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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Innovation and Technology
Session No. : 15
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CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1373)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                          (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The estimate for 2021-22 is $182.5 million higher than that for 2020-21, representing a 58.1% increase over the previous financial year.   According to the analysis provided on page 431 [of the Chinese version of the Estimates], the provision is needed for the cash flow requirement for the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund). The Chief Executive announced in the 2020 Policy Address that $500 million would be injected into the SIE Fund.   Why does the Innovation and Technology Bureau still need to earmark expenditure in 2021-22 for the Fund's cash flow requirement?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

It is set out in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address Supplement that an injection of $500 million to the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) will be made in 2021-22.   To follow up, we propose to create a new commitment of $500 million in 2021-22.   The injection of $500 million is expected to enable the SIE Fund to continue its operation until 2025-26, and the actual funding requirement in terms of commitment in 2021-22 is estimated to be about $180 million, as reflected in the estimated provision under Programme (3).

The Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting was consulted in January 2021 and supported the proposed funding injection to the SIE Fund.

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Reply Serial No.

ITB002

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0010)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
(Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Please list the estimated expenditure on the emoluments and allowances for the Secretary for Innovation and Technology (S for IT), the Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology and the Political Assistant to S for IT in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

In the Estimates of Expenditure for 2021-22, the emolument provisions earmarked for S for IT, the Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology and the Political Assistant to S for IT are $4.07 million, $2.72 million and $1.04 million respectively.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2866)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                         (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Please provide a list of the destinations, dates and number of duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary last year and the actual expenditures incurred.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 255)

Reply:

Details of the 5 duty visits made by the Secretary for Innovation and Technology in 2020-21 (as at end of February 2021) are as follows:

Date	Destination	Expenditure (HK$)
26 August 2020	Shenzhen	–
12-14 October 2020	Shenzhen	About $2,100
3-7 November 2020	Beijing, Guangzhou and Shenzhen	About $31,500
9-10 November 2020	Macao	About $4,500
22 December 2020	Shenzhen	About $2,300

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1691)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                         (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Over the past 3 years, the innovation and technology enterprises in the Science Park and Cyberport have attracted over $41 billion of investment.   Besides, some 600 start-ups are being incubated by the Science Park and Cyberport on top of the nearly 1 300 start-ups already graduated from the programmes.   Hong Kong, however, suffered from the impact of social incidents and the novel coronavirus disease in the past 2 years.   What were the vacancy rates of the Science Park and Cyberport since 2019, the situation of start-ups closing down their business and the figures in this regard?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

In the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years (as at the end of February 2021), the occupancy rates of the Hong Kong Science Park were about 86% and 87% respectively.   The number of enterprises applying for admission has not come down.   In the 2020-21 financial year (as at the end of February 2021), the survival rate of the Science Park's start-ups in 3 years after graduating from the incubation programmes was 80%, which was slightly higher than the 78% survival rate in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years.

The occupancy rates in 2019-20 and 2020-21 (as at the end of February 2021) approximated 94% and 92% respectively.   In 2020-21 (as at the end of February 2021), the survival rate of the start-ups in 3 years after graduating from the Cyberport Incubation Programme was about 71%, similar to that of the past few years.

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CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3258)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                         (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 95 of the Budget Speech that the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme launched early this year also provides around 700 innovation and technology (I&T) places.   Please set out the job titles, salaries and duties for each type of these I&T posts.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

The Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme aims at encouraging and supporting young people to seize the opportunities for career advancement in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and understand the latest developments of Hong Kong and GBA Mainland cities.   Since its launch on 8 January 2021, the scheme has seen a positive response.   As at the end of March 2021, the Government has received a total of 1 028 innovation and technology (I&T) posts from 181 enterprises.   According to the information submitted by the enterprises, the salaries of the I&T posts range from $18,000 to $68,000, subject to the arrangements and job requirements of individual enterprises.   The posts can be broadly categorised into 7 types with examples as follows:

(i)   **Research and Development (R&D):** innovative product R&D personnel, digital transformation research assistants, material development researchers, etc.;
(ii) **Data Analysis:** data engineers, data science research assistants, etc.;
(iii) **System Development:** web developers, software engineers, programmers, Java development engineers, mobile application developers, etc.;
(iv) **Digital Marketing:** personnel in marketing platform operation and mobile payment operation, etc.;
(v)   **Engineering:** engineers in mechanics, electronics, testing, railway system and automatic production, etc.;

(vi) **Information Security:** information technology consultants, security researchers, network security and backend developers, etc.; and

(vii) **Others:** intellectual property layout project assistants, knowledge transfer assistant managers, etc.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1053)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                    (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

What is the Administration's specific plan for the promotion of using innovative and technological products?   For instance, how many government buildings will install "kNOw Touch" contactless lift control panel in the short term?   What will be the expenditure involved?   What will be the staff establishment involved?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)
Reply:

The Government strives to foster and promote the realisation and commercialisation of research and development (R&D) outcomes.   Government departments have been encouraged to adopt innovation and technology (I&T) projects and solutions through various schemes, with a view to enhancing operational efficiency and improving public services.

To promote the application of local R&D outcomes by government departments and public organisations and to facilitate the realisation and commercialisation of such products and services, the Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS) under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) provides additional funding to completed ITF projects and technology enterprises for the production of prototypes/samples and conduct of trials in the public sector.   To tackle the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government launched a special call for projects under the PSTS between March and April 2020 to support the application of technologies for the prevention and control of the epidemic in Hong Kong.   As at end-January 2021, the PSTS has supported a total of 344 projects, involving a funding of about $646 million with more than 170 organisations participating in over 480 trials.

In addition, the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) rolled out the TechConnect (block vote) in mid-2017 to support government departments in implementing technology projects, with a view to enhancing operational efficiency and improving public services through the

application of technologies. As at early March 2021, the scheme has supported 93 technology projects proposed by 31 departments/offices, with a total funding of over $470 million.

Apart from providing financial support, the Government encourages departments, through various schemes, to enhance operational efficiency and improve public services by adopting I&T projects and solutions. Established by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) in April 2019, the Smart Government Innovation Lab (Smart LAB) has so far matched 44 business needs of departments with solutions and arranged 56 thematic workshops for the relevant departments during the process. In collaboration with the relevant departments, the Smart LAB has also arranged proof-of-concept for 21 solutions with potential. Over 90 business needs of government departments have been uploaded to the Smart Lab website, which have also received more than 320 information technology (IT) solutions provided by the industry. The OGCIO will continue to strengthen the exchange and collaboration between government departments and the industry to identify more suitable solutions for testing, so as to help departments expedite their adoption of IT solutions and create more business opportunities for local start-ups and small and medium enterprises.

Meanwhile, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) launched the online platform E&M InnoPortal in mid-2018, which maintains a list of the technology development needs of various government departments, public organisations and the electrical and mechanical (E&M) trades. Start-ups and academic institutions can publish E&M-related I&T proposals on the platform for matching. The EMSD will provide trial venues for suitable projects, take forward trial and pilot projects and share the validated performance reports of trial cases on the platform with the public, so as to jointly facilitate and promote I&T development and application. The E&M InnoPortal has so far gathered about 330 I&T wishes and around 730 I&T solutions. There are also more than 110 I&T projects in various trial stages, with about 30 of them have their trials completed.

Allowing over-the-air activation of elevators, the "kNOw Touch" contactless panels ("kNOw Touch") lessen the risk of virus transmission. The technology behind is developed by the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), while the production of prototypes is supported by the abovementioned PSTS with a funding of about $1.94 million. Organisations participating in the trial of the "kNOw Touch" system include the EMSD and the Airport Authority Hong Kong, covering buildings such as the West Wing of the Central Government Offices (CGO), Blocks 2 and 3 of the Housing Authority (HA) Headquarters and the Lung Cheung Office Block, the Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, the West Kowloon Health Centre, the Tai Po Hui Market Cooked Food Centre and the EMSD Headquarters. The trial run will end in June 2021. In addition to the trial buildings, the HKPC is working with elevator contractors and has installed the "kNOw Touch" system at around 50 locations such as private housing estates, commercial buildings and shopping centres, etc. Installation of the system at the Legislative Council Complex and the CGO has also been completed. Through the company authorised by the HKPC, the HA and the Hong Kong Housing Society also plan to install the system at about 200 elevators in a number of housing estates.

As part of its efforts to foster I&T development, the ITB is tasked to facilitate and promote the realisation and commercialisation of R&D outcomes. The ITB is taking forward the

work in collaboration with the departments under its purview using existing manpower and resources.   We do not have a breakdown of the expenditure involved in individual work item.

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CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1291)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                                   (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the "unicorns", will the Government inform this Committee of the following:
1.   the number and type of industry of start-ups currently in Hong Kong; and
2.   the type of industry, areas of expertise and valuation of 8 "unicorns", and their respective rankings among the "unicorns" worldwide?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

Since 2014, Invest Hong Kong has been conducting annual surveys on Hong Kong's start-ups, during which operators of major co-working spaces as well as incubation and acceleration programmes are interviewed to keep track of the growth in Hong Kong's start-up ecosystem.   According to the latest survey results, as at November 2020, there were a total of 3 360 start-ups operating at co-working spaces and incubator or accelerator locations, representing an increase of 6% from the previous year.   Hong Kong's appeal as a hub for entrepreneurship is evident in a wide range of sectors.   In 2020, most start-ups were engaged in Fintech, e-commerce / supply chain management / logistics technology, and professional or consultancy services, which accounted for 13.9%, 11.5% and 10.6% of the total number of start-ups respectively.

Hong Kong is currently home to 8 "unicorns", i.e. unlisted enterprises with a valuation of over US$1 billion.   Many of them have benefitted from the innovation and technology infrastructure of Hong Kong, our policy measures and subsidy schemes.   The business of these "unicorns" covers, among others, Fintech (such as international business payment services, virtual currency transaction platforms, e-wallets and credit services), artificial intelligence, logistics, tourism, etc.

We do not maintain records of the valuation and global rankings of the aforementioned "unicorns".

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CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1675)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                         (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) will continue to promote the adoption of innovation and technology by bureaux and departments through the Smart Government Innovation Lab and the TechConnect (block vote).   Will the ITB inform this Committee:

1. of the government departments to which it promoted the adoption of innovation and technology in the past year?   What were the innovation and technology and the expenditure involved respectively?

2. whether it will actively promote to other government departments, such as the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the Registration and Electoral Office, the electronisation of electoral procedures, thereby abolishing the outdated practices like the issuance of ballot papers by hand and keeping a record manually?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

The information requested is provided as follows:

1.   Government departments have been encouraged to adopt innovation and technology (I&T) projects and solutions through various schemes, with a view to enhancing operational efficiency and improving public services.

     By making use of the block allocation under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerisation, government bureaux/departments have been implementing various information technology (IT) projects to improve services and operational efficiency and enhance system security.   A number of these projects involve the

adoption of new technologies, such as the use of robotic technology to provide better service experience for the public, and the use of cloud computing to enhance functionality and efficiency of information systems.   In 2020-21, the provision for block allocation under Head 710 is about $1.24 billion.

In addition, the Innovation and Technology Bureau rolled out the TechConnect (block vote) in mid-2017 to support government departments in planning and implementing technology projects.   The scheme has provided funding support to 26 technology projects proposed by 21 departments in 2020-21, involving funding of around $100 million.

To promote the application of local research and development (R&D) outcomes by government departments and public organisations and to facilitate the realisation and commercialisation of such products and services, the Public Sector Trial Scheme under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) provides funding to R&D projects funded by the ITF, incubatees and graduate tenants of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and Cyberport as well as technology companies conducting R&D activities in Hong Kong for producing prototypes/samples from their R&D outcomes and conducting trials in the public sector (including government departments).   In 2020, the Scheme supported a total of 104 projects, involving funding of over $216 million with more than 80 public organisations participating in the trials.

