

**For discussion  
on 14 June 2016**

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs**

**Youth Development Policy and  
the Latest Progress of Youth Development Fund**

**Purpose**

This paper updates the Panel on Home Affairs on the latest progress of the Home Affairs Bureau's (HAB) work on youth development, especially the Youth Development Fund (the Fund).

**(I) Youth Development Policy**

2. The Hong Kong Special Administration Region Government has always attached great importance to youth development. The objectives of our youth development policy are to foster a culture of multi-faceted excellence and provide diversified learning, training and personal development opportunities for young people with different aspirations and talents, so that they can develop a positive attitude towards life and commitment to serving the community. HAB and various bureaux have been performing their respective duties in implementing diversified youth development measures which cover education, employment and whole-person development. Under the globalisation trend, we hope that our young people can have a global outlook while paying attention to the development of both Hong Kong and our country. They should be prepared to assume social obligations while understanding thoroughly their individual rights. We have always been committed to implementing various initiatives in order to achieve the policy objective of promoting multi-faceted youth development.

## **(1) Youth Exchange and Internship**

3. We have been putting much effort in setting up platforms to provide more opportunities for young people to broaden their horizons, enrich their life experience and learn how to think from multiple perspectives. We understand that young people yearn to explore the world. Therefore, we have been offering various exchange opportunities overseas. We are actively expanding the International Youth Exchange Programme (IYEP) and the Summer Exchange Programme to provide opportunities for our young people to have exchanges with their overseas counterparts. At present, our overseas partners under IYEP include Ireland, Singapore, Japan, Poland and Russia. In addition, we will introduce two-way youth exchange programmes with Australia and Austria this year.

4. Under our country's Belt and Road Policy, we are also committed to fostering a "people-to-people" bond with Belt and Road countries. In mid-April this year, HAB and the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) launched the pilot Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries (the Belt and Road Funding Scheme) to support, on a matching grant basis, non-profit-making organisations or statutory bodies to organise exchange tours to Belt and Road countries for our young people to deepen their knowledge on these countries. The Belt and Road Funding Scheme has drawn enthusiastic response, with more than 100 funding applications received. The CPCE anticipates that the processing of applications will be completed in early July. In the meantime, we will strive to expand IYEP to include more Belt and Road countries, and will organise a thematic study tour to Indonesia, a Belt and Road country, under the Summer Exchange Programme this year.

5. As for exchanges with the Mainland, we continued to provide additional resources in recent years for the "Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland" and the "Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland" for community organisations, youth organisations, schools, uniformed groups, etc., to organise more exchange and internship programmes.

We have also continued to co-operate with the Guangdong Province to offer more internship opportunities on the Mainland for our young people by increasing the number of internship placements in the province's enterprises, institutions, business undertakings, etc. The total number of young people benefited from the above two schemes has increased from about 9 600 in 2013-14 to about 24 200 in 2016-17.

## **(2) Youth Volunteerism**

6. Efforts have also been made to promote youth volunteerism. Last year, we worked in collaboration with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and local voluntary agencies for the first time to launch the United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Programme. Under the programme, a total of 10 local university students served the United Nations agencies in Southeast Asia for about six months as volunteers of the UNV. In light of the success of the first-year programme, the quota for this year's programme will be increased to 13. Upon completion of the pre-departure training, student participants will set off to service points in Southeast Asia (i.e. Vietnam, Laos and Timor-Leste) to commence voluntary work starting this July.

7. Furthermore, we will continue to implement the "Guangdong-Hong Kong Youth Volunteers Programme". Tertiary students from both places will work together as volunteers in the rural areas of Guangdong for seven days in July this year. In addition, the Service Corps Programme, since its introduction in 2011, has attracted over 100 young people to provide voluntary teaching or services in the underprivileged areas on the Mainland for six months to a year. Considering the commendation received for the good performance of Service Corps members from local government authorities, teachers and students, we have regularised the scheme's funding since 2015-16, so that our youth can continue to have more opportunities to participate in training of longer duration.

### **(3) Latest Development of Uniformed Groups**

8. We provide recurrent subvention annually to 13 uniformed groups and other organisations (e.g. the Scout Association of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Red Cross, The Hong Kong Award for Young People, etc.) for them to organise various youth development activities. The objectives are to promote positive values, broaden the horizons of young people, encourage them to take part in voluntary and community services and develop their leadership skills.

9. To support underprivileged students to participate in the activities of uniformed groups, we have also set up the “Assistance Scheme for Needy Student Members” to provide funding for these students to acquire accoutrements such as uniforms. From 2014-15 onwards, HAB has doubled its recurrent subvention for uniformed groups and other organisations to over \$100 million, benefitting about 113 000 young people each year. We will continue to maintain close liaison with various uniformed groups to facilitate their long-term development, so that more young people will benefit.

