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Legislative Council

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Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Meeting on 12 June 2017

**Updated background brief on Innovation and Technology Fund
for Better Living and Digital Inclusion**

Purpose

This paper summarizes pervious discussions by Members on the Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living ("ITFBL") and issues relating to digital inclusion ("DI").

Background

Promoting digital inclusion

2.   Hong Kong has world-class information and communications technology ("ICT") infrastructure and well-provided Internet service. From education to business, entertainment, health care, government services and social interactions, ICT products and services are available which bring convenience in many aspects of people's daily lives. However, there are sectors in the community, including the elderly and the underprivileged groups which experience barriers in accessing ICT services and are unable to enjoy the full benefits of the digital economy. To bridge this "digital divide" in the community, the Administration has introduced measures which promote DI to achieve the vision of "empowering everyone through technology".

3.   The Administration has implemented various DI initiatives over the past few years to help underprivileged groups, elderly, persons with disabilities and students from low-income families leverage technology, enhance their quality of living and connection with the society. The initiatives include:

(a) **Digital Inclusion Mobile Applications** – This initiative provides funding support for non-governmental organisations ("NGOs") to develop mobile apps that address the special needs of individual target group and bring convenience to their daily lives.

(b) **Internet Learning Support Programme** ("ILSP") – ILSP was introduced to support students with limited means to learn through the Internet. The programme has narrowed the gap in respect of ICT usage between students from low-income families and their mainstream counterparts.

(c) **Information and communications technology Outreach Programme for the Elderly** – Through this initiative, the Administration mobilizes volunteers to reach out for institutionalized elderly people at elderly care homes to provide computer training, and arouse their interests in ICT through digital games and communication software.

(d) **Web Accessibility Campaign** – The Campaign was launched with the objective to enable people with disabilities to perceive, understand, navigate and interact with the web.

Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living

4.   In the 2016 Policy Address, the Chief Executive proposed setting up a $500 million ITFBL to provide funding support to projects that make use of innovative ideas and technologies to improve people's daily lives. For the purpose of ITFBL, daily life can be improved by (a) making life more convenient; (b) making life healthier and more comfortable; (c) making life safer and (d) improving the general well-being of specific groups (such as the elderly or groups with specific needs).

5.   ITFBL is open to applications by NGOs, non-profit-making organizations ("NPOs") or professional bodies and public service organizations to carry out projects for the benefit of the general public or specific groups, such as the elderly, disabled or underprivileged. An Assessment Panel ("AP") comprising academia, professionals, representatives from the industry and relevant Government Bureaux/Departments is appointed to vet the applications according to a set of pre-determined criteria. Successful applicants will receive a grant equivalent to the difference between the eligible costs of the project and funding received from other sources (such as funding from a parent organisation, sales proceeds or third party sponsorship), subject to a cap of 90% of the eligible costs of the project or $5 million, whichever is the less.

6.   The Finance Committee ("FC") approved the funding proposal at its meeting held on 28 June 2016.

Previous discussions

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

7.   At the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("the Panel") meeting on 16 February 2016, members expressed views on the Administration's DI initiatives including ILSP, ICT outreach programme and web accessibility campaign. The Administration consulted the Panel on details of ITFBL at the meeting held on 13 June 2016.

Digital inclusion initiatives

8.   Members suggested that the Administration should adjust the ILSP framework and review the programme so that it would reach out to more students from low-income families. In response, the Administration informed the Panel that ILSP would be extended for two more years, and would adjust the detailed arrangements of the programme so that the ILSP implementers could identify and reach out to students more effectively with the assistance of the Student Finance Office.

9.   To facilitate the growing need for technical support on the use of ICT for the elderly, Panel members suggested that the Administration should consider providing more support for the elderly community, especially those living alone or living with other elderly people. The Panel noted that the Administration had started a new round of 12-month ICT Outreach Programme covering elderly centres, day care centres and home care services. Some members expressed concerned about the barriers elderly people encountered in accessing the Internet. The Administration advised that it would continue to promote the use of mobile apps amongst the elderly for communicating with their families and friends, with a view to further boosting Internet utilization rate amongst the elderly.

