areas, including land and housing, ageing and retirement protection, population policies, environmental protection, ethnic minorities, economic development, governance and administration, and regional co-operation and development. Details of these funded projects have been uploaded onto the CPU's website (www.cpu.gov.hk).

9. The press release on the first round results of the PPRFS 2013-14 is enclosed at Annex.

Central Policy Unit
December 2013

Press Release

First round results of Public Policy Research Funding Scheme 2013-14

The Central Policy Unit (CPU) announced today (December 2) the funding result of the first round of the Public Policy Research (PPR) Funding Scheme 2013-14.

The CPU received 49 research proposals in this round. The total funding sought was about \$30 million. To ensure academic freedom and the quality of the research projects, assessments were conducted by an assessment panel comprising ten experienced academics. The panel and reviewers, who are academics and experts outside the panel assessed the applications according to the assessment criteria and details announced earlier. A declaration of interests system is in place to ensure that the assessments are fair and just.

After the above assessment process, the CPU decided to fund, on the advice of the assessment panel, 20 projects with a total funding of about \$8 million. Another 5 projects are being processed.

The funded projects cover a wide spectrum of policy areas, including land and housing, ageing and retirement protection, population policies, environmental protection, ethnic minorities, economic development, governance and administration, and regional co-operation and development. Details of these funded projects have been uploaded onto the CPU's website (www.cpu.gov.hk).

Since the introduction of the PPR Funding Scheme in 2005, the Government has allocated \$20 million annually for promoting public policy research. From 2013-14 onward, the CPU administers the day-to-day operations of the PPR Funding Scheme. The Scheme has been open for application since 16 July 2013. To increase the Scheme's flexibility and to cater for potential applicants' needs, applications are accepted throughout the year. Applications will be processed **upon receipt**.