Apart from providing financial support, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer established the Smart Government Innovation Lab (Smart Lab) in April 2019 to promote the wider adoption of I&T in government departments and invite industry players to assist government departments in introducing various IT solutions to improve public services.   Over the past year, the Smart Lab has matched 14 business needs nominated by departments with solutions and arranged 23 thematic workshops for these departments during the process, involving different technology areas such as Internet of Things, blockchain, data analytics, natural language processing, artificial intelligence and robotics technologies, etc..   In addition, the Smart Lab collaborated with relevant departments to arrange proof-of-concept testing for 8 solutions with potentials, covering different business needs of departments which include the use of robotics technologies and data analytics to help departments better utilise their manpower, expedite their work processes and reduce processing time, etc.. The expenditure of the Smart Lab in 2020-21 was $4.9 million.

Meanwhile, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) launched the online platform E&M InnoPortal in mid-2018, which maintains a list of the technology development needs of various government departments, public organisations and the electrical and mechanical (E&M) trades.   Start-ups and academic institutions can publish E&M-related I&T proposals on the platform for matching.   The EMSD will provide trial venues for suitable projects, take forward trial and pilot projects and share the validated performance reports of trial cases on the platform with the public.   In 2020-21, the E&M InnoPortal has gathered about 100 I&T wishes and around 280 I&T solutions.   There are also more than 110 I&T projects in various trial stages, with about 25 of them have their trials completed.

2.   Government departments are electronising their services progressively.   For example, unless there are legal or operational constraints, all licence and service applications can be submitted electronically by mid-2022.   Besides, e-payment options (including the Faster Payment System) will be available for making payments in respect of most licences and services starting from mid-2022.

As regards electoral arrangements, the Government has been proactively studying arrangements to electronise the election processes throughout the years. Nevertheless, a proper balance must be struck among the need of using technologies, efficiency, security risks, privacy protection and public trust, etc. before introducing any specific arrangements and proposals.   The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) had consulted the Legislative Council on a number of proposals in the past and some of them are already in the development stage, including exploring the use of electronic poll registers in elections which will facilitate the verification of electors' identity.   The aim is to implement the relevant measure starting from the public elections to be held in 2021.   The CMAB will continue to proactively study with the Registration and Electoral Office on the introduction of different technologies to public elections in order to improve election flow and work efficiency.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1676)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
(Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) will continue to implement the TechConnect (block vote) to support technology projects of government departments to enhance operational efficiency and service quality. Please inform this Committee of:

1. the staff establishment involved and the total expenditure of the TechConnect (block vote) in 2020-21.

2. the total number of applied science and technology projects or studies proposed by government departments and supported by the ITB so far.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

The requested information is provided as follows:

1. To implement the TechConnect (block vote), the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) created 8 non-directorate time-limited posts in 2017-18. The revised estimates for the scheme in 2020-21 totalled about $9.74 million, covering expenditures on areas such as manpower and information system.

2. The ITB set up the TechConnect (block vote) in mid-2017 to support government departments in planning and implementing technology projects so as to enhance operational efficiency and improve public services through the adoption of technology. As at early March 2021, the scheme has supported 93 technology projects proposed by 31 departments, involving a total sum of more than $470 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1121)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                        (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Under this programme, one of the Matters Requiring Special Attention of the Innovation and Technology Bureau is to facilitate bureaux/departments to develop business-friendly measures to improve regulatory efficiency and transparency to further enhance the environment for doing business in Hong Kong. Please inform this Committee of the expenditure and effectiveness of the work in 2020-21; the specific plans of the work in 2021-22; the means to facilitate departments developing business-friendly measures; and the expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

The Business Facilitation Team under the Efficiency Office (EffO) is responsible for co-ordinating and overseeing the efforts of various departments in devising measures to improve licensing and regulatory services. It also provides secretarial support for the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) as well as its task forces and Business Liaison Groups.

On improving licensing services, relevant bureaux and departments initiated a total of 121 measures under the "Be the Smart Regulator" Programme in 2020-21. These measures included continuing the enhancement of electronic licensing services, extending the validity of business licences, allowing the wider use of third party certification on compliance with licensing requirements, streamlining the procedures and documents required for licence applications, proactively reviewing laws and regulations, etc., with a view to relieving the compliance burden of various industries.   Examples are as follows:

(i)   the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has provided end-to-end electronic services for licences/certificates on lifts and gas safety, allowing the trades concerned to handle licensing matters online anywhere and anytime; and

(ii)   the Fire Services Department has extended the validity of fire services certificates (FSC) for short-term events in theme parks and attractions involving temporary structure(s) to cover the whole event period, thereby obviating the trade's burden for monthly renewal of the FSC.

At the same time, the BFAC and its task forces have fostered the communication between the Government and the business sector on various major regulatory proposals and business facilitation matters.

The Government's business facilitation work has gained recognition worldwide.   In the past 5 years, Hong Kong has maintained top ranking positions in the World Bank's Doing Business Report and was ranked third globally in the Doing Business 2020 Report.

In the coming year, the EffO will continue to collaborate with government departments and the business sector in exploring ways to enhance the existing licensing regulatory regimes, develop business facilitation measures and assist departments in making good use of innovation and technologies, with a view to facilitating the various trades.   One of these efforts is to provide more electronic licensing services under the "Be the Smart Regulator" Programme.   The target of the Government is that by mid-2022, all licence applications can be submitted electronically unless there are legal or operational constraints .   Besides, e-payment options (including the Faster Payment System) will be available for making relevant payments in respect of most licences starting from mid-2022.   The EffO will take forward the work concerned using existing manpower and resources.

Currently, there are a total of 12 civil service posts and 3 non-civil service contract staff positions in the Business Facilitation Team, and their total emoluments in 2020-21 and estimated expenditure for 2021-22 are about $16 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3283)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

(Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned innovation and technology (I&T) development in the Budget Speech under the section of Stimulating the Economy – The Way Forward for Industries (paragraphs 63 to 68).   Please inform this Committee of the details of the work done by the HKSAR Government in promoting and facilitating the continued development of the local I&T industry to support the development of our country over the past year. What was the expenditure involved?   What was the effectiveness of the work?   What are the specific work plans for the new financial year 2021-22?   What is the estimated expenditure to be incurred?   Please explain with examples.

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

To promote sustained and diversified socio-economic development, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is committed to developing the local innovation and technology (I&T) industries, in order to drive the upgrading and transformation of our overall economic structure, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness and improving people's quality of life.   To boost I&T development along the 8 major areas set forth in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address, the Government implements a series of measures to enhance the local I&T ecosystem, and promotes I&T development in Hong Kong to tie in with international trend of technological developments and our country's initiatives, such as the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the GBA) into an international I&T hub.

The Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) is responsible for formulating holistic I&T policies and facilitating the continued development of the local I&T industries in terms of

infrastructure, technology, talent, funding and scientific research. Major work taken forward by the ITB and relevant departments in the past year is listed below:

1. In terms of infrastructure, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) is developing the Microelectronics Centre in Yuen Long Industrial Estate (IE) to attract companies that produce microelectronic products and related industries (such as advanced materials), and promote research and development (R&D) and technology applications in high value-added industries. The Microelectronics Centre is expected to be completed in 2023. The Data Technology Hub in Tseung Kwan O IE was completed in 2020, and the Advanced Manufacturing Centre is expected to be completed in 2022. The HKSTPC has started the leasing work for these two projects. Located in Tai Po IE, the Medical Accessory Resilience Supplies Centre is expected to be completed in 2021.

2. In terms of technology, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) has been dedicating efforts to facilitate enterprises to move towards high value-added production and gradually upgrade towards "Industry 4.0". The HKPC also assists traditional industries to upgrade technology, organises different types of training programmes and seminars to introduce new technologies and the latest scientific research results. In addition, the HKPC operates the InnoSpace and Digital@HKPC to promote re-industrialisation and assist the industry to move towards smart production.

3. In terms of talent, the Government launched the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme in 2021 to encourage and support young people to seize the opportunities to pursue their careers in the GBA. As at the end of March 2021, the HKSAR Government has received a total of 1 028 I&T posts from 181 enterprises. The STEM Internship Scheme launched in the summer of 2020 subsidises undergraduates and postgraduates taking Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics programmes in local universities to enroll in shortterm I&T-related internships. Under the scheme, an intern will receive a monthly allowance of $10,500. Over 1 600 students and 1 000 companies or organisations joined the scheme in 2020.

4. In terms of funding, the Midstream Research Programme, the Public Sector Trial Scheme and the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities under the Innovation and Technology Fund are all conducive to promoting commercialisation and industrialisation of R&D deliverables. Since 2019-20, the HKSAR Government has provided the funding for the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities and Technology Transfer Offices of dedicated universities on a recurrent basis with doubled funding ceilings and other enhancement measures. In addition, we launched the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme in 2020 to subsidise manufacturers to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong on a matching basis. So far, 9 applications are approved in principle.

5. In terms of scientific research, for the flagship project *InnoHK* research clusters, which are "*Health@InnoHK*" focusing on healthcare technologies and

"*AIR@InnoHK*" focusing on artificial intelligence and robotics technologies, the first batch of about 20 R&D centres has commenced operation progressively in the first quarter of 2021.

In the coming year, we will implement the Global STEM Professorship Scheme to strengthen support for local universities to attract world-renowned Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics scholars as well as their teams to work in Hong Kong, and will continue to monitor the implementation of various funding schemes, support programmes and relevant measures. Besides, the 5 R&D Centres established by the Government (i.e. the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre, the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute, the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, and the Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre) will also continue to engage in R&D work related to re-industrialisation and work closely with the industry to drive the commercialisation of R&D outcomes.

As regards our role in supporting national development, our country promulgated in March 2021 the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 (the 14th Five-Year Plan), which set out, inter alia, its support for developing the GBA into an international I&T hub, Hong Kong's development as an international I&T hub and integrating Hong Kong into national development. The HKSAR Government will make every endeavour to complement the work relating to the 14th Five-Year Plan, so that Hong Kong can capitalise on its strengths to serve the country's needs and proactively participate in the domestic and international dual circulation.

In addition, the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan) promulgated in February 2019 set out the target of developing the GBA into an international I&T hub. While Hong Kong possesses strong R&D capabilities and advantages as an international and market-oriented economy, the GBA has a sizeable market as well as capabilities in commercialising R&D results and advanced manufacturing. With the ability of pooling innovation resources from the Mainland and across the globe and achieving synergistic development with other cities in the GBA with regard to their comparative strengths, Hong Kong can build up a comprehensive industry chain for commercialising R&D results. Since the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan, the HKSAR Government has been making efforts to facilitate the work of developing an international I&T hub in the GBA, with remarkable progress made in areas such as allowing cross-boundary remittance of R&D funding directly from the Mainland to Hong Kong, relaxing the limitation on exporting Mainland human genetic resources to Hong Kong, and launching the Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme.

The HKSAR Government will continue to take forward a series of initiatives, which include facilitating the flow of elements of scientific research and providing technological supporting infrastructure, including the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) at the Lok Ma Chau Loop in full swing, and enhancing co-operation with the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone (SITZ) in jointly developing the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone, with a view to establishing "one zone, two parks". Furthermore, the HKSAR

Government and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government have also agreed to allow the HKSTPC to lease and manage certain areas of the Innovation and Technology Zone in Futian, Shenzhen, so that institutes and enterprises which are interested in starting their business in the GBA can establish a presence in the SITZ before the completion of the first batch of buildings in HSITP.

The current-term Government has spared no effort in promoting I&T development, and has committed over $100 billion.   The ITB will take forward the said work in collaboration with relevant departments, using its existing manpower and resources.   For details, please see the Estimates of "Head 135 — Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Bureau".

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1537)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                            (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is stated in the proposal for the "14th Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China" that the Central Government will "support the Special Administrative Region in reinforcing and enhancing its competitive advantages, and development into an international innovation and technology hub".   At present, Hong Kong should seize the major historical opportunities brought by the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, leverage its own advantages with innovative thinking, and contribute to the national development in the coming 5 years.   Under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems", we should continue to maintain close communication with the Mainland, seize the new opportunities brought by the 14th Five-Year Plan so as to reinforce and enhance our competitive advantages in technological and financial areas, with a view to leveraging our strengths.   In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The current high cost of innovation and starting a business in Hong Kong has created a "crowding out" effect on professionals, especially young talent, engaging in technological and innovative activities.   Will the Government consider supporting and assisting local young people in actively participating in major national technological projects in the future so as to enhance the influence of our advantages in practical research and development?   If yes, what are the details?   If no, what are the reasons?