10.   Members also expressed disappointment for the limited number of websites adopting web accessibility designs and suggested that the Administration should consider providing financial subventions or other innovative incentives for organizations to adopt web accessibility functions. The Administration agreed that the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme was a passive approach and they would collaborate with the industry and the academia to develop practical tools for automating certain parts of the development process in creating accessible websites.

Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living

11.   The Panel generally welcomed and supported the establishment of ITFBL when the item was discussed at the Panel meetings held on 13 June 2016. Members' major concerns are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

12.   Members queried whether applicants for ITFBL would be allowed to develop the projects in partnership with research and development ("R&D") institutions or private enterprises, or whether applications by individual project proponents would also be considered. The Administration responded that it would encourage applicants to form partnership with R&D institutions or small and medium enterprises to develop projects. Applications from individual applicants would normally not be accepted and proponents would be encouraged to partner with other eligible applicants. Some members commented that a development period of 12 months for a project might be too short for NGOs and NPOs as they might not have the level of expertise or knowledge to develop new technologies to serve their target clients.

13.   Some members expressed concerns that ITFBL might be exploited by political parties for electioneering purposes. Some members cautioned against favouritism in granting applications as AP might comprise members mostly from the pro-establishment camp. Some members were worried that benefits would be transferred to organizations favoured by the Administration under the ITFBL mechanism and resulted in an undue concentration of funding on a few organizations. The Administration advised that AP would vet and select ITFBL applications according to a set of apolitical selection criteria. The grant received would only be allowed to be used for the purpose as stated in the applicant's project proposal and in line with the objectives of ITFBL.

14.   The Panel noted that while successful applicants of ITFBL were allowed to receive funding from other schemes or sponsorship programmes set up by the Administration, the Administration's position was that different funding resources paid from the public coffer should not be used for the same purpose. In this connection, the Administration would subsume the Funding Scheme for Digital Inclusion Mobile Apps ("FSDIMA"), which was of similar objective, under ITFBL, and would thereafter discontinue FSDIMA.

15.   Noting that the funding period of the project would span three years, including a 12-month development period followed by a two-year operating period, members enquired whether the technology behind a project had to be original and developed in Hong Kong, and whether deliverables had to be manufactured locally. The Administration advised that the objective of ITFBL was to encourage original innovative ideas and technologies. Although products

developed with imported technologies would also be considered, projects with deliverables to be manufactured locally would be accorded a higher score during the assessment process.

16.   Members suggested that DI should be included as one of the themes for ITFBL. As regards projects which were designed for serving specific groups with limited market potential, AP would consider whether the project was making use of I&T to improve people's daily life. Market potential would be of secondary importance in the assessment process.

17.   Some members had expressed concerns about the long vetting period of ITFBL applications. The Administration explained that the decision on an application would be available within three months from the receipt of duly completed application documents. Members suggested that the Administration should make it known to the public about the composition of AP and the criteria of appointing members to AP.

18.   Noting that the grant available for a successful applicant would be capped at $5 million, Panel members suggested that each grant should be reduced to an amount between $2 million to $3 million to allow small-scale projects to be implemented. The Administration explained that by providing a maximum of $5 million for an application, a wider range of projects could be supported so as to cater for the different needs of various social groups.

19.   Some members queried whether the disbursement of grant could tie-in with the applicant's cashflow requirements in the early stages of the project or could be used on promotion and publicity of the products developed under ITFBL. The Administration replied that disbursement of the grant would be made by instalments in three or four stages subject to the fulfilment of project milestones as agreed in the funding agreement. Funds would be made available at the beginning of a project for purchase of essential equipment or hiring of staff. The fund could be used on publicity and promotion purposes, but expenses which were not directly relevant to the project would not be permitted.

20.   Members suggested that only the investment return of the capital would be used to finance projects of ITFBL in order to prolong the operation of the fund. The Administration advised that the non-recurrent allocation of $500 million was expected to sustain the operation of ITFBL for five years. Additional funding would be sought from FC beyond the first five years if situations warranted.

21.   The Panel was informed that any intellectual property ("IP") right created in or via ITFBL project would be vested with the grantee who would be required to make it available for use in the public domain for free during the

three-year funding period. Some members commented that private commercial organizations might find the partnership with NGOs and NPOs unattractive if the IP associated with the technology developed using ITFBL was to be open during the three-year funding period. They might consider that there would be little commercial value left. The Administration explained that the public was given an open licence to use the project's IP for free and the grantee would still own the IP right of the technology developed in or via the project.