### **(4) Life Planning**

10. HAB offers different schemes to provide young people with more opportunities to further explore their own potential and develop their talents. At the end of 2014, we launched the “Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities” and provided more than \$25 million to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for two consecutive school years to jointly organise life planning activities with secondary schools, in order to enhance the awareness and understanding of students, parents and teachers towards life planning and multiple pathways. Over 230 secondary schools with some 80 000 students, teachers and parents have benefitted from the Scheme. The second round of the Scheme is now underway. Successful applicant NGOs will commence their activities in September this year.

**(5) Fostering Multi-faceted Excellence**

11. To foster multi-faceted excellence and to allow local students who excel in areas such as sports, arts and community services to pursue university studies through their talents, we will continue to implement the “Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship”, which provides full sponsorship for universities and tertiary institutions to admit about 20 of these students annually. The first batch of 21 scholarship recipients commenced their university studies in September last year. The selection exercise for the second year of the Scholarship has also been completed. We have already sent the list of nominated students to universities for consideration.

**(6) Youth Hostel Scheme**

12. To meet the aspirations of some working youth in having their own living spaces and unleash the potential of under-utilised sites held by NGOs, we continue to actively implement the Youth Hostel Scheme. For the projects in Tai Po by The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, in Yuen Long by the Po Leung Kuk and in Sheung Wan by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, their respective pre-construction consultancy studies have been completed. Other statutory procedures, such as lease modification and town planning procedures, are now in progress. In particular, the funding applications for the construction costs of the Tai Po project and for the pre-construction works of the Yuen Long project have been approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (LegCo). As for the project in Mongkok by the Hong Kong Association of Youth Development and the project in Jordan by the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association, pre-construction consultancy studies are in their final stage. At the end of March this year, we consulted and obtained support from the relevant District Council on the two projects. These five projects are expected to provide a total of about 2 700 hostel places. It is estimated that the first batch of hostel places under the entire Scheme will be completed for renting by young people at late 2018 the earliest.

## **(II) Commission on Youth**

13. The Government has always attached importance to the views of young people and encouraged them to pay attention to community affairs. By involving in community affairs, young people will be able to develop their teamwork, communication and leadership skills, which are beneficial to their participation in society.

14. With the support of the Commission on Youth (CoY), we will continue to collaborate with community organisations, youth organisations, universities and other stakeholders to take forward various youth development activities with the funding provided by the Youth Programme Co-ordinating Committee. Moreover, the biennial Youth Summit, jointly organised by HAB and CoY, aims to provide a platform for young people to express their opinions on social policies. We, together with CoY, are now pushing ahead with preparatory work for the 8th Youth Summit to be held at the end of this year. Relevant bureau officials will be invited to interact and exchange ideas with young people. Views received in the summit will be forwarded to relevant bureaux for information and follow-up. Meanwhile, in order to provide more opportunities for young people to have direct communication with Government officials and community leaders, we will continue to organise Youth Exchange Sessions (Y.E.S.). In the past three years, a total of 11 Y.E.S. were organised, covering a wide range of discussion topics, such as population policy, the RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme, political reform, waste disposal and retirement protection. Furthermore, CoY has launched a Facebook page last year to enhance communication and interaction with young people, in order to keep abreast with the pulse of young people. In the past year, the Secretary for Home Affairs and the Chairman of CoY took the initiative to meet young people from different sectors, including young District Councillors, to listen to their views on governance and district administration.

15. The Government encourages young people to contribute to society by joining different advisory and statutory bodies. The Government has

appointed persons aged 35 or below to advisory and statutory bodies of many key areas, such as youth development, economy, commerce and trading, education, training, employment, social welfare, planning and environmental protection, art, culture and technological development, as well as district affairs. Take CoY as an example, over half (17 people) of the 31 incumbent members were aged 35 or below at the time of appointment (including undergraduates and fresh university graduates). (The membership list is at Annex.) With experience in promoting youth development, they can give relevant advice to the Government.

### **(III) Youth Development Fund**

16. The Chief Executive announced in the Policy Address 2015 that the \$300 million Fund would be set up to support innovative youth development activities that were not covered by existing schemes, including subsidy in the form of matching funds for NGOs to assist young people in starting their own business. Preparatory work for the Fund has been completed and the Fund will be open for application shortly.

17. Regarding the operation principle of the Fund, we have consulted CoY on multiple occasions in the past year. We also sought advice from the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs last year and gained their support. After detailed deliberation, the Fund will be operated in the following manner.

