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Submission from The Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled (HKPC & SAPD) in support of the Proposed Injection of Funds into the Arts and Sports Development Fund (ASDF)

Preamble:

The HKPC & SAPD is fully in support of the injection of additional funds into the ASDF for the long-term benefit of sports development in Hong Kong.

How HKPC & SAPD Has Benefitted:

- Since the establishment of the ASDF in 1997, HKPC & SAPD had been able to obtain additional funding from the ASDF to implement supplementary development and training programs which are conducive to our achievements in important international games; notably the 2000 Sydney Paralympics, the 2004 Athens Paralympics and the 2008 Beijing Paralympics.
- With funding from ASDF, HKPC&SAPD has successfully organized various international tournaments, including the FESPIC Boccia Championships (2001), the FESPIC Youth Games (2003), the Wheelchair Fencing World Cup (2006) and the Hong Kong Table Tennis Open (2005 & 2007) attracting over 670 participants from all over the world. They not only provided the necessary exposure for our athletes, but had also enhanced the image of the HKSAR by demonstrating to the Paralympic family our competence and “can do” spirit.

Why Injection of Funds Are Essential:

- Given the growing competitiveness of disabled sports worldwide, as could be seen in the much improved standards in international competitions in recent years, continuous financial support from ASDF is essential. The Government’s injection of funds for ASDF will enable HKPC & SAPD to receive funding in the following areas:

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- In anticipation of the 2010 Asian Paralympic Games and the 2012 London Paralympic Games, we need to start now to prepare our athletes in earnest , entailing the organization of additional training programs and competitions.
- To enable HKPC & SAPD athletes to obtain the necessary qualifications for participation in the 2012 London Paralympics, we need funding to finance their participation in qualifying competitions, the majority of those are held overseas.
- Funding for additional coaching support is vital. The success of our wheelchair fencing team over the years has a lot to do with the dedication of the professional coaching team, under the leadership of a full time Head Coach. To better develop the other Paralympic sports, ASDF is an important resource from which we could tap to engage full-time coaches for our target sports development programs.
- Targeted training programs for special schools students who have been identified in recent local competitions and development courses. These potential “stars of tomorrow” have to be properly nurtured through systematic development programs funded by the ASDF.
- Sports science research work and related equipment. For instance, HKPC & SAPD has been in discussions with HKSI’s Sports Science Department to develop a program to enhance the “start” response of So Wa Wai. Special equipment will be required.
- Purchase and replacement of defective equipment for wheelchair fencing and boccia.

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