22.   Members had enquired whether the Administration would provide any guidance or warning on legal pitfalls to grantees when developing the projects. The Administration advised that representatives from bureaux or departments which affected by projects under ITFBL would be invited to join AP, and the legal issues could be addressed through inter-departmental efforts.

23.   The Panel also noted that grantees would be required to submit interim reports on the progress of the projects and the Administration could terminate funding if the grantee was unable to meet the requirements or conditions of grant.

24.   Members suggested that the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("I&TB") should play an active role in advising Government departments on the adoption and application of new technologies in social services. Some members suggested that the Administration could acquire or adopt the products or services developed under ITFBL, or facilitate NGOs and NPOs to use those technologies. Some members expressed concerns on how the risks of NGOs and NPOs undertaking a project under ITFBL could be minimized if they had to refund the grant in case of unsatisfactory project progress or contravention of funding guidelines. The Panel was informed that grantee would not be required to refund the grant in case of unsatisfactory project progress or project failure if the Administration was satisfied that the grantee had put in the best effort to satisfy the requirements of the project.

Finance Committee

25.   FC considered and approved the creation of a new commitment of $500 million for the establishment of ITFBL at its meeting held on 28 June 2016. The salient points discussed by the Committee are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Scope of the projects funded by Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living

26.   A member suggested that the Administration should take the initiative to apply ITFBL to promote the research sector to develop software products to

assist demented patients. Another member expressed concern that the proposed replacement of the "Digital Solidarity Fund" and FSDIMA by ITFBL would make it more difficult for SMEs or social welfare organizations to apply as the scale of the projects targeted by these two funding schemes were too small compared with those to be funded under ITFBL.

27. The Administration advised that the scope of funding under ITFBL covered such areas as health and community safety, the projects aimed at taking care of the safety of the elderly was one of the areas supported by ITFBL. Projects that cost less than $5 million, being the ceiling of grant under ITFBL, might still be considered. A social welfare organization might consider allying with other organization or research company so as to develop a larger scale project for making an application.

Development of an information sharing platform

28. Some members considered that the Administration should develop an information sharing platform in respect of prices, medical services and real-time traffic information, which should be opened to different research institution to develop applications that could make people's life more convenient.

Assessment of deliverables of the projects

29. One member enquired how the Administration would assess ITFBL project deliverables, and whether applicants who performed unsatisfactorily would be required to return the grant. The Administration explained that it might not be appropriate to assess deliverables solely on the basis of their patronage or popularity. Unless fraud was involved, applicants would not be required to refund the grant even if the project failed to achieve the anticipated result. The Administration also advised that every project to be funded by ITFBL should be in line with Government's policies and was not in conflict with the existing laws.

Use of the grant

30. In response to a member's enquiry, the Administration explained that the development of a project funded by ITFBL should be completed within 12 months and should continue to operate for at least two years after its roll-out, including the production and roll-out of R&D outcomes in the market. ITFBL would cover the development and operation costs of the projects. The Administration also advised that the applicant might seek support for R&D cost under the Innovation and Technology Fund.

Special FC meeting

31.   At the special FC meeting on 3 April 2017, Hon CHAN Chun-ying, Hon HUI Chi-fung, Hon Charles Peter MOK and Hon Alvin YEUNG sought information, among other things, on the details of the implementation of FSDIMA, including number of approved cases, number of users, amount of funding involved and user retention rates. Meanwhile, Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung sought information on the work progress and arrangement in improving the quality of living of the public and meeting certain needs of persons with disabilities, such as sign language interpretation, service outlines and employment support. Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung expressed concern on the cashflow of ITFBL. Hon Charles Peter MOK also sought information on the details of ITFBL, including application procedures, vetting criteria and form of funding support, specific details of the work, timetable, operating expenditure of the fund and estimated annual provision for 2017-18, the eligibility for application, scope of funding, funding cap and estimated number of successful applications per year. The Administration's response is in **Appendices Ia to Ii**.