2. Will the Government consider deploying more resources and enhancing project implementation to speed up the construction of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park so as to develop a "Shenzhen-Hong Kong Silicon Valley" and pioneer the matching of the world's leading innovative resources and networks with the Greater Bay Area?   If yes, what are the details?   If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

<u>Reply</u>:

The Central Government promulgated the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 (the 14th Five-Year Plan) in March this year.   The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will endeavour to facilitate the work related to the 14th Five-Year Plan, leveraging on Hong Kong's strengths to serve the needs of the country, and development into an international innovation and technology (I&T) hub.   The replies to questions 1 and 2 are respectively as follows:

1.   Talent is the key to I&T development.   The development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) brings enormous career development opportunities for Hong Kong young people.   The HKSAR Government just launched the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme in January this year.   It provides a total of 2 000 places.   The scheme aims to encourage Hong Kong young people to have a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of our country, as well as explore wider platform for realising their dreams.   On pooling together global research and development (R&D) talent, the HKSAR Government will launch the Global STEM Professorship Scheme in the first half of this year to support local universities in attracting world-renowned I&T scholars and their teams to teach in Hong Kong and participate in teaching and research activities, which will involve an estimated expenditure of $2 billion.   The HKSAR Government had consulted and obtained support from the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Commerce and Industry in January this year.   Nominations from universities are expected to be received by the first half of this year.

In addition, since 2019, the National Natural Science Foundation of China's Excellent Young Scientist Scheme has been open for applications from young Hong Kong and Macao scholars.   So far, a total of 42 scholars from 6 universities in Hong Kong have been selected.   Meanwhile, some Young Scientist Scheme projects approved under the National Key R&D Programme involved Hong Kong R&D units.   Through these projects, Hong Kong's young technology talent can take part in our country's major technological missions and contribute to our country's technological development.

Through their incubation programmes, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) and Cyberport have been providing a range of support to technology start-ups, including support on tapping the Mainland and overseas markets. The focus of work of the HKSTPC in recent years includes helping young technology entrepreneurs in the inception stage of their businesses to formulate marketing plans for promotion overseas and in the GBA.   Cyberport also launched the Overseas/Mainland Market Development Support Scheme in 2018 to provide financial subsidies to assist start-ups in tapping the Mainland and overseas markets.   Both the HKSTPC and Cyberport will continue to assist start-ups and young technology entrepreneurs in tapping the Mainland market, especially the GBA market.

2.   The HKSAR Government is taking forward in full swing the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) located in the Lok Ma Chau Loop.   It will bring together the world's top-tier enterprises, R&D institutions and higher education institutions in establishing a key base for R&D co-operation.

Upon its full development, the HSITP will provide a gross floor area of 1.2 million square metres and become Hong Kong's largest-ever I&T platform. With the vision becoming a world-class knowledge hub and I&T centre, the HSITP will focus on the development of 6 technological areas, namely healthcare technologies, big data and artificial intelligence, robotics, new material, microelectronics, and financial technology.

In early January this year, we obtained funding approval from the Legislative Council (LegCo) for the Main Works Package 1 to commence the site formation (around 80 hectares of land) and infrastructure works (such as road work, water supply system and drainage system), as well as to build the Fire Station and Ambulance Depot with Departmental Accommodations. In early February this year, we also obtained funding approval from the LegCo to commence the Batch 1 Development of the HSITP. Currently, the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park Limited (HSITPL) is pressing ahead at full steam with the relevant works project, including the detailed design which will commence this year; and will commence the construction works in the first quarter of 2022. The HSITPL will speed up the progress of the works through methods such as modular integrated construction, with a view to completing the 8 buildings in Batch 1 in phases from 2024 (i.e. within 36 months upon the commencement of the works) to 2027.

The HSITP provides a key impetus to the HKSAR Government's development in building an international I&T hub in the GBA. The Chief Executive announced in the 2020 Policy Address that the Hong Kong and Shenzhen governments are jointly developing the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone (the Co-operation Zone), which comprises the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone (SZ I&T Zone) and the HSITP, with a view to establishing "one zone, two parks". Adjacent to the SZ I&T Zone, the HSITP is strategically located and well poised to combine Hong Kong's solid R&D strengths and Shenzhen's strong capability in advanced manufacturing to create a value-adding chain that covers the upstream, midstream and downstream processes, thereby leveraging the synergy between the two sides. Furthermore, the governments of the two cities have agreed that before the completion of the first batch of buildings in the HSITP, the HKSTPC will lease and manage certain areas of the SZ I&T Zone, so that institutions and enterprises that are interested in starting their businesses in the GBA can first establish a presence in SZ I&T Zone. Meanwhile, to attract more talent and enterprises to develop in the Co-operation Zone, the governments of the two cities are studying the formulation of joint policy for the HSITP and SZ I&T Zone and exploring the introduction of facilitation and supportive measures in aspects such as R&D resources, capital and people flow. Both sides will also join hands in promoting their advantages in I&T externally, with a view to attracting talent and enterprises from the Mainland and overseas to the Co-operation Zone.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

ITB013

(Question Serial No. 0409)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                                (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Innovation and Technology Bureau will launch a Global STEM Professorship Scheme in 2021-22 to attract world-renowned STEM scholars and their teams to work in Hong Kong, involving an expenditure of $2 billion.   Will the Government inform this Committee:

- of the details of the scheme (including the recruitment criteria, specific arrangements for allocation of funding, estimated number of persons to be recruited and mode of operation, etc.);
- whether performance indicators have been drawn up for the scheme to examine if the spending could achieve the intended objectives.   If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons; and
- of the current progress of the scheme?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

Following the rapid development of innovation and technology (I&T) in recent years and the consistently enhanced atmosphere in Hong Kong, the Government will launch a Global STEM Professorship Scheme to strengthen support for the University Grants Committee-funded universities to attract world-renowned STEM (i.e. science, technology, engineering and mathematics) scholars and their teams to work in Hong Kong and conduct STEM-related research, thereby enabling local universities to scale new heights in I&T teaching and research.   The scheme will also facilitate the commercialisation and application of universities' research results and encourage technology and knowledge transfer so as to serve the community.

The scheme will involve an expenditure of about $2 billion, which will be borne by the Government, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (the Trust) and the relevant universities.   The Education Bureau (EDB) will offer a non-recurrent subvention of $500 million and the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) will provide around $500 million under the Research Talent Hub of the Innovation and Technology Fund.   If needed, awarded scholars may receive additional funding from the Trust to cover the costs of setting up laboratories.   Other costs incurred by the scheme will be borne by the relevant universities.   The ITB, together with the EDB, are discussing the details with other stakeholders.

Subject to the nominations by universities and endorsement by the Assessment Panel, each overseas STEM-related scholar who relocates to Hong Kong for teaching and research work will receive a subsidy for up to 5 years, and 100 professorships will be awarded.   The scheme will also provide a subsidy for the recruitment of up to 4 research team members for a period of 3 years.

The ITB and the EDB are finalising the details of the scheme while drawing up key performance indicators to review its effectiveness.   We will brief the management of the universities on the scheme in due course.   The universities may submit nominations to the Assessment Panel within the first half of this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0412)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                        (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

In the 2021-22 Budget, about $497 million is earmarked for the Efficiency Office (EffO), representing an increase of 57.4% over the estimate of last year.   In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

● of the overall situation of the EffO (including the staffing and salaries, figures on staff recruitment and wastage, total actual spending and key performance indicators (KPIs), etc.) in each of the past three years;
● whether KPIs have been developed to review if the desired targets are met; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
● of the estimated number of staff to be recruited, the breakdown of expenditure and the KPIs for 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The estimated expenditure of the EffO for 2021-22 is about $497 million, around $180 million higher than the original estimate for 2020-21.   This is mainly due to the provision for the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) to support its continuous operation.   If this new item of provision is excluded, the estimated expenditure of the EffO for 2021-22 is about $320 million, which is comparable to the original estimate of $316 million for last year.   The operational expenses and manpower situations of the EffO in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2018-19	**2019-20**	**2020-21**
Recurrent expenditure	$266 million	$284 million	$314 million (revised estimate)
Civil service establishment [1] (as at 31 March each year)	98	99	105 [2]
Staff recruitment (wastage) [3]	1 (7)	13 (7)	10 (6)

In 2021-22, the EffO will only conduct staff recruitment to fill vacancies arising from staff wastage having regard to actual operational needs.

On KPIs, the EffO runs the 1823 service to answer public enquiries for 23 government departments and receive complaints about any area of government services.   KPIs have been developed for 1823 in respect of the speed of answering calls, customer satisfaction rate and the percentage of callers that have their enquiries resolved at the first time of calling.   In 2020-21, the target percentage for calls that can be answered within 12 seconds is 80%, with the actual percentage being 62%; the target score for customer satisfaction is 4.0, with the actual score being 4.5; and the target percentage for callers that have their enquiries immediately resolved is 95%, with the actual percentage being 99%.   1823 will review its services regularly to see if the desired targets are met.

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[1]   The establishment includes officers on the Directorate Pay Scale, Master Pay Scale and Model Scale 1 Pay Scale.

[2]   The 6 posts created in 2020-21 are all time-limited posts for 5 to 6 years.

[3]   The Commissioner for Efficiency, being the Head of the Management Services Officer (MSO) grade, is responsible for overseeing the recruitment and grade management matters of the grade.   The figures represent the staff recruitment and wastage of the MSO grade respectively in the past 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2061)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

(Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the efforts to take forward the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) in the Lok Ma Chau Loop, will the Government advise the Committee of the following:

(a)   Please list by rank and job nature the relevant staff establishment in 2021-22.

(b)   Regarding the cooperation between the HSITP and the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone to realise the "one zone, two parks" concept, has the Government discussed with the authorities of Shenzhen and other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area the positioning of and the division of labour in the Lok Ma Chau Loop?   If so, what are the details and the latest progress; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

The consolidated reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question is as follows:

The Government obtained funding approval from the Legislative Council in early February this year to commence Batch 1 development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) in the Lok Ma Chau Loop (the Loop).   The Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park Limited is currently pressing ahead with the relevant works projects at full steam, including the detailed design which will commence this year; and will commence the construction works in the first quarter of 2022 with a view to completing the 8 buildings in Batch 1 in phases from 2024 (i.e. within 36 months from the commencement of works) to 2027.

Adjacent to the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone (SITZ), the geographical location of HSITP enjoys strategic advantages.   This will help combine Hong Kong's solid research and development (R&D) strengths and Shenzhen's strong capability in advanced manufacturing to create a value-adding chain that covers the upstream, midstream and downstream processes and leverage the complementary advantages of both sides.

Good progress has been made towards realising the "one zone, two parks" concept.   The governments on both sides have agreed that before the completion of the first batch of buildings in HSITP, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation will lease and manage certain areas of SITZ, so that institutes and enterprises that are interested in starting their business in the Greater Bay Area can first establish a presence in SITZ.   The governments on both sides are deliberating matters on the space and operational requirements in order to firm up the mode of operation and related financial arrangements as soon as possible.   Meanwhile, to attract more talent and enterprises to the Cooperation Zone, Governments on both sides are working out a package of joint policy for HSITP and SITZ and exploring to provide facilitation and supportive measures in the aspects of R&D resources, capital and people flow.   Both sides will also work together to carry out promotion to attract talent to the Cooperation Zone.

The Innovation and Technology Bureau is tasked to develop HSITP in the Loop and realise the "one zone, two parks" concept under Programme (2) Innovation and Technology.   The Bureau is taking forward the said work in collaboration with relevant departments using its existing manpower and resources.   We do not have a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0319)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                                    (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The current Government is to promote the development of innovation and technology (I&T) in 8 major areas, such as by increasing resources for research and development (R&D).   It has set a goal to increase the Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD) to about $45 billion a year, i.e. to raise the ratio of GERD to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 0.73% to 1.5%, by 2022.   In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1.   the ratio of the expenditure on government-funded R&D projects on I&T to GERD over the past 3 years;
2.   the ratio of GERD to GDP, with a breakdown by the public and private sectors, over the past 3 years;
3.   whether the Government has identified the crux of the problem if the target ratio was not achieved; if yes, the details of the problem; if no, the reasons; and
4.   how the Government assesses the effectiveness of its fundings on R&D projects on I&T in recent years, other than setting the aforesaid goal.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

Promoting research and development (R&D) is a crucial part of innovation and technology (I&T) development.   The current-term Government proactively promotes I&T development in the eight major areas proposed by the Chief Executive.   Various I&T policies and initiatives have been initiated smoothly with good progress made in recent years, notably enhancing the overall I&T ecosystem in Hong Kong.

