



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局  
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12 February 2018

Ms Angel Wong  
Clerk to Panel on Education  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Wong,

**Panel on Education**  
**HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund**

I refer to your letter dated 31 January 2018. An information note on the Present Position of HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund is attached to this letter for Members' reference.

(Miss Sharon Ko)  
for Secretary for Education

## **For information**

### **Legislative Council Panel on Education**

#### **Present Position of HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund**

### **Purpose**

This paper updates Members on the present position of the HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund (GSF).

### **Background**

2. The Government established the GSF in 2008 with an endowment of \$1 billion as part of a basket of measures to further developing Hong Kong as a regional education hub. The investment income generated from the GSF is used to provide scholarships to outstanding local and non-local students so as to –

- (a) attract outstanding non-local students to enrol in publicly-funded degree or above level programmes in Hong Kong;
- (b) reward outstanding local students who choose to pursue their studies in such programmes in Hong Kong;
- (c) recognise the achievements of outstanding local and non-local students, with a view to attracting them to stay in Hong Kong after graduation; and
- (d) promote the further development of Hong Kong as a regional education hub and enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in the long run.

Subsequently, three injections have been made to GSF providing more and different types of scholarship to students. Details of the different scholarships under GSF are set out below.

### Scholarship for Outstanding Performance (SOP)

3. With a view to attracting outstanding local students to advance their studies at home, and meritorious non-local students to pursue higher education opportunities in Hong Kong, SOP was established in 2008 to recognise outstanding local and non-local students studying in full-time publicly-funded programmes in Hong Kong<sup>1</sup>. The scholarship is \$40,000 per year for local students and \$80,000 per year for non-local students.

4. In 2011, the Government injected \$250 million into GSF to extend the benefit to students of full-time publicly-funded sub-degree programmes offered by five institutions (City University of Hong Kong, the Education University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, HKAPA and the Vocational Training Council) from 2011/12 academic year onwards. The scholarship award for these sub-degree students ranges from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year for both local and non-local students.

### Talent Development Scholarship (TDS) and Reaching Out Award (ROA)

5. In 2012, the Government further injected \$1 billion into GSF, and two new types of scholarships and awards, namely TDS and ROA, were established in the 2012/13 academic year to benefit a wider range of students not only with outstanding academic performance, but also achievements and talents in other non-academic fields.

6. TDS aims to give recognition to students who have demonstrated achievements or talent in non-academic areas and provide support for these students to further develop their talent and potential. ROA aims to support meritorious students to participate in learning, internship or service programmes, as well as national, regional and international events and competitions that are conducted outside Hong Kong and organised/endorsed by institutions. The amount of each award is set at \$10,000 for sub-degree or above local and non-local students.

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<sup>1</sup> Participating institutions include the eight University Grants Committee-funded universities and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA).

### Endeavour Merit Award (EMA)

7. In 2013, the Government injected another \$20 million into GSF to set up EMA in the 2013/14 academic year to give recognition to deserving post-secondary students with special educational needs (SEN) in the pursuit of excellence in academic and other areas. The amount of each award for both local and non-local students pursuing publicly-funded sub-degree or above level programmes is pitched at \$10,000.

### Targeted Scholarship Scheme (TSS)

8. In an effort to attract more non-local students to study in Hong Kong, starting from the 2012/13 academic year, Targeted Scholarships have been offered annually to first-year non-local full-time students from ASEAN countries<sup>2</sup>, India and Korea, who are enrolled in publicly-funded degree programmes in Hong Kong. Targeted Scholarships would cover full tuition fees of the recipients and would be tenable for the normal duration of the programme concerned and renewable annually subject to satisfactory academic performance. For the coming academic year, there will be ten scholarships each from Indonesia and Malaysia, and ten from India, Korea and other ASEAN countries.

