

# **立法會**

## ***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. CB(2)1038/16-17(11)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

### **Panel on Home Affairs**

#### **Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 27 March 2017**

#### **The Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship and the International Youth Exchange Programme**

### **Purpose**

This paper summarizes previous discussion of the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") on the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship ("the Scholarship") and the International Youth Exchange Programme ("IYEP").

### **Background**

#### The Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship

2. The \$100 million Scholarship was launched in 2014, and the first batch of scholarship recipients commenced their university studies in the 2015-2016 academic year<sup>1</sup>. Every year, the Scholarship supports universities in admitting a total of about 20 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education candidates who excel in sports, arts, community services, etc. on a full-cost recovery basis to pursue undergraduate studies. Scholarship awardees are not required to pay tuition fees. The quota for the Scholarship is not included in the university places currently funded by the University Grants Committee. In other words, universities may admit Scholarship awardees within the over-enrolment quota permitted by the Government.

#### The International Youth Exchange Programme

3. IYEP is currently co-organized by the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") and the Commission on Youth ("CoY"). The scheme aims at providing overseas exchange opportunities to young people aged between 18 and 24 so that they can have in-depth exchange with their counterparts overseas and broaden their horizons. IYEP participants are nominated by their schools, universities, relevant government departments, uniformed groups and non-governmental

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Administration, the first batch of 21 scholarship recipients commenced their university studies in September 2015.

organizations. Nominees are then shortlisted by a selection board consisting of CoY members. Successful candidates will have the chance to take part in exchange activities and field trips in countries including Ireland, Singapore, Japan, Poland and Australia.

### **Panel's discussion**

4. Issues relating to the Scholarship and IYEP were raised by members when the Panel discussed the youth development policy at its meetings on 24 March 2014, 17 July 2015 and 14 June 2016. The major views and concerns expressed by members are summarized below.

#### Expansion of the International Youth Exchange Programme

5. At the meeting on 14 June 2016, members were advised that the Administration was actively expanding IYEP and the Summer Exchange Programme to provide opportunities for young people to have exchanges with their overseas counterparts. The Administration also informed members that in mid-April 2016, 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 organizations or statutory bodies to organize exchange tours to Belt and Road countries for young people in Hong Kong to deepen their knowledge on these countries. According to the Administration, the Belt and Road Funding Scheme had drawn enthusiastic response, with more than 100 funding applications received. CPCE anticipated that the processing of applications would be completed in early July 2016. In the meantime, the Administration planned to expand IYEP to include more Belt and Road countries, and would organize a thematic study tour to Indonesia, a Belt and Road country, under the Summer Exchange Programme in 2016.

6. Some members pointed out that a similar exchange programme had been launched by the Education Bureau, and they requested HAB to coordinate and avoid the launching of too many exchange programmes to Belt and Road countries by various bureaux at the same time. They also requested additional information on the Belt and Road Funding Scheme, including the estimated amount of funding to be granted, the total number of participants and the Belt and Road countries to be covered. The Administration advised that the proposed destinations covered countries in Southeast/Central Asia and Europe. As the vetting of the funding applications was still underway, the Administration would provide the requisite information after completion of the vetting and approval process. The supplementary information provided by the Administration in September 2016 is in **Appendix I**.

7. In response to members' enquiry about the objective of the study tours to Belt and Road countries, the Administration advised that these tours would provide opportunities for participants to engage in in-depth direct exchanges and discussions with local people and organizations instead of mere sight-seeing activities. The objective was for young people to deepen their knowledge of the historical and cultural development of Belt and Road countries.

#### Quota and selection criteria of the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship

8. Members enquired about the criteria to be adopted for making nominations for the award of the Scholarship. The Administration advised that the process would involve three key steps, viz. nomination, selection and matching. After receipt of nominations by secondary schools, the nominations would be shortlisted with reference to a set of objective criteria. In order to encourage youths to pursue multi-faceted excellence, students whose achievement matched the undergraduate programme(s) they chose would be given extra credits. Thereafter, an Assessment Panel, comprising well-respected figures in the fields of education, sports, arts and community service, would interview the shortlisted candidates with a view to making around 20 nominations for consideration by universities. Some members suggested that consideration should be given to increasing the number of recipients of the Scholarships each year, which was initially set at around 20, with a view to benefitting more students.

#### **Latest developments**

9. The Financial Secretary announced in the 2017-2018 Budget that additional resources would be allocated to promote youth development, including an injection of \$200 million into the Scholarship and an allocation of an additional \$100 million to expand IYEP. The Administration will brief the Panel on the provision of funding for the Scholarship and IYEP at the meeting on 27 March 2017.