According to the Report on Hong Kong Innovation Activities Statistics 2019 published by the Census and Statistics Department in December 2020, the Gross Domestic Expenditure

on R&D (GERD) of Hong Kong in 2019 amounted to $26.333 billion, representing an increase of 24% when compared to the corresponding figure in 2017.   The GERD as a ratio to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased from 0.8% in 2017 to 0.92% in 2019.   The details of GERD in the past 3 years are as follows:

Expenditure on R&D ($ million)	2017	2018	2019
GERD =(a)+(b)	21,280	24,478	26,333
GERD as a ratio to GDP	0.80%	0.86%	0.92%
(a) Business sector	9,412	10,992	11,616
Expenditure on R&D activities in the business sector as a ratio to GDP	0.35%	0.39%	0.41%
(b) Government and higher education sectors	11,868	13,486	14,716
Expenditure on R&D activities in the government and higher education sectors as a ratio to GDP	0.45%	0.48%	0.51%

The number of R&D personnel (in full-time equivalent) has increased by 9%, from 32 355 in 2017 to 35 416 in 2019.

The GERD figures in 2022 will be published in late 2023.   According to the trend in the past three years, the GERD as a ratio to GDP has been steadily rising.   Nevertheless, the Government will continue to promote R&D on various fronts.   For encouraging and supporting R&D, amendments were made to the Inland Revenue Ordinance in late 2018 to provide for enhanced tax reduction for qualifying R&D expenditure.   The total amount of R&D expenditure for which claims for tax deduction were made in the first year of assessment has more than doubled since the implementation of this measure.   70% of this amount enjoyed enhanced tax deduction.   Since permission was granted for the remittance of Mainland R&D funding to Hong Kong, the State Ministry of Science and Technology, Guangdong Provincial Government and Shenzhen Municipal Government in the past two years have approved over RMB 340 million for universities and research institutes in Hong Kong to conduct R&D or set up laboratories.   Under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) established in 1999 and administered by the Innovation and Technology Commission, there are currently 17 funding schemes, seven of which provide support for R&D.   It is also announced in this year's Budget that the Government will inject $4.75 billion per year to the ITF two years in a row to sustain its funding schemes as well as the work of over 50 R&D laboratories in the next three years.

In fact, there are excellent and outstanding scientific research talents in various local universities and institutions.   To foster technology transfer as well as realisation of R&D results, starting from 2019-2020, we increased the funding support for 16 State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong, six Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres, technology transfer offices of seven designated universities and the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities, and regularise these funding support.

The five R&D Centres funded by the Government also play an important role by acting as a focal point for technology collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors. The Government's flagship project, "*InnoHK* Research Clusters", comprises two world-class research clusters, namely *Health@InnoHK* on health technologies and *AIR@InnoHK* on artificial intelligence and robotics technologies. The first batch of about 20 R&D Centres will commence operation progressively in the first half of this year. This will further consolidate Hong Kong's position as a global research collaboration hub in the long run.

The Government will continue to improve the local I&T ecosystem. The Steering Committee on Innovation and Technology, established and chaired by the Chief Executive, monitors regularly the implementation of the respective measures. We expect the effect of these measures to be realised gradually in subsequent years, contributing to a further increase in the GERD.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0321)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                       (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned under this Programme that the financial provision for 2021-22 of the Efficiency Office is estimated to be $496.7 million, which is 57.4% and 58.1% higher than the original estimate and the revised estimate for 2020-21 respectively.   In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1.   the reason(s) for the increase in the estimate for 2021-22, and the key areas of work where the increased provision will be used for enhancement; and

2.   given that one of the matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 is to "further improve the service channels for 1823", and that the percentage of "calls that can be answered within 12 seconds" under the 1823 service not only failed to meet its target in both 2019 and 2020 but even dropped in 2020, the specific measures to be taken by the Government to improve the performance?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1.   The estimated expenditure of the Efficiency Office for 2021-22 is about $180 million higher than the original estimates for 2020-21.   This is mainly due to the provision for the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund to support its continuous operation.

2.   1823 could not meet the target of having 80% of calls answered within 12 seconds in 2019 and 2020.   This is mainly due to the continuous increase in call volume.   In 2020, 1823 additionally supported the hotlines relating to COVID-19, including the COVID-19 hotline for the Department of Health, the CuMask+™ hotline, the Universal Community Testing Programme hotline and the Return2hk Scheme hotline, etc., as well

as handling the Cash Payout Scheme hotline.   The total number of these calls were more than 700 000.   Moreover, due to the epidemic, 1823 also has to adjust the number of staff on duty to tie in with the Government's measures on special work arrangements for government employees to reduce the flow of people and social contact.   Thus, 1823 could not meet the target of having 80% of calls answered within 12 seconds.

In order to improve the service of 1823 and further enhance its service channels, 1823 will strengthen the chatbot service on its website in 2021-22, so that members of the public can make use of this self-help service to find the answers of frequently asked questions.   At present, with the mobile app Tell me@1823, members of the public can quickly send their requests to 1823 simply by making use of the voice recording, camera, location service and map function on their mobile phones.   1823 also plans to upgrade its app to include chatbot service, furnish reply through the app directly and provide tailor-made forms for common subject matters to facilitate members of the public in making enquiries and lodging complaints.   Apart from enhancing user experience, such measures can also expedite case processing so as to release more manpower to handle calls.   1823 will also continue to employ additional staff and enhance its business process and knowledge base to meet service demand.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

ITB018

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0578)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   (-)

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                              (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is stated in Programme (2) Innovation and Technology that in 2020-21, the Innovation and Technology Bureau kick started discussion with Shenzhen Municipal People's Government on joint policy for the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone (Co-operation Zone), which comprises the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) and the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone (SITZ) and the idea to use certain existing areas of the SITZ before the completion of the first batch of buildings in HSITP, with a view to realising the "one zone, two parks" concept.   In addition, as proposed in paragraph 54 of the 2020 Policy Address, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) may lease and manage certain areas of the Innovation and Technology Zone in Futian, Shenzhen, so that institutes and enterprises which are interested in starting their business in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area can establish a presence in the SITZ.   In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1.   the progress of the discussion and the estimated expenditure to be incurred by the Hong Kong side for leasing the areas of SITZ; and details of the provision earmarked, if any, in the 2021-22 Budget for this purpose;

2.   the details of the proposed lease of the areas of SITZ, including the commencement date, lease period, total area, payments and other related expenses; and

3.   when institutes and enterprises can start to rent the areas of SITZ leased and managed by the HKSTPC.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

A consolidated reply to parts 1 to 3 of the question is as follows:

Regarding leasing and managing certain areas of the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone (SITZ) by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), the governments on both sides are deliberating matters on the space and operational requirements (e.g. technical requirements) and so forth in order to firm up the mode of operation and related financial arrangements (including the actual lease location, lease period, area and rental rates) as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, to attract more talent and enterprises to develop in the Co-operation Zone, the governments on both sides will, through the established mechanism, continue to study the formulation of joint policy for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park and SITZ and explore to provide facilitation and supportive measures in the aspects of research and development resources, capital and people flow.   The two governments will also join hands in promoting the advantages of both sides in innovation and technology with a view to attracting talent and enterprises for the Co-operation Zone from the Mainland and overseas.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1268)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                         (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Efficiency Office is tasked with co-ordinating the Government's efforts on business facilitation and improving licensing services.   Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 include facilitating bureaux/departments to develop business-friendly measures to improve regulatory efficiency and transparency to further enhance the environment for doing business in Hong Kong.

According to the World Bank's report Doing Business 2020, Hong Kong went from the fourth to the third place in the world for ease of doing business.   The World Bank commended Hong Kong for the successful implementation of reform initiatives to improve the ease of doing business.   Yet the relevant statistics were collected up to May 2019 and did not take account of the impact caused by violent riots.   Doing Business 2021 was not yet published as at 3 March 2021.

Please inform this Committee:

(1)   of details about the manpower and expenditure involved in business-friendly measures in 2021-22;
(2)   of other business-friendly measures to be rolled out in 2021-22, in addition to the Distance Business Programme, e-Government and waiver of business registration fee mentioned in the Budget Speech;
(3)   of measures the Efficiency Office implemented in 2020-21 to improve on 4 of the 10 areas that Hong Kong scored lower in the World Bank's report Doing Business 2020, namely registering property, getting credit, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency, as well as the results achieved; and whether new enhancement measures are introduced in 2021-22.   If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

(1) The Business Facilitation Team under the Efficiency Office (EffO) is responsible for co-ordinating and overseeing the efforts of various departments in devising measures to improve licensing and regulatory services.   It also provides secretarial support for the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) as well as its Task Forces and Business Liaison Groups.   Currently, there are a total of 12 civil service posts and 3 non-civil service contract staff positions in the Business Facilitation Team and their estimated expenditure on emoluments in 2021-22 is about $16 million.

(2) Apart from making use of information technology to provide more electronic licensing services, the EffO will continue to drive the 29 participating policy bureaux and departments in implementing new business facilitation measures under the "Be the Smart Regulator" Programme in 2021-22.   These measures include proactively reviewing laws and regulations, streamlining procedures and documents required for licence applications, enhancing co-ordination among departments, and allowing the wider use of third party certification on compliance with licensing requirements. They aim at continuously enhancing the efficiency, transparency and business-friendliness of licensing regimes with a view to reducing compliance costs and removing red tapes for various industries.   The EffO is formulating ideas of business facilitation measures for 2021-22 for reference by policy bureaux and departments, and will invite them to prepare annual action plans to bring continuous enhancement to their licensing services.

At the same time, the BFAC and its task forces will continue to foster communication between relevant government departments and the business sector on various major regulatory proposals and business facilitation matters.

(3) The EffO is responsible for co-ordinating government efforts in relation to the World Bank's Doing Business Report.   After consulting relevant policy bureaux and the Judiciary on their measures implemented and the results achieved in 2020-21 as well as the improvement measures to be introduced in 2021-22 for the four indicators, namely Registering Property, Getting Credit, Resolving Insolvency and Enforcing Contracts, our consolidated reply to the question is as follows:

Registering Property

On Registering Property, the World Bank conducts overall assessment on the ease of registering property and the quality of land administration among economies worldwide.   According to the Doing Business 2020 Report, registering a property in Hong Kong takes 27.5 days, of which the time taken for completing the procedures by the public agencies is only one day.   The remaining time is attributable to the conveyancing procedures taken by solicitors in private practice.

The Government will continue to explore ways to improve the property registration mechanism and work to transform the present deeds registration system to a title registration system, which is adopted in other comparable common law jurisdictions.

The Chief Executive proposed in the 2020 Policy Address that the rates of Ad Valorem Stamp Duty imposed on any instrument of non-residential property be reverted from the rates under Part 2 of Scale 1 to the rates under Scale 2 with effect from 26 November 2020. The proposal could lower the cost for sale and purchase of non-residential properties in Hong Kong with a view to providing liquidity to businesses during the economic downturn.

In addition, as part of its on-going efforts to improve service quality and efficiency, the Land Registry (LR) has put in place a number of measures to facilitate land searches of properties, lodging of documents for registration and monitoring if any instruments are lodged for registration against the properties concerned, etc. In 2020-21, the LR upgraded the technical infrastructure of the Land Search System. The upgrade has enhanced the capacity, scalability and security of the system to further improve the online land search services. The LR has also increased the file capacity for online delivery of ordered land documents and accepted mobile payments.

To further facilitate public inspection of original land grant documents and plans, the LR will launch an electronic booking service in 2021-22 so that members of the public may make appointments online for inspections of such documents and plans. Moreover, for customers who order land documents online and choose to collect them at the Search Offices, electronic receipts will be provided so that customers may simply present the electronic receipts for collection at counters.

