



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Josephine So)
(Fax No: 2509 9055)

22 March 2016

Dear Miss So,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
List of Follow-up Actions**

**Processing of applications received under the
Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund**

In connection with the discussion on the Government's proposal to establish the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund at the Panel meeting held on 8 March 2016, a Member asked for a report on the progress made in processing applications received under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF). The requested information is set out below.

The Finance Committee approved the establishment of the SFDF in January 2014 for helping fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode, and providing financial support for programmes and research that help enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry. The SFDF has been open to applications since July 2014 with the first application received in October 2014. Up to mid-March 2016, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has received a total of 23 applications. Six of the applications (four on aquaculture and two on fisheries-related eco-tourism projects) have been approved so far, involving a total commitment of about \$28.3 million. On the advice of the SFDF Advisory

Committee, AFCD has rejected four applications, whilst two of the applications are subsequently withdrawn by the applicants. Working together with the SFDF Advisory Committee, AFCD is now processing the remaining applications.

To ensure proper use of public funds, the SFDF Advisory Committee, in vetting the applications, would have to duly consider whether the project could help the local fisheries community rise to new challenges and enable the fisheries industry to develop or switch to a sustainable or high value-added mode of operations, thereby enhancing the overall competitiveness of the local fisheries industry. The work in this respect, involving as it often does seeking additional information from the applicant, is time-consuming. It has also taken us some time to consult relevant Government departments, including the Department of Justice, Intellectual Property Department and the Independent Commission Against Corruption to work out the detailed terms of the agreement which the Government and the applicants would enter into. The agreement of the first approved project was signed in January 2016 and the project has commenced in February 2016. The funding of other approved projects will be disbursed successively upon the signing of agreements.

Yours sincerely,



(Fanny YEUNG)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Attn: Mr Mickey LAI) (by fax - 2814 0018)