

For discussion on
16 April 2013

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Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services

Implementation of Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged

Purpose

This paper updates Members on the position of the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (PFD) since the injection of \$200 million in May 2010.

Background

2. The PFD was set up in 2005 with \$200 million to promote tripartite partnership among the welfare sector, the business community and the Government through the provision of matching grants to donations made by the business partners to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to run welfare projects for the disadvantaged. The progress of implementation from the First Round to the Fifth Round was last reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services in April 2010 where Members' support was sought for the Administration's proposal to inject an additional \$200 million into PFD. Following the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in May 2010, PFD has launched three rounds of applications, viz the Sixth Round to the Eighth Round from June 2010 to February 2013. The Sixth Round and the Seventh Round had already been completed. For the Eighth Round, the applications received by the deadline of 28 February 2013 are now under vetting.

Updated Progress

Overview

3. By February 2013, 573 welfare projects implemented by 141 NGOs were approved under PFD since its establishment, involving a total matching grant of \$247.07 million. These projects attracted a total donation of \$255.81 million from 917 business partners, benefitting over 800 000 disadvantaged persons. A summary of the approved applications is at **Annex**.

Progress of implementation since last reporting

4. In the Sixth Round and the Seventh Round, a total of 254 welfare projects implemented by 97 NGOs were approved from 2010-11 to 2012-13, involving an amount of \$119.82 million, and the total donation from 463 business partners is \$122.54 million.

5. When compared with the previous five rounds, there has been an increasing trend in terms of the following areas –

- (a) the average number of applications received per round has leaped by 92% from 78 to 150;
- (b) the average number of applicant NGOs per round has increased by 88% from 41 to 77;
- (c) there is a significant 117% increase in the average number of business partners involved per round, from 133 to 289; and
- (d) the average amount of donations from business partners has risen significantly from \$26.65 million to \$61.27 million.

Eighth Round Application

6. To further promote PFD and encourage more business corporations to participate in PFD projects, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has promoted PFD through press briefings and enlisted the support of various chambers of commerce, previous and potential business partners, and local business corporations/ NGOs through sharing sessions, programmes, as well as district platforms.

7. By close of application for the Eighth Round on 28 February 2013, 152 applications were received with record high business donations at \$81.03 million from 392 business partners. Besides, the applications from non-subservent NGOs have also increased by 34% from 53 in the Seventh Round to 71 in the Eighth Round. Out of the 84 applicant NGOs, 58% of them are non-subservent.

Improvement measure adopted

8. To speed up the application, vetting and approval procedures, SWD has, since the Seventh Round, adopted a streamlined procedure for processing applications involving a matching grant at \$100,000 or below.

The response from the welfare sector is encouraging and such applications have risen by 120% from 20 applications in the Sixth Round to 44 applications in the Eighth Round.

Evaluative Study of PFD

9. The first evaluative study of PFD was conducted in January 2007. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) was commissioned to conduct an “Evaluative Study on Promoting and Sustaining Partnership between NGOs and the Business Corporations” based on the review of 43 PFD projects approved in the First and the Second Round. Findings and recommendations of the study were reported to Members of this Panel at the meeting of 12 June 2008. The study concluded that the NGOs, the business partners and the project participants in general found the outcome of the PFD projects satisfactory and encouraging. NGOs and the business partners also responded positively to the possibility of continued collaboration after the completion of the projects.

10. To examine the effectiveness of the approved projects in pursuit of the objectives of PFD to promote and sustain the tripartite partnership among the welfare sector, the business community and the Government to help the disadvantaged, PolyU was commissioned to conduct the second evaluative study entitled “An Evaluative Study of the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged for the Social Welfare Department” (the Study) in September 2010. By making reference to the first evaluative study, the Study further looked into effective tripartite partnerships among the welfare sector, the business sector and the Government as well as the cost-effectiveness of the approved and completed projects. It was encouraging to find that PFD projects had demonstrated positive impact on their recipients in terms of quality of life, empowerment, employment and social inclusion.

11. SWD has taken forward the recommendations of the Study in launching the Eighth Round Application by –

- (a) giving priority consideration for project proposals with outcome evaluation;
- (b) giving priority consideration for project proposals demonstrating promising sustainability and strategic partnerships with the business corporations (e.g. wider participation of business partners and active participation of

corporate volunteers); and

- (c) mobilising SWD's 11 District Social Welfare Offices to promote PFD to local business corporations through various local platforms and assist small and medium-sized local NGOs searching for potential business partners in the host districts as well as organise district-based promotional activities.

Way forward

12. With enhanced publicity measures, PFD has become popular among the welfare and business sectors since the Fifth Round. Considering the positive outcome, PFD will continue to encourage further cross-sector collaboration to launch projects that can cater for the various needs of the disadvantaged and benefit more people.

Advice Sought

- 13. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Social Welfare Department
April 2013

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

	1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	4th Round	5th Round	6th Round	7th Round	Total
Application period	(Mar 05 – May 05)	(Oct 05 – Dec 05)	(Jul 06 – Jul 07)	(Jan 08 – Jun 08)	(Feb 09 – Jul 09)	(Jun 10 – Sep 10)	(Sep 11 – Dec 11)	-
No. of applications	43	28	65	93	161	152	148	690
No. of approved projects	29	14	54	80	142	123	131	573
No. of applicant NGOs ^{Note 1}	29	14	41	47	72	62	91	-
No. of new applicants	29	14	26	12	29	16	15	141 ^{Note 2}
No. of business partners ^{Note 1}	80	29	108	174	272	317	260	-
No. of new business partners	80	29	93	145	221	222	127	917 ^{Note 3}
Amount of grant allocated under PFD (Million dollars)	8.9	4.5	16	37.86	59.99	57.19	62.63	247.07
Amount of donations from business partners (including both cash and/ or in kind donations) (Million dollars)	11.04	5.13	17.41	38.13	61.56	59.02	63.52	255.81

Note 1: The figures indicate the total number of NGOs/ business partners involved in a particular round of application. Since some of these NGOs/ business partners may be involved in projects approved in other rounds of application, we have not provided cumulative figures here to avoid double-counting.

Note 2: Out of these 141 NGOs, 87 had received grants from the PFD to launch more than one project.

Note 3: Out of these 917 business partners, 219 had sponsored more than one PFD project through cash and/ or in kind donations.