Getting Credit

On Getting Credit, the score of Hong Kong in the Doing Business 2020 Report is the same as that in the past few years. The Companies Registry has established an electronic platform for filing and searching of documents relating to the creation of security interests by companies and any changes thereto to facilitate public search. Through the e-Registry portal, users can submit specified forms and documents for charge/discharge by electronic means round the clock. Certificate of registration in electronic form will also be issued upon registration of a charge. The Government will continue to keep in view the World Bank's assessment and take follow-up actions wherever necessary to improve our business environment.

Resolving Insolvency

On Resolving Insolvency, the Government strives to ensure that Hong Kong has comprehensive corporate insolvency law and that the related services are of high quality, with the objective of facilitating its development as a global business hub. In recent years, we have completed a legislative exercise to improve the corporate insolvency legislation having regard to the developments in comparable jurisdictions.

Recent developments and enhancement by adoption of e-submission for certain insolvency services have been rolled out by the Official Receiver's Office (ORO) to enhance efficiency and ORO has recently introduced a system to allow electronic payment of dividends to creditors such as banks and financial institutions.

The Government has also been in close liaison with insolvency professionals and other stakeholders to review proposals that aim to further enhance the corporate insolvency regime.

Enforcing Contracts

The "Enforcing Contracts" indicator measures the time and cost involved in resolving a commercial dispute and the quality of judicial processes.

To enhance the efficiency of judicial administration, the Judiciary has been improving the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of court operations and services through different measures. Apart from appropriate increase of judicial manpower and enhancement of court facilities to cope with the increasing number of cases, the Judiciary has been carrying out reform of judicial procedures continuously as appropriate, including the Civil Justice Reform and the comprehensive Review of Family Procedure Rules, etc.

Moreover, the Judiciary is committed to promoting the use of alternative dispute resolution services in civil proceedings, with a view to lowering the cost of settling disputes through litigations. On 2 January 2021, the Judiciary implemented a Case Settlement Conference pilot scheme in the District Court. The purpose of the pilot scheme is to foster among litigants and their legal representatives a culture of exploring settlement and further encourage the use of alternative dispute resolution in civil litigation. A guidance note and a supplemental note on the pilot scheme were issued in December 2020.

In recent years, the major reform plans of the Judiciary have been aimed at proactively introducing measures making use of technology application to enhance judicial efficiency. The plans mainly include the projects on digitalisation of court proceedings and the promotion of remote hearings.

Regarding the digitalisation of court proceedings, the Judiciary has been implementing by phases an Information Technology Strategy Plan under which electronic services of various types will be introduced for litigants, or their legal representatives as appropriate, as an additional option to the existing channels on a voluntary basis. In this connection, the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) Bill was passed by the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 17 July 2020. This new Ordinance provides for the use of electronic technology in relation to court proceedings and other court-related purposes, and for court users to handle court-related documents through an electronic mode. It will improve access to justice for users and litigants in Hong Kong court proceedings. Following the legislative process of the relevant subsidiary legislation expected to be completed in 2021, the Judiciary intends to implement electronic filing services for civil proceedings in the District Court in phases from end-2021 onwards.

On remote hearings, the Judiciary has been making greater use of video-conferencing and teleconferencing facilities to conduct remote civil hearings in courts of all levels by phases since early April 2020. For the period from February 2020 to February 2021, 688 hearings were conducted through these means.

At present, remote hearings cannot generally be used for criminal matters because of legal impediments. The Judiciary is working on the necessary legislative amendments to allow the court to order remote hearings as it sees fit, having regard to all relevant circumstances, as well as the dual requirements of open justice and fairness. The Judiciary is consulting stakeholders on the legislative amendments concerned and both the operational and the technical arrangements on remote hearings for criminal proceedings. Taking into account stakeholders' views and the time required to finalise the legislative amendments, we plan to submit the legislative amendments to the LegCo for scrutiny in Q2 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0036)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                        (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Innovation and Technology Bureau is responsible for promoting the adoption of innovation and technology by bureaux/departments through the Smart Government Innovation Lab and the TechConnect (block vote) as well as monitoring the implementation of initiatives in the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0.   In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the resources and manpower expected to be deployed for promoting the implementation of the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 in 2021-22?   What are the priorities to be addressed?

2. The Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 was released on 10 December 2020, setting out more than 130 smart city initiatives, one of which is the development of the Electronic Submission Hub for processing building plans.   Given that the approval procedures for some works were affected due to the implementation of the work-from-home arrangements for civil servants amid the COVID-19 epidemic, will the Government make it a priority to speed up the adoption of electronic processing for works submission?   If yes, what are the details?   If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. The smart city initiatives set out in the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 (Blueprint 2.0) are taken forward and implemented by the relevant policy bureaux and departments (B/Ds) with their own resources and manpower in accordance with their respective priorities.   The Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) does not have the relevant information.

The ITB has set aside $8.71 million to continue to take forward the implementation of the Blueprint 2.0 with the 2 permanent posts and 4 5-year time-limited posts created in 2018-19. The work includes continuing to co-ordinate the smart city initiatives and provide technical support to B/Ds with a view to fully realising and implementing the vision of smart city development as proposed in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address.

2. According to information provided by the Development Bureau, the Buildings Department (BD) is spearheading the development of the Electronic Submission Hub (ESH) as a digital centralised portal for receiving and processing building plans and applications submitted under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123). The ESH will bring various benefits, including improving co-ordination among relevant government departments and organisations involved in the approval process, enhancing communication with applicants, encouraging greater and fuller use of the Building Information Modelling technology and facilitating departments to introduce computer programmes to streamline the approval process.

Since the development of the ESH involves complex coordination between the BD and the related government departments and organisations, it is necessary to implement the ESH by stages and roll out services in a gradual manner. The contract for setting up the ESH was awarded in May 2020. The BD would endeavour to launch the first stage of the ESH in the first quarter of 2022 and shall continue to maintain close liaison with relevant government departments, organisations and the building industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0550)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

(Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

On promoting the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) in the Lok Ma Chau Loop, the Innovation and Technology Bureau stated that it would, together with the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government, continue to work out a package of joint policy for the Cooperation Zone and the arrangements to use certain existing areas of the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone before the completion of the first batch of buildings in the HSITP, and thus lay the foundation for realising the "one zone, two parks" concept.   In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The resources and manpower to be deployed by the Government in this area in 2021-22, whether the current progress of discussion is in line with expectations, and the major obstacles which have yet to be resolved;

2. Has the Government formulated any specific measures and plans to attract renowned technology enterprises to set up offices in the HSITP so that the relevant arrangements can be implemented as soon as possible once a co-operation agreement is reached between Hong Kong and Shenzhen?   If yes, what are the details?   If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

The consolidated reply to questions 1 and 2 is as follows.

The Government obtained funding approval from the Legislative Council in February this year to take forward the Batch 1 Development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP).   The Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park

Limited (HSITPL) is pressing ahead with the relevant works projects at full steam with a view to completing the first batch of 8 buildings in phase between 2024 and 2027.

As the next step, the HSITPL will develop appropriate admission criteria and rental policy according to the vision of the HSITP and the 6 priority technology areas (i.e. healthcare technologies, big data and artificial intelligence, robotics, new material, microelectronics and financial technology) and with reference to the experience of innovation and technology (I&T) platforms around the world with a view to ensuring the international competitiveness of the HSITP.   For start-ups, the HSITPL will also take into account the relevant plans and experience of the Hong Kong Science Park and Cyberport so as to attract more start-ups to the Park and put in place appropriate incubation programmes.   On the other hand, the Government will introduce timely measures to attract I&T enterprises and talent and will continue to actively promote Hong Kong's advantages in a bid to attract I&T enterprises, universities and research and development (R&D) institutes around the world to establish their presence in Hong Kong.

Good progress has been made towards realising   "one zone, two parks".   The Hong Kong and Shenzhen governments have agreed to allow the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation to lease and manage certain areas of the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone (SITZ) so that institutes and enterprises which are interested in starting their business in the Greater Bay Area can establish a presence in the SITZ before the completion of the first batch of buildings in HSITP.   Currently, the governments of the two cities are discussing matters such as the space and operational requirement with a view to firming up the mode of operation and related financial arrangements as early as possible. Meanwhile, to attract more talent and enterprises to develop in the Cooperation Zone, the two governments are studying the formulation of joint policy for HSITP and SITZ and explore the provision of facilitation and supportive measures in the aspects of R&D resources, capital and people flow.   Both sides will also join hands in promotion with a view to attracting talent to the Cooperation Zone.

The development of the HSITP in the Lok Ma Chau Loop and realisation of the "one zone, two parks" concept are the work of the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) under Programme (2): Innovation and Technology.   ITB is taking forward the said work in collaboration with relevant departments using its existing manpower and resources.   We do not have a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0552)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
(Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Financial Secretary states in paragraph 94 of the Budget that the Government will launch a Global STEM Professorship Scheme in the first half of this year to support universities in attracting world-renowned I&T scholars and their teams to Hong Kong to participate in STEM teaching and research. The scheme will involve an expenditure of about $2 billion, which will be borne by the Government, the universities and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT). In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Has the Government set any quota of places and amount of commitment in 2021-22 for attracting such I&T scholars and teams to Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

2. Regarding the above mentioned commitment, what is the sharing ratio between the Government, the universities and the HKJCCT?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

Following the rapid development of innovation and technology (I&T) in recent years and the consistently enhanced atmosphere in Hong Kong, the Government will launch a Global STEM Professorship Scheme to strengthen support for the University Grants Committee-funded universities to attract world-renowned STEM (i.e. science, technology, engineering and mathematics) scholars and their teams to work in Hong Kong and conduct STEM-related research, thereby enabling local universities to scale new heights in I&T teaching and research. The scheme will also facilitate the commercialisation and application of universities' research results and encourage technology and knowledge transfer so as to serve the community.

The scheme will involve an expenditure of about $2 billion, which will be borne by the Government, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (the Trust) and the relevant universities.   The Education Bureau (EDB) will offer a non-recurrent subvention of $500 million and the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) will provide around $500 million under the Research Talent Hub of the Innovation and Technology Fund.   If needed, awarded scholars may receive additional funding from the Trust to cover the costs of setting up laboratories.   Other costs incurred by the scheme will be borne by the relevant universities.   The ITB, together with the EDB, are discussing the details with other stakeholders.

Subject to the nominations by universities and endorsement by the Assessment Panel, each overseas STEM-related scholar who relocates to Hong Kong for teaching and research work will receive a subsidy for up to 5 years, and 100 professorships will be awarded.   The scheme will also provide a subsidy for the recruitment of up to 4 research team members for a period of 3 years.   To ensure the early arrival of suitable talent in Hong Kong, there will not be a quota on the number of professorships to be awarded under the scheme each year.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3144)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                               (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Will the Bureau please provide the balance, government injection amount, investment or other income and total expenditure of the following funds in 2019-20?   If there are other funds within the purview of the Bureau not being listed below, please also provide information as per the items above.

1.   Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living
2.   Applied Research Fund
3.   Innovation and Technology Fund

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

1.   Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living (FBL)

The Government launched the $500 million FBL in 2017 to fund innovation and technology projects that bring more convenience, comfort and safety to daily living, or address the needs of specific community groups.   So far, the Assessment Panel has supported funding for 35 applications with a total grant of about $118 million.   The grant will be disbursed to applicants according to the progress of the projects.   The balance and total amount of expenditure of the FBL in 2019-20 were $460 million and $17.74 million respectively.   In the year, there was no Government injection and the FBL did not have investment or other income.

2. Applied Research Fund (ARF)

The ARF is a Government venture capital fund of $750 million set up in 1993. The Government reviewed the operation of the ARF and reported the relevant result to the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Commerce and Industry (the Panel) in 2005. With the consent of the Panel, we decided to gradually wind down the ARF and cease making new investments. The balance of the ARF in 2019-20 was $101 million. According to a re-assessment of the fair value of the financial assets held by the ARF conducted by an independent appraisal company, the ARF's investment or other net loss and total amount of expenditure were $25.11 million and $0.47 million respectively. There was no Government injection in the year.

3. Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF)

The Government established the $5 billion ITF in 1999 to fund projects that contribute to technology upgrading in manufacturing and services industries and promote innovation. The Controlling Officer is the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology.

The LegCo Finance Committee (FC) approved an additional injection of $5 billion into the ITF in February 2015, and two further injections of $2 billion each in June and July 2016 respectively to implement the "Midstream Research Programme for Universities" and the "Innovation and Technology Venture Fund". The above total of $9 billion was transferred into the ITF in 2016-17. In July 2018, the FC further approved an additional injection of $20 billion into the ITF, including $10 billion for supporting the continued operation of the existing ITF funding schemes and introducing various new initiatives, and another $10 billion for providing financial support to establish the *InnoHK* research clusters. The above total of $20 billion was transferred into the ITF in 2018-19. The balance, amount of government injection, investment or other incomes and total amount of expenditure of the ITF in 2019-20 are as follows:

Financial year	Balance ($ million)	Government injection ($ million)	Investment or other income ($ million)	Expenditure ($ million)
2019-20	24,833	-	778	1,884

In addition, the FC further approved an additional injection of $2 billion into the ITF to provide funds for the "Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme" in May 2020. The amount was transferred into the ITF in 2020-21.

As at the end of January 2021, a total commitment of $24.4 billion has been approved under the ITF. If excluding the eight projects allocated with dedicated provisions, namely the "Innovation and Technology Venture Fund Corporation", the "Midstream Research Programme for Universities (block vote)", the "Research centres/laboratories for establishment of research clusters", the "Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme" and four research centres, the uncommitted balance of the ITF is about $4.4 billion as at the end of January 2021.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

ITB024

(Question Serial No. 0181)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                          (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Under Programme (2), it is mentioned that the Innovation and Technology Bureau is responsible for the promotion of "re-industrialisation".   Will the Bureau formulate a comprehensive blueprint and a set of performance indicators for "re-industrialisation", so that the contribution of local industrial production to the GDP can reach a certain target level in 5 years?   If yes, what are details?   What are the manpower and expenditure involved?   If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 301)

Reply:

The Government has been actively promoting "re-industrialisation" in recent years to develop advanced manufacturing industries that are based on new technologies and smart production and do not require much land, so as to stimulate the demand for research and development (R&D), identify new growth points for Hong Kong's economic development, create quality jobs, and raise Hong Kong's competitiveness.   In addition, the Government has been fostering favourable conditions for "re-industrialisation" through the provision of infrastructural, technological, talent, financial and research support.   Below are some examples of the support in these five aspects.

In terms of infrastructure, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) is developing the Advanced Manufacturing Centre (AMC) in the Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate (IE), which is expected to be completed by 2022.   It is also developing the Microelectronics Centre in the Yuen Long IE, which is expected to be completed by 2023, to bring in enterprises that manufacture microelectronics products and engage in related industries such as advanced materials, thereby promoting R&D and technology adoption in the high value-added industries.   And the Data Technology Hub (DT Hub) in

the Tseung Kwan O IE was completed in 2020. The HKSTPC has started inviting proposals for leasing of the DT Hub and the AMC respectively.

In terms of technology, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) has been assisting enterprises in moving towards high value-added production and gradually upgrading to Industry 4.0. It also assists traditional industries in upgrading their technologies, and organises different types of training programmes and seminars to introduce new technologies and the latest scientific research results. The major efforts of the HKPC include running the Industry 4.0 Upgrade and Recognition Programme in collaboration with the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology (IPT) of Germany, and through the Invention Centre jointly established with the IPT, assisting the industry to accelerate the adoption of innovative industrial technologies, thereby promoting the development of smart industries and digital manufacturing. In addition, the HKPC runs the Inno Space and Digital@HKPC (Digital Transformation) to drive "re-industrialisation" and assist the industry in gradually moving towards smart production.

In terms of talent, we rolled out in August 2018 the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme (RTTP) to subsidise local enterprises on a matching basis to train their staff on high-end technologies, especially those relating to Industry 4.0. As at the end of January 2021, the RTTP has approved over 1 840 applications for training subsidies with a total funding of over $27 million, subsidising 3 530 staff of local enterprises to receive training in high-end technologies.

In terms of finance, we launched the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) last year to subsidise manufacturers, on a matching basis, to set up smart production lines in Hong Kong. Since its launch in end-July last year, the RFS has received 12 applications.

In terms of R&D, the 5 R&D Centres established by the Government (i.e. the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre, the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute, the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, and the Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre) will also continue to engage in R&D related to "reindustrialisation" and work closely with the industry to drive the commercialisation of R&D outcomes.

The Government and the relevant organisations will continue to release information about the progress and effectiveness of the above measures through different channels, such as annual reports of the organisations and briefing sessions for the relevant panels and subcommittees of the Legislative Council. Promoting "re-industrialisation" is part and parcel of the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB)'s overall work in promoting innovation and technology development. The ITB is taking forward the said work in collaboration with the Innovation and Technology Commission under its purview using existing manpower and resources. A breakdown of the expenditure involved for each work item is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1107)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Government set up the committee on innovation and technology (I&T) development and re-industrialisation 3 years ago to co-ordinate the I&T development and re-industrialisation of Hong Kong. To promote re-industrialisation in a more effective manner, will the Government formulate a forward-looking and comprehensive policy blueprint of re-industrialisation with the committee as soon as possible? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons? Will a dedicated department be tasked to implement and press ahead the policy issues of re-industrialisation? Will the Government expand the staff establishment and increase the operating expenses of the committee in the coming year? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 309)

Reply:

The Government has been actively promoting "re-industrialisation" in recent years to develop advanced manufacturing industries that are based on new technologies and smart production and do not require much land, so as to stimulate the demand for research and development (R&D), identify new growth points for Hong Kong's economic development, create quality jobs and raise Hong Kong's competitiveness. The Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) is responsible for the policy matters relating to "re-industrialisation", and has been fostering favourable conditions for "re-industrialisation" in terms of infrastructure, technology, talent, funding and scientific research with other relevant departments/organisations. Below are some examples in the five aspects mentioned above.

In respect of infrastructure, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) is developing the Advanced Manufacturing Centre (AMC) in the Tseung Kwan O (TKO) Industrial Estate (IE), which is expected to be completed in 2022. The Microelectronics Centre in the Yuen Long IE is also being developed by the HKSTPC to

accommodate enterprises engaged in the manufacturing of microelectronics products and relevant industries (e.g. advanced materials), with a view to encouraging the R&D and application of technology in high value-added industries, and it is expected to be completed in 2023. The construction of the Data Technology Hub (DT Hub) in the TKOIE was completed in 2020. The HKSTPC has started inviting proposals for leasing of the DT Hub and the AMC.

In respect of technology, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) has been assisting enterprises to move towards high value-added production and gradually upgrade to "Industry 4.0", helping traditional industries enhance their technological level, and organising different types of training programmes and seminars to introduce new technologies and the latest scientific research results. The major work includes co-operating with the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology of Germany (the Institute) to implement the Industry 4.0 Upgrade and Recognition Programme and, through the Invention Centre jointly set up by the HKPC and the Institute, accelerating the adoption of innovative industrial technologies by the industry to promote the development of smart industry and digital manufacturing. In addition, the HKPC's operation of the Inno Space and the Smart Manufacturing Centre Digital@HKPC also drive "re-industrialisation" and assist the industry in gradually moving towards smart production.

In respect of talent, we launched the Re-industrialisation and Technology Training Programme in August 2018 to subsidise local companies on a matching basis to train their staff in advanced technologies, especially those related to "Industry 4.0". As at the end of January 2021, the Programme has approved 1 840 applications for training grant, subsidising 3 530 staff of local enterprises to receive training in advanced technologies, with a total funding amount of more than $27 million.

In respect of funding, we launched the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme last year to provide subsidies on a matching basis to manufacturers for setting up new smart production lines in Hong Kong. Since its launch in late July last year, the Scheme has received 12 applications.

In respect of scientific research, the 5 R&D Centres established by the Government (i.e. the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre, the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute, the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, as well as the Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre) will continue to engage in R&D work related to "re-industrialisation" and co-operate closely with the industry to promote the commercialisation of R&D results.

The Government and relevant organisations will continue to disseminate information on the progress and effectiveness of related measures to the public through various channels, such as the annual reports of these organisations, and briefing sessions at relevant committees of the Legislative Council. The ITB will carry out the work with existing manpower and resources. We do not have a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0720)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                         (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that an inclusive "Gerontechnology Platform" will be developed and operated for fostering the development and application of gerontechnology in Hong Kong.   Will the Government please advise on the specific details of the plan, and the government departments and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)

Reply:

The Chief Executive has announced in the 2020 Policy Address Supplement that an inclusive "Gerontechnology Platform" (Platform) will be designed, developed and operated under the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) to link up different stakeholders on the supply and demand sides and enhance synergy by way of engagement, cross-sector partnership and collaboration with the goal of fostering the development and application of gerontechnology as a means to enhancing the well-being, quality of life, independence and self-reliance of the elderly as well as providing support to their families, caregivers, healthcare staff and institutions, particularly under the "new normal".

The SIE Fund has engaged an intermediary in end-2020 to design, develop and operate the Platform.   Being the second flagship project of the SIE Fund, the Platform will comprise four basic functionalities, namely (1) a knowledge hub; (2) network and capacity building; (3) consultancy, localisation and testing support for gerontechnology products; and (4) impact assessment.   The project has commenced in January 2021 and will last for three years.   The expenditure involved is about $49 million.

As the secretariat of the SIE Fund Task Force (Task Force), the Efficiency Office (EffO) will work with the Task Force to supervise and support the implementation of the project by the intermediary and closely monitor the progress of the project so as to ensure that all the

basic functionalities of the Platform will be rolled out on schedule within the three-year funding period to benefit stakeholders of different sectors and people from all walks of life.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0721)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                                (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

One of the key areas of work of the Efficiency Office (EffO) is to conduct organisation restructuring.   Will the Government please advise on the following:

1.   the effectiveness of the work over the past 3 years?   The respective government departments, manpower and expenditure involved?

2.   whether the scope of such studies will be extended in the next 3 years?   If so, what are the respective work plans and estimated expenditure?   If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)

Reply:

Having regard to the needs of bureaux/departments, the EffO will conduct studies on business process re-engineering, organisation restructuring, performance measurement, knowledge management, change management, etc.   The studies completed by the EffO for bureaux/departments in the past 3 years (2018 to 2020) are set out in the Annex.   The studies have recommended streamlining of business processes, enhancement of user experience and wider adoption of technology to improve public services and efficiency in operations.

In the next 3 years, the EffO will continue to provide consultancy services to meet the needs of bureaux/departments.   As providing consultancy services is one of the core areas of work of the EffO, we do not have a separate breakdown on the staff establishment and expenditure involved.

