The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Henry Tang, today (December 22) attended a ceremony cum briefing session announcing the first-phase funding grants from The Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas, and presented offer letters to the successful Hong Kong non-governmental organisations. He appealed to Hong Kong people for their continued support for reconstruction of the Sichuan earthquake-stricken areas.

Mr Tang said, "Hong Kong people's all out caring and enthusiasm for reconstruction support work to assist the earthquake victims in Sichuan had never subsided, and we are all ready to give our continued support for the cause with a view to providing them with the necessary services and support, and better conditions and environment for restoring their normal lives."

The Government obtained approval from the Legislative Council to create a commitment of HK\$2 billion to establish the Sichuan Reconstruction Trust Fund in July, and signed a cooperation arrangement with the People's Government of Sichuan Province in Chengdu in October, which sets out the agreement reached on the basic principles, project and fund management, and the 20 first reconstruction projects undertaken by the Government. The latter cover projects on infrastructural facilities, medical services, education and social welfare services.

"Following the 'Government-led, full community involvement' approach and with a view to consolidating the impetus from all sectors of the community, the Fund has been inviting applications from the NGOs of Hong Kong since mid-October for proposals to assist in the reconstruction work in Sichuan," Mr Tang said.

As at end November, the Trust Fund have received over 40 applications. After careful examination by the relevant working groups comprising non-government members and representatives from concerned government bureaux/departments, and on the recommendation of the "Steering Committee on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's Support for Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas", the Trust Fund has approved 12 applications in the first phase.

The first phase granted projects cover both hardware and Hong Kong NGOs' well-versed software components in the areas of education, medical services, physical and psychological rehabilitation, and training schemes etc. The total amount of grant is

about \$87 million (please see the annex for details).

Mr Tang extended his special thanks to the participating Hong Kong NGOs for their support for reconstruction work in Sichuan and said, "I believe that with their passion, expertise and past experience in the Mainland, they are the best ambassadors to convey Hong Kong people's love and caring to our Sichuan friends, and to bring them the hope of a better future in a concrete way," Mr Tang said.

Mr Tang said, "we have also preliminarily perused the other applications, a number of which are able to tie in with the overall planning of the reconstruction in Sichuan. Subject to availability of resources and the completion of required procedures, we are keen to approve more projects in the coming future to allow the NGOs to contribute their expertise to the reconstruction drive."

Mr Tang appealed to all Hong Kong residents to give their continued support for reconstruction work and caring for the Sichuan compatriots by donating to the Trust Fund, which undoubtedly was the best festive seasons blessing for them.

Donations may be made by cheque addressed to "SHAI – Donations for Sichuan Reconstruction" and delivered to any of the 20 Public Enquiry Service Centres of the District Offices or Post Offices. Donations may also be made to the following "SHAI – Donations for Sichuan Reconstruction" accounts:

* Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. account number "004-808-424154-001"; or

* Bank of China (Hong Kong) account number "012-875-0-039990-0"

Ends/Monday, December 22, 2008 Issued at HKT 20:35

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Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas Ceremony to announce the First Phase Funding Grants For Non-governmental Organisation Projects

Projects Summary

	Organisation	Work Item	Amount (\$)
1.	Rotary Club of Kowloon West Limited jointly with Association of Engineering Professionals in Society	Reconstruction of Yuenjia Primary School in Jingyang District, Deyang City	1,500,000
2.	The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited	Reconstruction of the Teaching Building in No. 3 Junior Middle School, Gaoping District, Nanchong City	10,000,000
3.	The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited	Reconstruction of the Junior Secondary Section of Baita Secondary School, Gaoping District, Nanchong City	10,000,000
4.	The Youth Foundation	Sichuan Post-disaster Psychological Rehabilitation Training and Service Project	7,980,000
5.	Sowers Action	Reconstruction of the Town Central Qunxing Branch Primary School, Lianhe Town, Zhongjiang County, Deyang City and Teachers Training	7,036,000
6.	Sowers Action	Reconstruction of the Nine-Year Central School in Shiquan Township, Zhongjiang County, Deyang City and Teachers Training	8,157,000
7.	Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers Education Organisation Limited	Reconstruction of Yongfeng Primary School of Yongfeng Town Central School in Zhongjiang County, Deyang City	2,000,000
8.	Department of Health Technology and Informatics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Prosthetics and Orthotics Professional Training Support Project for the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas	4,316,000
9.	Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Professional Training Support Project for the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas	6,105,000
10.	The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation	Community-based Resource Centre for the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas	7,836,293
11.	Scout Association of Hong Kong	Strengthening and reconstructing of the Deyang City Youth and Children's Palace	10,449,000
12.	The StandTALL Project of Chinese Speaking Orthopaedic Society	Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Training and Development Centre	11,670,000
		Total:	87,049,293