Latest position

32.   The Administration will brief the Panel on 12 June 2017 on the latest work progress of ITFBL and DI.

Relevant papers

33.   A list of the relevant papers is set out in the **Appendix II**.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 June 2017

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0102)

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Allen YEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The estimated expenditure under Programme (3) for 2017-18 is 13.3% higher than the revised estimate this year. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1) The expenditure is mainly for salaries and departmental expenses. What is the breakdown of the expenditure? What are the reasons for the increase?

2) The Government has launched the Funding Scheme for Digital Inclusion Mobile Apps since 2012. What are the details of the approved cases? What is the number of users and the amount of funding involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

The required information is provided as follows:

1) Of the estimated expenditure under Programme (3) for 2017-18, $50.0 million and $31.3 million are provided for personal emoluments and departmental expenses respectively. The estimated expenditure is $13.9 million (13.3%) higher than the 2016-17 Revised Estimates. This is mainly due to larger requirements in personal emoluments and departmental expenses and the additional provision for 2 general non-recurrent projects, namely "Providing Public Wi-Fi services in Study Rooms and Youth Service Centres" and "Internet Access for Needy Students".

2) The name, organisation, number of downloads and amount of funding of the apps funded under the Funding Scheme for Digital Inclusion Mobile Apps are as follows:

Name (Mobile App)	Organisation	Number of Downloads (as at 28 February 2017)	Amount of Funding ($)
Auditory and Speech Training App	Hong Kong Society for the Deaf	1 496	216,000
"Learn smart" teaching material publishing platform	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service	4 905	178,000
Stories for Social Skills Made Easy	SAHK	22 384	210,000
Searching & Exploring with Speech Augmented Map Information	Hong Kong Blind Union	1 605	393,000
Barrier-free Travel Guide	Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth	4 043	285,000
eElderly Activity Search	Hong Kong Society for the Aged	17 748	377,000
Hong Kong Easy	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	3 036	338,000
Articulation Screening and Training Tool	Hong Kong Society for the Deaf	1 102	433,000
HOPE Chinese Character Game	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	24 919	428,000
MathAid	Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired	2 919	174,000
SignChat	Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	3 666	461,000
One Click to Know Dementia	Jockey Club Centre for Positive Ageing	10 487	367,000
Early Literacy*	SAHK	178	455,000
Smart and Fit DS Kids*	Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association	124	385,000
Tap My Dish*	Hong Kong Blind Union	412	482,000
Silence Sign Language Interpretation App*	Silence Limited	33	379,000

AngeLINK*	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	181	451,000
		Total:	6,012,000

* Apps launched progressively starting from February 2017

- End -

Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ITB162

(Question Serial No. 5230)

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Allen YEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Please provide details on the Government's efforts to encourage the development of ICT-related assistive technology for application by persons with disabilities in each of the past 3 years, including the expenditure, progress, effectiveness and ways to encourage development, etc. What are the budget and work direction for 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 56)

Reply:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched the Funding Scheme for Digital Inclusion Mobile Apps (the Scheme) to provide funding support for non-profit social service organisations to develop mobile apps that address the needs of various target groups (including persons with disabilities (PWDs)). We organised briefing sessions and exchange sessions to encourage non-profit social service organisations to join the Scheme to develop mobile apps for use by persons with special needs (including PWDs). In the past 3 years, under the Scheme, non-profit social service organisations developed a total of 8 mobile apps that cater for the needs of PWDs for free use. The total amount of funding was about $3.2 million. As at end-February 2017, these mobile apps recorded over 33 000 downloads in total.

The Innovation and Technology Bureau will launch the "Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living" (the Fund) in mid-2017 to support innovation and technology projects that can make the daily life of Hong Kong people more convenient, more comfortable and safer; or address the needs of specific groups (including PWDs). The Scheme will be covered in the funding scope of the Fund.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

ITB163

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5231)

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Allen YEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Please provide details on the Government's efforts to encourage the development of ICT-related assistive technology for application by ethnic minorities in each of the past 3 years, including the expenditure, progress, effectiveness and ways to encourage development, etc.   What are the budget and work direction for 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 57)

Reply:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched the Funding Scheme for Digital Inclusion Mobile Apps (the Scheme) to provide funding support for non-profit social service organisations to develop mobile apps that address the needs of various target groups (including ethnic minorities).   We organised briefing sessions and exchange sessions to encourage non-profit social service organisations to develop mobile apps for use by persons with special needs (including ethnic minorities).   For example, a non-governmental organisation was funded under the Scheme in 2012-13 to develop a mobile app titled "Hong Kong Easy" to help ethnic minorities learn Cantonese for integrating into local life.   The app was launched for free use in end-2013 and had recorded over 3 000 downloads up to end-February 2017.