### **Effectiveness of GSF**

9. The amount of scholarships allocated and number of recipients of all types of scholarships and awards mentioned above in the past five academic years are set out below –

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<sup>2</sup> ASEAN has ten member states, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>No. of recipients</b>	<b>Amount allocated (\$ million)</b>
2013/14	4 191	90.5
2014/15	4 720	97.0
2015/16	5 218	97.6
2016/17	5 293	101.2
2017/18	4 700*	92.2

\* Estimated number

10. Since its establishment, GSF has been well received by the community, the participating institutions as well as their students. Over \$650 million scholarship money has been disbursed since 2008, acknowledging the achievements of around 30 000 students (including some 5 000 non-local students coming from more than 60 different countries/economies). As different from other scholarship schemes funded by private donations, GSF pays balanced attention towards students who excel in academic and non-academic areas, as well as those who have special education needs. We consider that GSF has been effective in recognising the achievements of students on various fronts and promoting the further development of Hong Kong as a regional education hub.

### **Financial Position of GSF**

11. The GSF has an endowment of \$2,270 million and the current balance of GSF stood at about \$2,516 million as at end of 2017. For the 2018/19 academic year, the estimated total amount of scholarship to be disbursed would be around \$97.6 million. Breakdown by different types of scholarships is set out below –

	<b>No. of recipients</b>	<b>Total amount (\$ million)</b>
<b>SOP</b>	1 340	52
<b>TDS/ ROA</b>	3 200	32
<b>EMA</b>	150	1.5
<b>TSS</b>	80	12.1
<b>Total</b>	4 770	97.6

## **Recommendation of the Steering Committee on GSF**

12. A Steering Committee has been set up to advise the Trustee of GSF (i.e. Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated) on policies and procedures governing the operation and development of the GSF (membership and functions of the committee is at Annex). One of the major duties of the Steering Committee is to make recommendation on the annual allocation of scholarship money taking into account the balance of the GSF and the need of the higher education sector in Hong Kong.

13. At its most recent meeting on 31 January 2018, the Steering Committee discussed the amount and number of scholarships under the GSF in the course of discussing the allocation of scholarship money for the 2018/19 academic year. The Committee considered that there was a need to increase the number and amount of the various scholarships/awards under the GSF so as to provide more incentive for post-secondary students to excel in their achievements in different areas.

14. The Education Bureau has considered the matter and agreed with the comments of the Steering Committee in general. While the exact allocation of scholarships/awards beyond 2018/19 academic years are subject to the investment income to be generated by the endowment and the Steering Committee's deliberation, our preliminary observations are set out below-

- (a) the number of post-secondary students with SEN in publicly-funded sub-degree or above programmes almost doubled from 398 in 2013/14 to 743 in 2016/17. We consider this group of students warrant more encouragement and recognition, and hence see a need to increase both the number and amount of the EMA;
- (b) while a number of scholarships are provided by universities and various organisations to students achieving academic excellence, we see a need for more scholarships to promote non-academic achievements; and

- (c) more effort may be made to attract outstanding non-local students to pursue undergraduate studies in Hong Kong, with a view to further consolidating Hong Kong's position as a regional education hub.

### **Way Forward**

15. Talent is the most important element in Hong Kong's continued development, and education is the key to nurture talent. The Education Bureau will further consider the Steering Committee's suggestion of increasing the number and amount of scholarships / awards granted to students in detail and inject additional funding into the GSF if needed.

16. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

**Education Bureau**  
**February 2018**

**HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund Steering Committee**

**Terms of Reference**

1. To advise the Trustee on the overall strategy in the custody and use of the Fund;
2. To advise the Trustee on the oversight of the ongoing operation of the Fund, including the scope and parameters of administering awards under the Fund and the disbursement of such awards; and
3. To review the effectiveness of the scheme, and make recommendations on the overall strategy in making use of the Fund as a vehicle to enhance the overall attractiveness of Hong Kong as a regional education hub.

**Membership (as at February 2018)**

**Name**

Chairman

Secretary for Education or representative

Members

Mr. KWOK Kwok-chuen, BBS, JP

Mrs Katherine NGAN NG Yu-ying, JP

Professor Danny WONG Shek-nam

Ms Irene YAU Oi-yuen

Professor Reggie KWAN Ching-ping

Miss Elaine MA Kwai-yee