Proposed Project	Reconstruction of Yuenjia Primary School in Jingyang District, Deyang City, Sichuan Province
Applicant	Rotary Club of Kowloon West Limited jointly with Association of Engineering Professionals in Society Contact person: Ir YIM Kin-ping, Senior Vice Chairperson, Association of Engineering Professionals in Society Ltd Telephone no.:9831 1542
Brief Description	• The teaching building and the students' residences (totalling 1 055 m²) of Yuenjia Primary School in Jingyang District of Deyang City collapsed during the May 12 Wenchuan earthquake. Other buildings of the school (4 930 m²) were also declared as dangerous buildings which must be demolished and reconstructed. At present, nearly 600 students of the school attend classes in temporary prefabricated rooms.
	• The applicant organisation and the Sichuan Province Education Department have proposed in-situ reconstruction of the teaching building of 1 689 m ² . The Project is designed in accordance with the "Building Standards for Regular Primary and Secondary Schools in Rural Areas" and is expected to be completed in late August 2009.
	• The Project will cost RMB 2.31 million (about HK\$ 2.62 million). The Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas set up by the HKSAR Government will make a provision of HK\$1.5 million (about RMB 1.33 million) to finance the project. The balance of the funds needed will be raised by the applicant organisation and the People's Government of Jingyang District.
Estimated number of target beneficiaries or scope of service	After the reconstruction, the 600 existing students will be able to resume classes at their school.
Amount approved (HK\$)	\$1,500,000

Proposed Project	Reconstruction of the Teaching Building in No. 3 Junior Middle School, Gaoping District, Nanchong City
Applicant	The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited Contact person: Rev WOO Siu-hok, Chief Executive Officer Telephone no.: 9667 5301
Brief Description	• The foundation of the teaching building (2 500 m²) of No. 3 Junior Middle School in Gaoping District of Nanchong City has settled after the May 12 Wenchuan earthquake. The building was declared by the relevant authorities as a dangerous building, which must be demolished and reconstructed. Likewise, Gaoping No. 5 Primary School was also seriously damaged by the earthquake. Part of the premises (about 3 780 m²) were listed as dangerous buildings which must be demolished and reconstructed.
	• Taking into consideration the overall plan for allocation of education resources, the local authorities of Gaoping District has re-formulated its plans on the provision of education facilities within the district and decided to combine Gaoping No. 5 Primary School with Gaoping No.3 Junior Middle School.
	• The applicant organisation and the Gaoping Education Bureau have proposed in-situ reconstruction of the teaching building of Gaoping No.3 Junior Middle School. The gross floor area of the building will be 8 000 m ² . The Project is designed in accordance with the "Building Standards for Regular Primary and Secondary Schools in Rural Areas" and is expected to be completed in January 2011.
	• The Project will cost RMB 9.6 million. The Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas set up by the HKSAR Government will make a provision of HK\$10 million (about RMB 8.7 million) to finance the project. The balance of the funds needed will be raised by the applicant organisation and the People's Government of Gaoping District.
Estimated number of target beneficiaries or scope of service	After reconstruction, the school will be able to accommodate more than 5 000 students.
Amount approved (HK\$)	\$10,000,000