**Consultancy Studies Completed by the Efficiency Office
for Bureaux/Departments between 2018 and 2020**

	Bureau/ Department Involved	Project Name	Project Scope
1.	Buildings Department	Provision of Business Process Re-engineering Consultancy Service for the Implementation of an Electronic Submission Hub	Business process re-engineering
2.	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau	Consultancy Study to Deploy Design Thinking Approach in the Design of the Hong Kong Exhibition Area in the China International Import Expo	Design thinking
3.	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau	Study on Better Support to Small and Medium Enterprises	Design thinking
4.	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau	Business Process Re-engineering Study on Development of Trade Single Window in Hong Kong	Business process re-engineering
5.	Customs and Excise Department	Business Process Re-engineering Study on the Postal Clearance System	Business process re-engineering
6.	Development Bureau	Consultancy Study on Development Strategy of a Common Spatial Data Infrastructure	Strategy study
7.	Efficiency Office	Knowledge Management System	Application of information technology
8.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Procurement Review	Strategy study
9.	Labour Department	Study on Disbursement System for Implementing the Proposed Extension of Statutory Maternity Leave	Strategy study
10.	Lands Department	Helicopter Review of Information Technology Functions in Lands Department	Strategy study
11.	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Service Design Consultancy Study for the New Intelligent Sports and Recreation Services Booking and Information System	Design thinking

	Bureau/ Department Involved	Project Name	Project Scope
12.	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Government Human Resources Management Services	Application of information technology
13.	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	User Experience Design for Implementation of "iAM Smart" platform	Design thinking
14.	Transport Department	Business Process Re-engineering Study for Implementation of e-Services for Permit Application System	Business process re-engineering

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2026)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

                    (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that since permission was granted for the remittance of Mainland research and development (R&D) funding to Hong Kong, the State Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Guangdong Provincial Government and Shenzhen Municipal Government in the past 2 years have approved over RMB¥340 million for universities and research institutes in Hong Kong to conduct R&D or set up laboratories. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1.   the total number of projects approved;

2.   the duration, funding provider (MOST, Guangdong Provincial Government or Shenzhen Municipal Government), recipient (a university or research institute in Hong Kong), project details (R&D theme or name of laboratory involved) and amount of funding of each funded project by using the table below; and

Duration	Funding provider	Recipient	Project details	Amount of funding

3.   the number of approved projects related to biotechnology, artificial intelligence, financial technologies and robotics, as well as the amounts of funding provided.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 93)

Reply:

A consolidated reply to the various parts of the question is as follows:

The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has set out the target of developing the Greater Bay Area (GBA) into an international innovation and technology (I&T) hub, which includes supporting relevant institutes in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to proactively participate in national technological programmes, and allowing cross-boundary remittance of research and development (R&D) funding from the Mainland to Hong Kong, so that such funding can be used in Hong Kong. To this end, remarkable progress has been made on cross-boundary remittance of R&D funding directly from the Mainland to Hong Kong. So far, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province, the Guangzhou Municipal Science and Technology Bureau, and the Science, Technology and Innovation Commission of Shenzhen Municipality have approved funding of over RMB¥340 million to local universities and R&D institutions, involving about 140 R&D projects and 20 laboratories.

As the Mainland authorities concerned did not release the list of approved projects, no information about individual projects or relevant breakdowns could be provided.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2027)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                         (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following:

1.   What are the numbers of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff members employed by the Director of Bureau's Office and the relevant expenditures in the past 3 years?

2.   Are there any establishment and expenditure ceilings on the NCSC staff members employed by the Director of Bureau?   If yes, what are the relevant establishment and expenditure ceilings?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 95)
Reply:

1.   The numbers of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in the Office of the Secretary for Innovation and Technology over the past 3 years are as follows:

	Number
30 June 2018	1
30 June 2019	0
30 June 2020	1

The annual average salary expenses (including Mandatory Provident Fund contributions, annual leave pay and contract gratuities) for NCSC staff in the Office of the Secretary for Innovation and Technology over the past 3 financial years were around $510,000.

2. The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has set a ceiling on the number of NCSC staff employed by each bureau/department.   They are required to seek prior approval from the CSB for the employment of NCSC staff over and above the prescribed ceiling.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0131)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                                (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

By mid-2022, unless there are legal or operational constraints, all government forms and licence applications can be submitted electronically.   Besides, e-payment options (including the Faster Payment System) will be available for making payments in respect of most government bills and licences starting from mid-2022.   In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of whether it has estimated the savings that can be achieved through the adoption of e-submission and e-payment?   If yes, what are the details?   If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Efficiency Office (EffO) has been driving the provision of more electronic services by the 45 bureaux/departments (B/Ds) participating in the "Be the Smart Regulator" and the "Streamlining of Government Services" Programmes.   To expedite the implementation of electronic services, we will provide advice and support to the B/Ds.

Acceptance of e-submission and e-payment serves mainly as an additional option to traditional means, thereby making government services more business-friendly and convenient to the public.   Generally speaking, B/Ds will flexibly redeploy the savings achieved through implementation of electronic services to improve their existing services or to cope with new service demand.   EffO does not have the information about individual B/Ds' estimated savings in this regard.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0076)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

On supporting the Government in promoting innovation and technology to enhance public services and efficiency in operations, what technology project proposals/applications relating to architectural, surveying, planning and landscape projects were received by the Innovation and Technology Bureau in 2020-21?   What are the details of the technology project proposals, names of the departments, project titles, technologies to be adopted and expenditures?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

The Government has been promoting the use of innovation and technology (I&T) to enhance public services and efficiency in operations.   For instance, the TechConnect (block vote), the Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS), and the Smart Government Innovation Lab (Innovation Lab) under the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) have been set up to support government departments in planning and implementing technology projects.

In 2020-21 (as at early March 2021), the Innovation and Technology Bureau and its departments received 8 technology projects relating to architectural, surveying, planning and landscape works.   Details are as follows:

Department	Project title	Technologies adopted	Expected benefits	Source of funding	Estimated amount ($ million)
Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)	Crack/damage detection on concrete-based public infrastructure with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and artificial intelligence (AI) technology	UAV/AI	To strengthen the inspection of public infrastructure for public safety	TechConnect (block vote)	1.1
CEDD	Pilot application for Geographic Information System and Building Information Model (BIM) integration solution for civil engineering works	AI/Machine Learning/ Global Positioning System (GPS)/BIM	To enhance the accuracy and efficiency of civil engineering works	TechConnect (block vote)	2.4
Home Affairs Department	Use of AI technology for image conversion of old aerial photos and detection and identification of burial objects in permitted burial grounds (PBGs)	AI/Big Data/ Machine Learning	To improve the efficiency of managing PBGs and monitoring hillside burials	TechConnect (block vote)	6.5
Lands Department	Pilot study for using AI for 2-dimensional digital map updating from 3-dimensional digital map in Kowloon East	AI/Machine Learning/ Image Recognition	To upgrade 2-dimensional digital map in a cost-effective way	TechConnect (block vote)	4.3
Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)	Use of robotic mower for sports turf field at the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	GPS/ Robotics	To upgrade the quality of the turf field at the sports ground	TechConnect (block vote)	1.0

Department	Project title	Technologies adopted	Expected benefits	Source of funding	Estimated amount ($ million)
Architectural Services Department	Use of AI to set up a system armed with computer vision to inspect heritage buildings	AI/ Computer Vision	To enhance the efficiency and accuracy of inspecting heritage buildings	PSTS	0.96
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)	EMSD staff who are deployed to work in remote areas are required to bring along a Racefit sensor and a smartphone to record their locations and activities in real time	Racefit technology (real-time motion sensing)	To ensure the safety of the staff and the site	PSTS	0.98
LCSD	Use of Internet of Things (IoT) to record the inspection results of facilities in parks and playgrounds and track their maintenance status in real time	IoT	To enhance the efficiency of on-site inspection and maintenance	The Innovation Lab under OGCIO facilitates the matching of the LCSD with the relevant supplier. The cost is borne by the LCSD.	

In addition to the above schemes, the Government promotes the application of I&T in various areas through providing funding under Head 710 – Computerisation, the E&M InnoPortal under the EMSD, and the internal resources of bureaux/departments, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1434)

Head:	(135) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Bureau
Subhead (No. & title):	()
Programme:	(3) Efficiency Office
Controlling Officer:	Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology (Ms Annie CHOI)
Director of Bureau:	Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Paragraph 43 of the Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary reads as follows: "In light of the epidemic, we have expedited our work in taking forward e-Government by providing more electronic services to make it easier for enterprises and individuals to submit applications, make payments, obtain licences and use government services." Please inform this Committee of the government departments that will be providing electronic services.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Efficiency Office (EffO) has been driving the provision of more electronic services by the 45 bureaux and departments (B/Ds) participating in the "Be the Smart Regulator" and the "Streamlining of Government Services" Programmes. The target of the Government is that by mid-2022, all applications for licences and services can be submitted electronically unless there are legal or operational constraints. Besides, e-payment options (including the Faster Payment System) will be available for making relevant payments in respect of most licences and services starting from mid-2022. Currently, applications for over 200 licences and 500 services can be submitted through electronic means, and relevant payment for about 200 licences and 160 services can be made electronically under these two Programmes. In the coming year, EffO will continue to drive the provision of more electronic services for the licences and government services of the participating B/Ds of the two Programmes with a view to achieving the said target.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1789)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                         (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Will the Government set out in detail the adoption of innovation and technology (I&T) by various bureaux and departments through the Smart Government Innovation Lab and the TechConnect in the past 3 years?   How effective were these measures in terms of saving public money and enhancing efficiency in government operations?   Besides, which bureaux and departments are expected to adopt new I&T through the scheme concerned in the coming 3 years?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

Since its establishment in April 2019, the Smart Government Innovation Lab (Smart Lab) has matched 44 business needs nominated by departments with solutions and arranged 56 thematic workshops for these departments during the process.   The workshops involved technology areas such as Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, data analytics, natural language processing, artificial intelligence and robotics technologies.   The Smart Lab also collaborated with the departments concerned to arrange proof-of-concept (PoC) testing for over 20 solutions with potentials, covering different business needs of departments which include the use of innovation and technology (I&T) such as robotics technologies and data analytics and related equipment to help departments better utilise their manpower, expedite their work processes and reduce processing time, etc..   In the future, the Smart Lab will take account of the latest technological development and continue to arrange promotional activities to enhance the I&T awareness of government departments.   For instance, the Smart Lab will promote and explore with departments the application of 5G technologies in public services, as well as arrange trials and PoC for solutions that meet the needs of relevant departments in 2021.

The Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) set up the TechConnect (block vote) in mid-2017 to support government departments in planning and implementing technology

projects so as to enhance operational efficiency and improve public services.   In the past three financial years, the scheme has provided funding support to 74 technology projects proposed by 28 departments. Technologies adopted included IoT, big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, robotics, radio-frequency identification, augmented reality, virtual reality, 3D printing and geographic information system, etc. In terms of using technology to assist departments in speeding up working processes and improving service efficiency, examples include:

- Drainage Services Department uses technologies such as IoT and sensors to improve the efficiency of sewer monitoring and enhance its preventive maintenance and repair capabilities;

- Water Supplies Department uses unmanned surface vessel to carry out water monitoring and sampling works in reservoirs, and enhance the efficiency of water quality monitoring in reservoirs through geographic information system, global positioning system and advanced environmental technology;

- Fire Services Department uses new fire-fighting robots to enhance the safety and efficiency of firefighting operations through sensors and robotics technologies; and

- Department of Health uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to develop chromosome analysis software for the diagnosis of genetic diseases to improve the efficiency, reliability and accuracy of such diagnosis.

ITB will continue to support various departments in the use of technology through this scheme to provide more efficient and effective public services.   Given the rapid development of technology, and the different public services and operational needs of individual departments, it is difficult for us to estimate at this juncture the number of participating departments and the technologies that will be adopted in the next three years. In the past three financial years, the scheme supported an average of about 25 projects, with an average funding allocation of about $120 million each year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2266)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
(Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Please set out the number of internationally renowned STEM scholars and their teams that have been attracted by the "Global STEM Professorship Scheme" to work in Hong Kong, the total number of people attracted, their professional qualifications and the posts that they have taken up. Furthermore, what is the estimated number of people to be attracted to come to Hong Kong by the Scheme in the future?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

Following the rapid innovation and technology development in recent years and the consistently enhanced atmosphere in Hong Kong, the Government will launch a Global STEM Professorship Scheme to strengthen our support for universities funded by the University Grants Committee in attracting world-renowned science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) scholars as well as their teams to work and conduct STEM-related research in Hong Kong, thereby enabling local universities to scale new heights in STEM teaching and research. The Scheme also seeks to facilitate commercialisation and application of research and development results of universities, with a view to encouraging the transfer of technology and knowledge to bring about improvements to the community.

Up to 100 STEM professorships can be awarded under the Scheme. Awarded scholars may bring their own research team to Hong Kong to undertake scientific research. The Scheme provides subsidy for up to 4 research team members, who are believed to be mostly PhD students or holders of PhD qualifications.

The Innovation and Technology Bureau and the Education Bureau are finalising the details of the Scheme and formulating key performance indicators to review its effectiveness. We will brief the management of universities on the details of the Scheme in due course.