The Innovation and Technology Bureau will launch the "Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living" (the Fund) in mid-2017 to support innovation and technology projects that can make the daily life of Hong Kong people more convenient, more comfortable and safer; or address the needs of specific groups (including ethnic minorities).   The Scheme will be covered in the funding scope of the Fund.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5232)

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Allen YEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Please provide details on the Government's efforts to encourage the development of ICT-related assistive technology for application by the elderly in each of the past 3 years, including the expenditure, progress, effectiveness and ways to encourage development, etc. Does the Government assess whether the budget in this regard is sufficient?   What are the budget and work direction for 2017-18?   Does the Government provide the elderly with financial support for using these research deliverables?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 58)

Reply:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched the Funding Scheme for Digital Inclusion Mobile Apps (the Scheme) to provide funding support for non-profit social service organisations to develop mobile apps that address the needs of various target groups (including the elderly).   We organised briefing sessions and exchange sessions to encourage non-profit social service organisations to join the Scheme to develop mobile apps for use by persons with special needs (including the elderly).   In the past 3 years, under the Scheme, non-profit social service organisations developed 2 mobile apps that cater for the needs of the elderly.   The total amount of funding support was about $0.82 million.   As at end-February 2017, these mobile apps recorded over 10 000 downloads in total.   The Innovation and Technology Bureau will launch the "Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living" (the Fund) in mid-2017 to support innovation and technology projects that can make the daily life of Hong Kong people more convenient, more comfortable and safer; or address the needs of specific groups (including the elderly).   The above Scheme will be covered in the funding scope of the Fund.

In addition, we launched the ICT Outreach Programme for Elderly (the Outreach Programme) and through the non-governmental organisations engaged to educate the elderly on the application of information and communications technology and encourage

them to use the above digital inclusion mobile apps that address the needs of the elderly. From July 2015 to August 2016, the funded organisations served a total of 63 residential care homes for the elderly and day care centres with a total expenditure of about $1.09 million.   We plan to launch a new round of Outreach Programme in the second half of 2017 with an implementation period of 12 months.   The estimated expenditure is $1.26 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6714)

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief
                                          Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Allen YEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the support for students from low-income families on Internet learning at home
and for other underprivileged groups, please advise on the following:

(1)   On the digital inclusion mobile apps, what are the user retention rates 7 and 30 days
        after download, and the weekly numbers of active users of the apps funded under the
        first and second rounds (of the funding scheme)?   What are the names of apps, the
        organisations and the amounts of funding under the third round of the funding
        scheme?   What are the modes of promotion and the expenditure earmarked for all
        funded apps in 2017-18?

(2)   On the ICT Outreach Programme for Elderly, what are the organisations funded, titles
        of the projects, amounts of funding, numbers of events and numbers of elders reached
        in 2016?   What are the estimated numbers of events and numbers of elders reached in
        2017-18?   What are the details?

(3)   On the support for the websites and mobile apps of statutory and public organisations
        in conforming to the Level AA accessibility requirements of the World Wide Web
        Consortium, what is the percentage of organisations adopting web accessibility design
        at present?   What is the increase rate over 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 124)

Reply:

The requested information is as follows:

(1)   Under the Funding Scheme for Digital Inclusion Mobile Apps (the Scheme), the
        funded social service organisations are required to provide the Government with the
        number of downloads after the launch of the app for 2 years.   Nevertheless, we do not
        require the funded organisations to provide the user retention rates 7 and 30 days after
        download and the numbers of active weekly users.

The names, organisations and amounts of funding of the mobile apps funded under the third round of the Scheme are as follows:

Name	Organisation	Amount of Funding ($)
Early Literacy	SAHK	455,000
Smart and Fit DS Kids	Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association	385,000
Tap My Dish	Hong Kong Blind Union	482,000
Silence Sign Language Interpretation App	Silence Limited	379,000
AngeLINK	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	451,000
	Total:	2,152,000

In 2017-18, we will continue to organise promotion activities in conjunction with the funded organisations, including promotion through non-governmental organisations' network, communication media, social media and the Internet; displaying posters at public housing estates, government premises and social service organisations supporting the target groups; distributing leaflets, etc., to arouse public awareness and encourage persons in need to download and use these mobile apps. The expenditure for organising the above activities will be met by internal deployment and there are no breakdown figures.