Proposed Project	Reconstruction of the Junior Secondary Section of Baita Secondary School, Gaoping District, Nanchong City
Applicant	The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited Contact person: Rev WOO Siu-hok, Chief Executive Officer Telephone no.: 9667 5301
Brief Description	• After the May 12 Wenchuan earthquake, the teaching building (3 600 m²) of the Junior Secondary Section of Baita Secondary School in Gaoping District of Nanchong City was seriously damaged and listed as a dangerous building which must be demolished and reconstructed. Arrangements have been made for the 3 700-odd students of the school to attend other schools in the District. The applicant organisation and Gaoping Education Bureau have proposed in-situ reconstruction of the school's teaching building of 4 500 m². Other facilities to be reconstructed include a playground of 3 000 m² and a sports ground of 22 000 m². The Project is designed in accordance with the "Building Standards for Regular Primary and Secondary Schools in Rural Areas" and is expected to be completed in December 2010.
	• The Project will cost RMB 9.8 million. The Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas set up by the HKSAR Government will make a provision of HK\$ 10 million (about RMB 8.7 million) to finance the Project. The balance of the funds needed will be raised by the applicant organisation and Gaoping Education Bureau.
Estimated number of target beneficiaries or scope of service	After the reconstruction, the 3 700-odd students of Baita Secondary School will be able to resume classes at the school.
Amount approved (HK\$)	\$10,000,000

Proposed Project	Sichuan Post-disaster Psychological Rehabilitation Training and Service Project
Applicant	The Youth Foundation Contact person: President Choi Yuen Wan Philemon, Tel. No.: 2632 0301
Brief Description	 The project mainly aims at providing continuous training for the frontline staff who have already received initial training for post-disaster psychological counseling, and supervising them in training community workers at the settlement sites. The ultimate purpose is to enhance local residents' awareness of psychological health and to provide psychological rehabilitation services at selected temporary settlement sites for disaster victims. Large-scale psychological health education will be launched at the settlement sites, including: Production of publicity materials and implementation of health education programmes; and Initial psychological assessment for victims, and provision of treatment and professional rehabilitation services to victims who are in urgent need of psychological rehabilitation services.
Estimated Number of the Target Beneficiaries or Scope of the Service	• Continuous training will be provided to those who have completed the initial post-disaster psychological rehabilitation training programme. These trainees will in turn provide training for community workers at the settlement sites and help the victims at the three settlement sites in their psychological rehabilitation.
Amount Approved (HK\$)	\$7,980,000

Proposed Project	Reconstruction of the Town Central Qunxing Branch Primary School, Lianhe Town, Zhongjiang County, Deyang City and Teachers Training
Applicant	Sowers Action Contact person : Ir Toni Zen, Head, China Services Department Telephone no. :9832 3253
Brief Description	• The May 12 Wenchuan earthquake destroyed the campus (about 1 800 m²) of the Town Central Qunxing Branch Primary School situated in Lianhe Town, Zhongjiang County of Deyang City. The school buildings were declared by the relevant authorities as dangerous buildings which must be demolished and reconstructed. At present, the 600-odd students of the school attend classes in temporary structures such as tents and prefabricated rooms.
	• The applicant organisation has proposed in-situ reconstruction of the school's teaching building of 1500 m ² . Other facilities to be reconstructed include teachers' residence of 840 m ² , female students' residence of 768 m ² and a canteen of 300 m ² . The total area of the buildings reconstructed will be 3 408 m ² . The Project is designed in accordance with the "Building Standards for Regular Primary and Secondary Schools in Rural Areas" and is expected to be completed in mid-2010. Besides, the applicant organisation will arrange for school headmasters and teachers to attend suitable teacher training courses, including those on building maintenance, computer and the English language.
	• The Project will cost RMB 8.41 million. The Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas set up by the HKSAR Government will make a provision of RMB 6.17 million (about HK\$7.03 million) to finance the project. The balance of the funds needed will be raised by the applicant organisation and the local authorities of Sichuan Province.
Estimated number of target beneficiaries or scope of service	After the reconstruction, the 600-odd existing students will be able to resume classes in the new school building, which can also accommodate anticipated new students.
Amount approved (HK\$)	\$7,036,000

