

香港特別行政區政府

創新及科技局

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INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY BUREAU

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

20/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

By email

25 June 2018

Ms Connie Szeto
Clerk to Establishment Subcommittee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Szeto,

**Establishment Subcommittee Meeting on 20 June 2018
Follow-up Action**

Thank you for your letter dated 21 June 2018. Please find enclosed the Administration's response to the request for supplementary information of the Establishment Subcommittee for reference.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ricky Chong'.

(Ricky CHONG)

for Secretary for Innovation and Technology

c.c. Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Attn.: Ms Florence Chong)
Secretary for Home Affairs (Attn.: Mr Winston Chan)

Establishment Subcommittee Meeting on 20 June 2018

Follow-up Action

As regards the proposed creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Innovation and Technology Commission to take forward policy initiatives to spearhead innovation and technology (“I&T”) development in Hong Kong, the Administration’s supplementary information is as follows –

(a) **Estimate for the annual operating expenditure of the new Infrastructure Division**

The estimate on annual operating expenditure of the proposed Infrastructure Division is \$18,346,000, among which \$17,052,000 is for covering the staff cost of the 21 officers of the new Division, which include the proposed Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post and 9 officers to be redeployed from another division. The remaining estimate is for covering expenditure on operation and recurrent cost for the office premises as well as on promotion and publicity, etc.

(b) **Details on the research and development (“R&D”) outcomes of the proposed research cluster on healthcare technologies**

The Government has earmarked \$10 billion in the 2018-19 Budget to support the establishment of two world-class research clusters on healthcare technologies and on artificial intelligence (“AI”) and robotics technologies at the Hong Kong Science Park.

We envisage that the research clusters will attract top-notch universities, research institutions and technology enterprises from local, Mainland and overseas to join and conduct more collaborative R&D work. We will encourage research centres/laboratories at the research clusters to collaborate with local industry and conduct applied R&D. We will, through the Innovation and Technology Fund (“ITF”), fund R&D projects undertaken by these research centres/laboratories in collaboration with the local industry with a view to promoting wider applications of R&D results.

In fact, through various schemes under the ITF, the Innovation and Technology Commission (“ITC”) has been providing funding support for universities, local public research institutions (e.g. R&D centres), and enterprises to conduct R&D projects and promote applications in various technology areas. Among the schemes, the Public Sector Trial Scheme (“PSTS”), which supports the public sector in trialing

out R&D technologies or products, has benefitted 250 organisations. As regards the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund, it encourages private investors to invest new fund in the I&T start-ups in Hong Kong so that their I&T products and services could be widely marketed and commercialised. We will announce the selection result of venture capital funds shortly and expect to start receiving their invitations for co-investment in local I&T start-ups in the second half of the year.

Some R&D results of ITF projects which are widely adopted in the society are as follows:

- (i) Three R&D Centres (including the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre (“LSCM”), Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (“HKRITA”) and Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute) have collaborated with the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (“TWGHs”) to develop a comfortable vest jacket with a radio-frequency identification tracking system for elderly with brain degenerative illness such as Alzheimer, which assists the staff of the elderly centres in taking care of the elderly in a more efficient manner;
- (ii) HKRITA developed bio-functional socks for the elderly with advanced technologies that can keep the foot skin moist. With ergonomic sock structure and innovative design for keeping warm, the socks can reduce bacterial reproduction and provide improved sensation such as comfort, softness and smoothness. HKRITA also made use of chitosan yarn (derived from the exoskeleton of crustaceans) to produce antibacterial handkerchiefs. The Hong Kong Council of Social Service has procured these products for distribution to the elderly attending the Gerontech and Innovation Expo 2017;
- (iii) LSCM has developed the Infrared Thermal Sensing System which can effectively collect the data of the elderly’s daily behaviour while protecting their privacy for analysis, and detect whether there is any home accident through a special image monitoring system. When the elderly experiences an abnormal situation, an alert will be sent directly to the default notification units (e.g. family, social worker) by the system. The system has been implemented in the TWGHs Jockey Club Rehabilitation Complex;

- (iv) A start-up associated with the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong, funded by the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (“TSSSU”), has developed a self-service, interactive cognitive assessment system that can automatically assess the cognitive state of elderly patients through interactive games. This system also helps reduce the waiting time of cognitive disorder assessment. Currently, the system is being used by over 10 local customers and partnering organisations, which include public hospital, health services and medical organisations, elderly centres, etc.; and
- (v) A start-up associated with the Chinese University of Hong Kong and funded by TSSSU has developed a small intelligent box with camera, enabling elderly patients to communicate at home with their physiotherapists, and carry out rehabilitation training under the latter’s monitoring remotely. This system, which reduces commuting costs and time of the elderly, has been tested in three rehabilitation centres as well as the homes of some chronic stroke patients.

We envisage that the research clusters will provide a conducive I&T environment for universities, research institutions and technology enterprises, facilitating them to collaborate in relevant technology areas and carry out more applied R&D projects.

(c) **In respect of the ticket purchasing system and service charge of URB TIX**

According to the information provided by the Home Affairs Bureau, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) is examining measures to improve and develop the URB TIX system in future, and will consider the views of various stakeholders and draw reference to the latest technology trends and applications of local and international ticketing markets in formulating appropriate requirements for the ticketing system and determining service charges. The LCSD expects to commence the open tendering process for the new ticketing system and related services in the third quarter of 2019.