(2) The latest round of the ICT Outreach Programme for the Elderly (the Outreach Programme) was implemented from July 2015 to August 2016. Details are as follows:

Project Title / Funded Organisation	(1) 數碼樂聚・影・情真*/The Hong Kong Society for the Aged (2) 樂在耆「連」長者數碼網絡計劃*/Po Leung Kuk (3) 數碼共融外展計劃 2.0*/Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong
Amount of Funding	Around $1.09 million
Number of Events	Around 2 500 visits and related activities
No. of Elderly Beneficiaries	2 071

* The project names are in Chinese only.

We will launch a new round of the Outreach Programme in the second half of 2017 with an implementation period of 12 months. Before launching the Outreach Programme, we will define performance targets for the funded organisations, including the number of events, number of elderly beneficiaries, number of residential care homes for the elderly and day care centres participating in the Outreach Programme, etc.

(3) As at end-February 2017, statistics on the adoption of accessibility design among the websites and mobile apps of 79 statutory and public organisations are as follows:

Statutory and Public Organisation	Website		Mobile App	
	Number	Number of websites adopted accessibility design (Percentage)	Number	Number of mobile apps adopted accessibility design (Percentage)
As at end-February 2017	79	60 (76%)	61	14 (23%)
As at end-March 2016	79	51 (65%)	39	8 (21%)

- End -

Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ITB218

(Question Serial No. 3956)

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Allen YEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has funded 5 digital inclusion mobile apps projects in 2016-17. Please inform this Committee of the following: What is the respective expenditure of the 5 projects? What are the numbers of downloads on the Android platform and the iPhone/iPad platform respectively (please list out the respective numbers)? Will the implementation of the Funding Scheme for Digital Inclusion Mobile Apps be continued in 2017-18? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. 63)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer conducted one round of application for the Funding Scheme for Digital Inclusion Mobile Apps and provided funding support for non-profit social service organisations to develop a total of 5 mobile apps for persons with special needs. These mobile apps have been launched progressively since February 2017. The organisations concerned are now organising promotion activities to raise public awareness and encourage those in need to make use of these mobile apps. Details of these apps, number of downloads and amount of funding provided are as follows:

App Name	Development Organisation	Number of Downloads (as at 28 February 2017)		Amount of Funding ($)
		Android Platform	iPhone/iPad Platform	
Early Literacy	SAHK	178	Not supported	455,000
Smart and Fit DS Kids	Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association	99	25	385,000
Tap My Dish	Hong Kong Blind Union	Not supported	412	482,000

App Name	Development Organisation	Number of Downloads (as at 28 February 2017)		Amount of Funding ($)
		Android Platform	iPhone/iPad Platform	
Silence Sign Language Interpretation App	Silence Limited	12	21	379,000
AngeLINK	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	122	59	451,000
			Total:	2,152,000

The Funding Scheme for Digital Inclusion Mobile Apps will be put under the funding scope of the "Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living" which is expected to be launched in mid-2017.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ITB012

(Question Serial No. 6628)

Head: (135) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
(Cheuk Wing Hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 48 of the Budget Speech that innovation and technology can help improve the quality of living of the public. As innovation and technology can also be of considerable assistance in meeting certain needs of persons with disabilities, such as sign language interpretation, service outlines and employment support, etc., will the Government advise on the work progress and arrangement in this respect?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2253)

Reply:

It is stated in paragraph 125 of the speech on the Appropriation Bill 2017 that the Innovation and Technology Bureau will launch a $500 million Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living ("FBL") by the middle of this year. The FBL will subsidise innovation and technology ("I&T") projects which will bring more convenient, more comfortable and safer living to the public, or addressing the needs of specific community groups. We have set up a Secretariat to prepare for the launch of the FBL which will be open for applications in mid-2017. It is hoped that the first batch of I&T projects can be rolled out in 2018 to benefit the public.