#### **Relevant papers**

10. A list of relevant papers on the website of Legislative Council is in **Appendix II**.

**Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries****Introduction**

To tie in with the development strategy of the “Belt and Road Initiative” and capitalise on the opportunities brought by its implementation, Home Affairs Bureau, through internal redeployment of resources, collaborated with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) to roll out the Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries (the Scheme) on a pilot basis in April 2016. The Scheme provides funding support to registered non-profit-making organisations or statutory bodies, on a matching grant basis, to organise exchange programmes to Belt and Road countries, with local young people aged 15 to 29 as the target participants. Its objective is to promote communication and cultural exchange between our young participants and people of the Belt and Road countries so as to achieve the target of fostering “people-to-people bond”.

The CPCE has received a total of 103 funding applications. Among these applications, 40 applications were from community organisations, non-governmental organisations, uniformed groups and youth groups; 31 from secondary schools or tertiary institutions; and the remaining 32 from religious bodies, professional bodies or other organisations (e.g. social enterprises, cultural organisations).

Applicant must fulfil the eligibility criteria of the Scheme, including age of participants, number of participants, amount of sponsorship applied for, destination(s) and relevant experience. The CPCE has considered a number of factors when assessing the applications. These included whether the proposed exchange programmes could bring out the theme of the “Belt and Road Initiative” with a view to achieving the objectives of in-depth exchanges among participants and fostering “people-to-people bond”; feasibility of the proposed exchange activities; mechanism for selecting participants; arrangements by receiving parties at places of visit; insurance and other contingency arrangements; pre-tour and post-tour complementary activities; cost-effectiveness of the activities.

The CPCE has approved 29 applications, involving a sponsorship amount of about \$5.68 million. The total number of local participants is 687 and the number of Belt and Road countries to be visited is 23. For details, please refer to the attached table. We have informed sponsored organisations of the result and uploaded the list of successful applications onto the CPCE’s website.

## Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries

Project Number	Name of Successful Applicant	Name of Project #	Place of Visit	Nature of Visit	Number of participants	Amount of Sponsorship (\$)
011	The Association of Hong Kong Yunnan Fellow Provincials Ltd.	香港青少年2016年【彩雲之南西南絲綢之路文化考察之旅】	Kunming, Yunnan; Yangon, Myanmar	Visit university, enterprise, business association, government agency and embassy	30	136,054
018	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	「一帶一路」俄羅斯交流之旅	Russia	Visit government agency and enterprise; heritage tour; and cultural exchange	30	269,800
021	Tak Sun Secondary School	德信中學活動週體驗計劃（一帶一路交流計劃）	Russia	Visit school and community; and voluntary service	30	180,000
029	Hong Kong St. John Ambulance Hong Kong St. John Ambulance Brigade	「一帶一路・香港-馬來西亞青年文化、歷史交流團」	Malaysia	Visit university, industry or enterprise and government agency	14	146,696
031	Future Star Federation of Student	青春啟航・前進巴爾幹—「一帶一路」沿線國家交流團	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia	Visit school, enterprise and embassy; and cultural exchange	20	300,000
035	Hong Kong Sea Cadet Corps Headquarters	明日領袖交流計劃	Malaysia, Singapore	Visit government agency and youth organisation; and attend seminar	30	147,700
036	The Chinese University of Hong Kong Undergraduate Office, CUHK Business School	Study Tour to Prague	Prague, Czech Republic	Visit university and enterprise	20	140,000

## Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries

Project Number	Name of Successful Applicant	Name of Project #	Place of Visit	Nature of Visit	Number of participants	Amount of Sponsorship (\$)
037	Hong Kong Young Leaders Development Association	國際青年領袖交流計劃 2016	Poland	Visit university and government agency; community service; and cultural exchange	20	300,000
041	Kowloon Federation of Association Kwun Tong District Committee	「一帶一路」漫遊捷克藝術文化交流團	Czech Republic	Visit enterprise, society or school; heritage tour; and cultural exchange	30	293,600
044	Service Civil International Hong Kong China Global Education Unit	Workcamps for Understanding - Cultural Exchange Program 2016/17	Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia	Team building activity; cultural exchange activity; voluntary teaching service; visit community; and voluntary service	30	156,475
050	The Y. Elites Association Ltd.	「一帶一路馬來西亞菁英交流團 2017」	Malaysia	Visit school and enterprise; and cultural exchange	30	117,269
054	The Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong Uniformed Group Division	真・交流－「考察新加坡、馬來西亞政治、經濟、民生之現況」	Malaysia (Penang, Kuala Lumpur), Singapore	Visit government agency, youth organisation, university and grassroots organisation	20	123,820
059	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Youth Exchange Unit	「一帶一路一友情」特色交流團	Myanmar	Voluntary service	20	114,200