Proposed Project	Reconstruction of the Nine-Year Central School in Shiquan Township, Zhongjiang County, Deyang City and Teachers Training
Applicant	Sowers Action Contact person: Ir Toni Zen, Head, China Services Department Telephone no.:9832 3253
Brief Description	• The May 12 Wenchuan Earthquake destroyed the campus (about 2 500 m²) of the Nine-Year Central School situated in Shiquan Township, Zhongjiang County of Deyang City. The school buildings were declared by the relevant authorities as dangerous buildings which must be demolished and reconstructed. At present, the 1 000-odd students of the school attend classes and live in temporary prefabricated rooms. The applicant organisation has proposed in-situ reconstruction of the teaching building of 1 300 m². Other facilities to be reconstructed include the teacher's residence of 1 000 m², the student residence of 1 600 m² and a canteen of 400 m². The total area of the buildings reconstructed will be 4 300 m². The Project is designed in accordance with the "Building Standards for Regular Primary and Secondary Schools in Rural Areas" and is expected to be completed in mid-2010. Besides, the applicant organisation will arrange for school headmasters and teachers to attend suitable teacher training courses, including those on building maintenance, computer and the English language.
	• The Project will cost RMB 9.16 million. The Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas set up by the HKSAR Government will make a provision of RMB 7.16 million (about HK\$ 8.16 million) to finance the Project. The balance of the funds needed will be raised by the applicant organisation and the local authorities of Sichuan Province.
Estimated number of target beneficiaries or scope of service	After the reconstruction of the school, the 1 000-odd students will be able to resume classes and live in their school again.
Amount approved (HK\$)	\$8,157,000

Proposed Project	Reconstruction of Yongfeng Primary School of Yongfeng Town Central School in Zhongjiang County, Deyang City
Applicant	Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers Education Organisation Limited Contact person: Ms LEE Fung-king, Chief Executive Telephone no.: 9034 2392
Brief Description	• The May 12 Wenchuan earthquake has caused severe damage to the teaching building (nearly 1000m^2) of Yongfeng Primary School of Yongfeng Town Central School situated in Zhongjiang County of Deyang City. The building was declared by the relevant authorities as a dangerous building which must be demolished and reconstructed. Part of the school buildings (about 600 m²) must be repaired and reinforced. At present, the 700-odd students of the school attend classes in temporary prefabricated rooms.
	• The applicant organisation and the Sichuan Province Education Department have proposed in-situ reconstruction of the school with a teaching building of 4 057 m², including multi-purpose teaching facilities of 2 684 m², office area of 416 m² and accommodation facilities of 957 m². In addition, a new sports ground of 2 000 m² will be provided. The Project is designed in accordance with the "Building Standards for Regular Primary and Secondary Schools in Rural Areas" and is expected to be completed in late August 2009.
	• The Project will cost RMB 7.76 million. The Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas set up by the HKSAR Government will make a provision of HK\$ 2 million (about RMB 1.72 million) to finance the Project. The balance of the funds needed will be raised by the applicant organisation and the Sichuan Province Education Department.
Estimated number of target beneficiaries or scope of service	After the reconstruction, some 700 students will be able to resume classes at their school.
Amount approved (HK\$)	\$2,000,000

Proposed Project	Prosthetics and Orthotics Professional Training Support Project for the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas
Applicant	Department of Health Technology and Informatics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
	Contact person: Dr Aaron K.L. Leung, Tel. No.: 2766 7676
Brief Description	 To strengthen the training for professionals in prosthesis and orthotics, the proposed project includes an undergraduate programme in rehabilitation engineering (prosthetics and orthotics profession) jointly organised by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Sichuan University. It is proposed that a number of short-term on-the-job training courses be provided for rehabilitation professionals in the coming three years.
Estimated Number of the Target Beneficiaries or Scope of the Service	• The project will train up about 20 graduates in prosthetics and orthotics profession every year for providing services for earthquake victims. It will improve the rehabilitation network of the Sichuan Province and raise the standard of rehabilitation services there. The on-the-job-training programmes for the rehabilitation professionals will also raise the professional standard of rehabilitation in Sichuan.
Amount Approved (HK\$)	\$4,316,000

Proposed Project	Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Professional Training Support Project for the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas
Applicant	Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Contact person: Professor Alice Jones, Tel. No.: 2766 6749
Brief Description	 To assist the Sichuan University in training professionals in physiotherapy and occupational therapy, with a view to promoting teaching standards and facilities. To jointly organise short-term training courses in physiotherapy and occupational therapy with the Sichuan University.
Estimated number of the Target Beneficiaries or	• To train up the first batch of professional physiotherapists and occupational therapists in Sichuan.
Scope of the Services	• In three years' time, there will be dozens of professional physiotherapists and occupational therapists to provide services to earthquake victims. This will help improve the rehabilitation network of the Sichuan Province, and raise the standard of rehabilitation services there.
Amount Approved(HK\$)	\$6,105,000