Eligible applicants of the FBL include: subvented non-government organisations or non-profit-making organisations, public bodies, trade associations and professional bodies. A successful project will receive a maximum grant equivalent to 90% of the total costs of the project or $5 million, whichever is the less. The maximum funding period of a project is three years, including a 12-month development period followed by a two-year running period.

The assessment criteria of the FBL include: benefits brought to the general public or specific community groups by the project, I&T content, feasibility and sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and the experience and management capability of the applicant. An Assessment Panel comprising representatives from the technology field, the academia and the industry will be formed to assess eligible applications.

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0896)

Head: (135) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
(Cheuk Wing Hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Under Programme (2), there is a substantial increase in the provision for next year, which is $138.1 million (561.4%) higher than the revised estimate for this year.   This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living, increased cash flow requirement for capital item, and an increase of 15 posts. Please explain the correlation between the setting up of the $500 million Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living and the increased cash flow requirement.   Would the Government provide a detailed account of the expenditures involved?   Moreover, what are the ranks of the 15 new posts and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher   (Member Question No. 34)

Reply:

On 24 June 2016, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the creation of a new commitment of $500 million for the establishment of the Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living ("FBL") to meet the funding requirements of applications under FBL in the 5 years starting from 2017-18.   While the estimated cash flow of FBL for 2017-18 is $100 million, the actual cash flow will depend on the number of applications received and projects approved.

The 15 posts to be created in the Innovation and Technology Bureau include 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Treasury Accountant, 1 Analyst/Programmer I, 1 Executive Officer II, 1 Supplies Supervisor I, 1 Personal Secretary I, 2 Executive Officer I and 6 Assistant Clerical Officer.   The expenditure involved is about $8.82 million.

- End -

Appendix Ii

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18   Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1921)

Head: (135) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                              (Cheuk Wing Hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned on page 453 of the Estimates that the Government will set up an Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living for financing projects that make use of innovative ideas and technologies to improve people's daily life.   In this regard, please advise on:

(1)   the details of the fund, including application procedures, vetting criteria and form of funding support;

(2)   the specific details of the work, timetable, operating expenditure of the fund and estimated annual provision for 2017-18; and

(3)   the eligibility for application, scope of funding, funding cap and estimated number of successful applications per year.

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

The information requested is provided as follows:

(1)   The Government will launch the $500 million Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living ("FBL") by the middle of this year to subsidise innovation and technology ("I&T") projects which will bring more convenient, more comfortable and safer living to the public, or those addressing the needs of specific community groups. The Innovation and Technology Bureau has set up a Secretariat to prepare for the launch of the FBL.   An Assessment Panel comprising representatives from the technology field, the academia and the industry will be formed to assess eligible applications.   The assessment criteria include: benefits brought to the general public or specific community groups by the project, I&T content, feasibility and sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and the experience and management capability of the

applicant.   A successful project will receive a maximum grant equivalent to 90% of the total cost of the project or $5 million, whichever is the less.

(2)   The FBL will be open for applications from mid-2017.   In 2017-18, the Secretariat will launch publicity and promotional activities, process applications and arrange Assessment Panel meetings.   We expect that the FBL will operate for 5 years with an annual recurrent expenditure of about $5.3 million, which will mainly be used to meet the staff cost of the Secretariat and promotion expenses, etc.

(3)   Eligible applicants include: subvented non-government organisations or non-profit making organisations, public bodies, trade associations and professional bodies.   The funded projects should primarily aim at improving people's daily life, and should not serve profit-making purposes or purposes other than those stated in the application forms.   The number of applications approved each year will depend on the number of applications and the level of grant.

- End -

List of relevant papers

Issued by	Meeting date/ Issue date	Paper
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting	16 February 2016	Administration's paper on promotion of digital inclusion (LC Paper No. CB(4)581/15-16(03)) Updated background brief on digital inclusion (LC Paper No. CB(4)581/15-16(04)) Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(4)805/15-16)
	13 June 2016	Administration's paper on Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living (LC Paper No. CB(4)1087/15-16(03)) Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(4)1266/15-16)
Finance Committee	28 June 2016 (FCR(2016-17)56)	Minutes of the 81st meeting (LC Paper No. FC327/15-16)
Innovation and Technology Bureau	27 February 2017	創科發展的最新動態 (Chinese only)