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060	Po Leung Kuk Lee Shing Pik College	保良局李城璧中學 "一帶一路"捷克匈牙利交流團	Prague, Czech Republic; Budapest, Hungary	Visit government department, village and school	27	278,000
061	The VolTra Ltd.	求同・傳義@愛沙尼亞-社會創新 2.0 探索之旅	Estonia	Visit school, enterprise and government agency	14	192,667
063	Wing Han Educational Foundation Ltd.	在「一帶一路」經濟發展中繼續前行-中國廣西・泰國文化交流之旅	Guangxi; Thailand	Visit enterprise and community; voluntary teaching service; and cultural exchange	30	157,720
066	Hong Kong College of Technology Group Ltd. Hong Kong College of Technology	向中亞出發-哈薩克交流計劃 2016-17	Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan	Visit university and social welfare organisation; cultural exchange; and attend seminar	15	159,500
068	Hong Kong Volunteers Association	「一帶一路」尼泊爾交流團	Nepal	Visit school, enterprise and community; organise photo exhibition; and photography competition	30	209,940

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Project Number	Name of Successful Applicant	Name of Project <sup>#</sup>	Place of Visit	Nature of Visit	Number of participants	Amount of Sponsorship (\$)
071	Technological and Higher Education Institution of Hong Kong Student Development Office	柬埔寨青少年文化交流之旅	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Visit university and social welfare organisation; and cultural exchange	24	125,254
073	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University School of Design	Cultural Exchange Tour to Jerusalem/ Israel	Israel (Jerusalem, Masada, Dead Sea, Tel Aviv, Tiberias, Nazareth, Beersheba)	Visit tertiary institution and enterprises	15	122,400
077	LET'S START	東歐三國行－歷史及文化藝術深度交流團	Budapest, Hungary; Krakow, Poland; Prague, Czech Republic	Cultural and art exchange	16	240,000
078	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong University & College YMCA Development	向東歐出發－烏克蘭、白俄羅斯經濟文化交流團	Ukraine; Belarus	Visit university and Confucius Institute, embassy and enterprise	20	273,030
085	Plan International Hong Kong Ltd.	Because I Am A Girl - Exposure Trip 2017	The Philippines	To explore girls' rights and other gender issues through discussion and video production	15	173,996



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Project Number	Name of Successful Applicant	Name of Project <sup>#</sup>	Place of Visit	Nature of Visit	Number of participants	Amount of Sponsorship (\$)
088	AIESEC Hong Kong Limited Department of Global Citizen Programme	Global Citizen Programme - Poland	Poland	Voluntary teaching service	30	300,000
091	Scout Association of Hong Kong International Branch	一帶一路・東歐中亞和平之旅 2017	Azerbaijan; Poland	Visit government department and facilities relating to environmental protection; visit community; and organise seminar	25	290,720
095	Hong Kong Teachers' Association Lee Heng Kwei Secondary School	一帶一路・泰國文化交流學習之旅	Thailand	Visit school; voluntary teaching service; and cultural exchange	30	124,454
097	Hok Yau Club	星馬多元文化考察之旅	Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Malacca); Singapore	Visit government department, university, tertiary institution, enterprise and youth organisation; and academic exchange	30	108,520
099	Heung To Middle School, Kowloon	向哈薩克斯坦出發－中亞政經文化風情考察學習之旅	Kazakhstan	Visit university and enterprise; and organise exhibition	21	245,580

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Project Number	Name of Successful Applicant	Name of Project <sup>#</sup>	Place of Visit	Nature of Visit	Number of participants	Amount of Sponsorship (\$)
102	Church of United Brethren in Christ Tuen Mun Integrated Children & Youth Service Centre	接軌絲路－『探索哈薩克』生活體驗計劃	Kazakhstan (Almaty, Astana)	Visit school, enterprise and community; and cultural exchange	21	253,600
				Total :	687	5,680,995

# For some successful projects, only Chinese names are available.

## Appendix II

### Relevant papers on the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship and the International Youth Exchange Programme

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Home Affairs	24.3.2014 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	17.7.2015 (Item III)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	14.6.2016 (Item II)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
21 March 2017