#### (1) Operational arrangements of the Entrepreneurship Matching Fund

18. The Fund will offer NGOs a grant with conditions. The ratio of the matching fund provided by the Government to the capital invested by the NGO will be 2:1, with the maximum amount of matching fund to be disbursed to each NGO in each round of grant allocation exercise being capped at \$3 million. Various types of NGOs (including non-profit making charitable bodies, business associations, professional bodies, educational institutions (such as universities)) can apply for grants from the Fund to support their youth

entrepreneurship projects. NGOs have to offer not only entrepreneurial capital, but also a mentorship programme and relevant guidance support, including matching young entrepreneurs with appropriate mentors to assist them in obtaining business information and establishing business network. Young people aged between 18 and 35 can apply to join the funded projects organised by such NGOs.

*(a) Nature, mode and location of businesses*

19. In order to facilitate NGOs to effectively take follow-up actions and to ensure that the businesses comply with the commercial laws and regulations of Hong Kong, the Fund will require young participants of the matching grant funding schemes to apply for company and business registration in Hong Kong for their business establishments. Although the businesses concerned are required to apply for business registration in Hong Kong, the Fund will not restrict the area of business operation to the city. This is to encourage young people to have a global outlook and explore opportunities outside Hong Kong. As for the business nature, Members considered, after detailed deliberation, that there should not be any restriction, so that young people can fully express their creativity. However, businesses which are illegal or in direct conflict with existing government policies (such as those involving tobacco, advocating of gambling, obscenity) will not be supported.

*(b) Monitoring mechanism*

20. All NGOs applying for a grant from the Fund shall attend an interview conducted by an assessment panel under CoY. Funding will be disbursed to the successful NGOs by instalments. To ensure the prudent use of public funds, the NGOs concerned are required to submit project reports and financial reports in accordance to the requirements specified by the Fund. The Government will closely monitor the participating NGOs to ensure that they approve relevant funding applications in an impartial and fair manner. Representatives of both HAB and CoY may attend any project activity as



observers to monitor the progress of the projects. Should any irregularities be found, the Government reserves the right to recover from the participating organisations any disbursement in full.

(2) Other innovative youth development activities

21. In the meantime, the Fund will support any activities which are innovative, beneficial to youth development and not covered by existing Government schemes. As far as the activities are concerned, they can be innovative in terms of form or content, but not necessarily be related to entrepreneurship. As for the funding mode, we propose adopting the approach similar to the funding for young entrepreneurship projects, i.e. providing support to NGOs in the form of a grant with conditions. The ratio of matching fund will also capped at 2:1. Although the targets of youth activities are generally young people aged 15 to 29, as the innovative activities mentioned above may be related to entrepreneurship, we set the upper age limit of young beneficiaries at 35, which is on par with the entrepreneurship projects.

**Advice Sought**

22. Members are invited to express their views on the above matters.

**Home Affairs Bureau**  
**June 2016**

**Commission on Youth  
Membership List**

**Chairman:**

Mr LAU Ming-wai, BBS, JP

**Members:**

1. Ms FUNG Dun-mi, Amy, MH
2. Mr CHE Wai-hang, Allen
3. Mr CHENG Chung-fo
4. Miss NG Yuen-ting, Yolanda, MH
5. Ms WONG Ting, Tina
6. Mr KAN Yu-him, Ronald
7. Mr CHEUNG Chun-yin, William
8. Miss MAK Yin-mei
9. Mr FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth
10. Mr SIU King-wai, Kyrus
11. Mr CHENG Chung-man
12. Mr TAM Wing-fun, Eric
13. Mr CHAN Pok-chi, Jonathan
14. Mr LEE Ka-shing, Martin
15. Mr CHEUNG Yun-hang, Stanley, MH
16. Mr FAN Hoi-kit, Alex
17. Mr KWOK Wing-leung, Andy
18. Dr. TO Siu-ming
19. Dr CHOI Yuk-lin
20. Dr YAN Wai-kiu
21. Mr Vivek Ashok MAHBUBANI
22. Miss YU Chui-ye, MH
23. Miss TSE Hiu-hung, Ashley
24. Miss WONG Lok-tung, Zeneth
25. Dr WONG Chung-leung, JP
26. Mr TOU Yat-lung, Alex
27. Mr LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth

28. Mr PANG Tsz-kit, Gabriel
29. Mr YIU Kwok-wai
30. Miss LAM Lam, Nixie

**Government Representatives:**

1. Representative of Home Affairs Bureau
2. Representative of Education Bureau
3. Representative of Labour and Welfare Bureau
4. Representative of Security Bureau
5. Representative of Home Affairs Department Headquarters

**Secretary:**

Home Affairs Bureau