Proposed Project	Community-based Resource Centre for the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas
Applicant	The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Contact person: Ms Candice Lam, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Telephone no.: 2816 0809
Brief Description	• After the earthquake, many residents in Sichuan cities and towns suffer from fractures, spinal injuries or brain injuries and have become persons with disabilities. Most of these victims have received little or even no rehabilitation treatment. Many of the local hospitals' staff and the non-governmental organizations in Sichuan do not have any experience in providing rehabilitation services. To return to the society, these disabled residents require systematic community-based support services to address their rehabilitation, adaptation, social and psychological needs.
	• The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation proposes to set up a resource centre with a mobile paramedical team, comprising physiotherapist, occupational therapist and rehabilitation therapist, to render professional assistance to hospitals/clinics, social welfare agencies and rehabilitation organizations; and provide training and guidance for implementing community rehabilitation programmes. By mobilising the trained members, family members and volunteers, the Society plans to organise community rehabilitative and educational talks, provide psycho-social rehabilitation, self care and rehabilitation skills training to the needy, and establish a community rehabilitative network to help people with disabilities, people with chronic illnesses and their families to learn about disabilities and self-management of the illnesses. The project also aims to promote collaboration and communication in the community, develop the spirit of self-help and mutual help among the local residents, and establish a harmonious society.
Estimated number of target beneficiaries or scope of service	The target beneficiaries are people with disabilities and their families in the Sichuan earthquake stricken areas. It is estimated that about 9600 people will benefit from the resource centre, training courses, talks, workshops, home visits and activities to raise the awareness of disabilities.
Amount approved (HK\$)	\$7,836,293

Proposed Project	Strengthening and reconstructing of the Deyang City Youth and Children's Palace
Applicant	Scout Association of Hong Kong Contact person: Ir. Agnes LEE Yuet-fun, Assistant Chief Commissioner (Estate) Telephone no.: 9830 0668
Brief Description	• In many earthquake stricken cities, towns and villages, facilities for education and youth activities are devastated, almost leaving no premises for youth activities. Many youth development and training programmes have come to a standstill. The Deyang City Youth and Children's Palace (the Palace) covers about 8.5 <i>mu</i> . There are more than 10 dance and music rehearsal rooms, multi-purpose rooms, classrooms, libraries, etc. The Palace was damaged in the earthquake and has been closed ever since.
	• The Scout Association of Hong Kong (the Association) proposes to reconstruct and strengthen the Palace. The Association also plans to assist the Palace, after the reconstruction work is completed, to organise training programmes for young people in stricken areas to help them rehabilitate psychologically and restore confidence so that they can grow up happily in the face of the challenge of adversity. Training programmes may be one-off or long-term training mainly in the form of group and outdoor activities. These activities will require cooperation among participants who work in teams and under the guidance of instructors. Volunteers will be recruited, organised and trained in Deyang for the training programmes.
Estimated number of target beneficiaries or scope of service	Young people in Deyang City and neighbouring stricken areas. It is estimated that about 44 000 young people, of which around 13 000 from stricken areas will be sponsored, will benefit from overnight/day camp training and classroom teaching in the next five years.
Amount approved (HK\$)	\$10,449,000

Proposed Project	Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Training and Development Centre
Applicant	The Stand TALL Project of Chinese Speaking Orthopaedic Society Contact person: Professor Chan Kai Ming, Tel. No.: 2632 2728
Brief Description	 The project aims at providing training for medical and allied health professionals, including orthopaedists, physiotherapists, prosthetist-orthotists and nursing officers from various medical and rehabilitation centres in different counties and cities, throughout the disaster areas in Sichuan. The training will comprise programmes on orthopaedics rehabilitation theory, physiotherapy, nursing skills and prosthesis technology.
	• After the training, these rehabilitation professionals will be responsible for running the Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Centre that will be established in 2011. The Centre will be attached to the Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital providing a wide range of rehabilitation services including orthopaedics and traumatology, physiotherapy and occupational therapy as well as clinical psychological counselling.
	• The project will also provide services for prostheses fitting, rehabilitation, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, skill training, psychological counselling and employment service.
Estimated Number of Target Beneficiaries or Scope of Service	• The project will train up medical and allied health professionals for the Sichuan medical and health sector. Complemented by the rehabilitation services to be offered by the future Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Centre, the beneficiaries will include all earthquake victims receiving treatment and services at the Centre.
Amount Approved (HK\$)	\$11,670,000