Universities may submit nominations to the Assessment Panel within the first half of this year and recruit scholars through their existing channels.   We understand that they have started to identify suitable candidates.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2269)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

(Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The estimated expenditure of the Efficiency Office (EffO) for 2021-22 is $496 million.   It is $182.5 million higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21, i.e. $314 million, representing a substantial increase of 58.1%.   What are the specific details of the increase in expenditure?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

The estimated expenditure of the EffO for 2021-22 is about $180 million higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21.   This is mainly due to the provision for the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) to support its continued operation.   If this new item of provision is excluded, the estimated expenditure of the EffO for 2021-22 is about $320 million, which is comparable to the revised estimate of $314 million for 2020-21.

The Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting was consulted in January 2021 and supported the proposed funding injection to the SIE Fund.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1455)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
(Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Innovation and Technology Bureau will launch a Global STEM Professorship Scheme (the Scheme) to enhance support for local universities to attract internationally renowned professors in STEM-related disciplines and their teams to work in Hong Kong. In this connection:

1. What are the details, objectives, goals, target groups and implementation timetable of the Scheme?

2. What are the estimated numbers of internationally renowned scholars and Hong Kong enterprises joining the Scheme?

3. What are the concrete measures to attract international scholars to Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

Following the rapid innovation and technology development in recent years and the consistently enhanced atmosphere in Hong Kong, the Government will launch a Global STEM Professorship Scheme to strengthen our support for universities funded by the University Grants Committee in attracting world-renowned science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) scholars as well as their teams to work and conduct STEM-related research in Hong Kong, thereby enabling local universities to scale new heights in STEM teaching and research. The Scheme also seeks to facilitate commercialisation and application of research and development results of universities, with a view to encouraging the transfer of technology and knowledge to bring about improvements to the community. In addition to internationally renowned and experienced scholars, the Scheme also aims to attract outstanding and promising junior scholars.

The expenditure to be incurred by the Scheme, which is estimated to cost about $2 billion, will be jointly borne by the Government, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (the Trust) and the relevant universities. The Education Bureau (EDB) will offer a non-recurrent subvention of $500 million and the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) will provide around $500 million under the Research Talent Hub of the Innovation and Technology Fund. If needed, awarded scholars may receive funding under the Trust to cover the costs of setting up laboratories. Other costs to be incurred by the Scheme will be borne by the relevant universities. The ITB, together with the EDB, is discussing the details with other stakeholders.

Subject to nominations by universities and recommendation by the Assessment Panel, each overseas STEM scholar relocating to Hong Kong to undertake teaching and research will receive subsidy for up to 5 years. Up to 100 professorships can be awarded. The Scheme also provides subsidy for scholars to hire up to 4 members of their research teams for up to 3 years.

The ITB and the EDB are finalising the details of the Scheme and formulating key performance indicators to review its effectiveness. We will brief the management of universities on the details of the Scheme in due course. Universities may submit nominations to the Assessment Panel within the first half of this year and recruit scholars through their existing channels. We understand that they have started to identify suitable candidates.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1456)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                                (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

In 2021-22, what specific measures will the Efficiency Office take to align its resources and projects for supporting the Government in promoting innovation and technology?   Has any specific target been set for the work?   What projects will be aligned and what are the details of each project?   How will the Innovation and Technology Bureau monitor the alignment work?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The Efficiency Office (EffO) was transferred to the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) in 2018.   Through alignment of resources, the EffO supports the Government in promoting innovation and technology (I&T), thereby improving public services and enhancing operational efficiency.   Major projects include the "Be the Smart Regulator" (BTSR) Programme, the "Streamlining of Government Services" (SGS) Programme and the Innovation and Technology Trade Show.

Under the BTSR Programme, the 29 participating departments enhance the efficiency, transparency and business-friendliness of their licensing services to reduce the compliance cost of various business sectors through different means, including proactive adoption of information technology, improving regulatory requirements, streamlining business processes, and strengthening support and guidance for the trades.   In 2021-22, the EffO will promote more e-licensing services.   The target of the Government is that by mid-2022, all licence applications can be submitted electronically unless there are legal or operational constraints.   Besides, e-payment options (including the Faster Payment System) will be available for making payments in respect of most licences starting from mid-2022.

The EffO also launched the SGS Programme in 2019.   The 40 participating bureaux/departments have improved the convenience, efficiency and transparency of

government services through wider application of technology and streamlining of business processes.   For example, through the application of technology, processes are automated to enhance operational efficiency, and online platforms and mobile applications are developed to provide more diversified application channels for the public, etc.   In 2021-22, the EffO will drive the continuous reform of services by bureaux/departments, including the provision of more electronic services.   The target of the Government is that by mid-2022, applications for relevant services under the SGS Programme can be submitted electronically.

Under the BTSR and the SGS Programmes, the EffO will continue to assist bureaux/departments in identifying and analysing their business needs and challenges and, where necessary, sourcing relevant technical solutions through the Hong Kong Science Park, the Cyberport and other platforms, and in assessing their effectiveness, so that government departments can better leverage the opportunities brought about by I&T to enhance the quality of public services.

Moreover, to drive more government departments to apply I&T for better public services, the EffO co-organised two Innovation and Technology Trade Shows with the I&T sector in 2019 and 2020 to showcase the latest I&T solutions from different exhibitors to the personnel of various government departments, thus enabling them to better understand and adopt I&T solutions and products for enhancement of service quality.   The EffO will continue to organise similar events.

The EffO regularly reports to the ITB on the progress and outcomes of the work mentioned above.   Apart from overseeing the above-mentioned work, the ITB also proactively assists in promoting the wider use of technology within the Government.   For instance, the implementation of the TechConnect (block vote) to subsidise government departments in launching technology projects to enhance operational efficiency and service quality; and monitoring of the Public Sector Trial Scheme under the Innovation and Technology Fund that subsidises small and medium technology enterprises, universities and local public research institutes for producing prototypes/samples of their research and development outcomes as well as conducting trials in government departments and the public sector, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1457)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Efficiency Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                           (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the streamlining of government services, please advise whether the Efficiency Office (EffO) has set any specific action timetable, including any plans to be carried out in phases, bureaux and departments that are accorded higher priority for co-operation in 2021-22, projects to be implemented for the streamlining of services, and the government services involved. What are the targets and results to be achieved through the streamlining of government services?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The EffO launched the Streamlining of Government Services (SGS) Programme in 2019. It aims to improve public services and operational efficiency by driving departments to streamline their business processes and widen the adoption of technology on a continuous basis.

The SGS Programme covers over 900 government services of 40 bureaux/departments involving applications and approvals. Every year, the EffO co-ordinates with and assists the bureaux/departments concerned in proposing and implementing streamlining measures on their services. In 2019-20, 36 bureaux/departments proposed 74 streamlining measures, entailing more than 110 government services. In 2020-21, 38 bureaux/departments proposed 80 streamlining measures, entailing more than 110 government services.

There are quite a number of examples of public service improvement under the SGS Programme, such as:

- The Hong Kong Housing Authority has rolled out online application and payment services for the subsidised sale flats (SSF) scheme and streamlined relevant processes. Green form applicants under the Home Ownership Scheme can carry over their

applications to the next SSF exercise in case of unsuccessful application without having to submit an application form and pay the fee again.

- The Immigration Department has introduced travel document submission kiosks. Members of the public may submit their applications of HKSAR passports at the kiosks equipped with functions of identity authentication, photo-taking, data entry and electronic payment without the need to make prior appointments.

- The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has simplified the procedures for application and extension of temporary storage as well as retrieval of cremains. Applicants can settle payment of fees online. Besides, submission of application forms is no longer required for extension of storage period and retrieval of cremains. For retrieval of cremains, applicants only need to make an appointment by phone and bring along the required documents on the appointed day of retrieval.

In 2021-22, the EffO will continue to join hands with bureaux and departments in pressing ahead with reform initiatives along four major directions, namely reducing documentation requirements, sharing application information among different bureaux/departments and schemes, adopting people-centric design and end-to-end process re-engineering, with a view to improving the convenience, efficiency and transparency of public services.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1479)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
                        (Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Government will continue to take forward the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) in the Lok Ma Chau Loop, with the target to complete the first eight buildings in phases from 2024 to 2027.   Together with Shenzhen Municipal People's Government, it will also continue to work out a package of joint policy for the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Cooperation Zone and the arrangements to use certain existing areas of the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone before the completion of the first batch of buildings in HSITP, and thus lay the foundation for realising the "one zone, two parks" concept.

It is also stated in the Budget that upon full development, the HSITP will be the largest ever information and technology (I&T) platform in Hong Kong, providing a gross floor area of 1.2 million square metres, which is approximately three times that of the Science Park.   Its economic contribution to Hong Kong is expected to reach $52 billion per annum, with about 52 000 jobs to be created.   Will the Government inform this Committee of:

1.   whether the HSITP has formulated any detailed policies and measures to attract international I&T enterprises and talents?   If yes, what are the details?   If no, what are the reasons?

2.   whether the HSITP has formulated any detailed policies and measures to attract local startups and young talents?   If yes, what are the details?   If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

Our consolidated reply to questions no. 1 and 2 is as follows:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is taking forward the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) in the Lok Ma Chau Loop in full swing so as to establish a key base for co-operation in scientific research through converging the world's top-tier enterprises, research and development (R&D) institutions and higher education institutions.   Upon full development, the HSITP will be the largest ever innovation and technology (I&T) platform in Hong Kong, providing a gross floor area of 1.2 million square metres.   The vision of the HSITP is to become "the world's knowledge hub and I&T centre" and will focus on the development of 6 technology areas, including healthcare technologies, big data and artificial intelligence, robotics, new material, microelectronics and financial technology.

We obtained funding approval from the Legislative Council for commencing Batch 1 development of the HSITP in early February this year.   The Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park Limited (HSITPL) is currently pressing ahead with the works project at full steam, including the detailed design which will commence this year; and will commence the construction works in the first quarter of 2022 with a view to completing the 8 buildings in Batch 1 in phases from 2024 (i.e. within 36 months after the commencement of the construction works) to 2027.

As the next step, the HSITPL will draw up plans as appropriate to attract tenants according to the vision of the HSITP and the 6 priority technology areas and with   reference to the experience of I&T platforms around the world in developing appropriate admission criteria and rental policy with a view to ensuring the international competitiveness of the HSITP. For start-ups, the HSITPL will also take into account the relevant plans and experience of the Hong Kong Science Park and Cyberport so as to attract more start-ups to the Park and put in place appropriate incubation programmes.   On the other hand, the Government will introduce timely measures to attract I&T enterprises and talent and will continue to actively promote Hong Kong's advantages through Invest Hong Kong and the overseas Economic and Trade Offices in a bid to attract I&T enterprises, universities and R&D institutes around the world to establish their presence in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING　OFFICER'S　REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3115)

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

Subhead (No. & title):　()

Programme:　　　　(2) Innovation and Technology

Controlling Officer:　Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology
　　　　　　　　　　(Ms Annie CHOI)

Director of Bureau:　Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 70 of the Budget Speech that our country has signed cooperation agreements with about 170 countries and international organisations regarding the Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative, and the Government will continue to provide financing services to B&R infrastructure projects through leveraging Hong Kong's function as an international financial centre, encourage Hong Kong enterprises and professional services sectors to develop business in the overseas Economic and Trade Co-operation Zones set up by our country, and establish connections with Mainland enterprises and industry associations for jointly exploring new markets, thereby consolidating Hong Kong's role as a prime functional platform and key node for the B&R Initiative.　In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

Given Hong Kong's status as a hub for research and development (R&D) on innovation and technology (I&T), does the Government have any new policies and measures to assist local organisations in taking forward the R&D work for developing an international I&T hub in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and to promote scientific research collaboration and development in regions along the B&R on a long-term basis?　If yes, what are the details?　If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as an active player in the Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative, has been keen to strengthen collaboration and partnership with other B&R economies on various fronts, including the sharing of its home-grown, anti-epidemic technology.　In June 2020, the SAR Government launched the Innovation and Technology (I&T) Inventions Experience Sharing and Business Promotion Platform in conjunction with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and local I&T Sector.　Besides, the SAR

Government organised webinars jointly with Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia in June, August and September 2020 to explore how to make good use of I&T to combat COVID-19 and address livelihood needs under the "new normal", promoting the co-operation between Hong Kong and these economies in trade and investment and helping Hong Kong enterprises to explore more business opportunities.

The SAR Government will continue to take forward a series of initiatives which include establishing international research clusters, facilitating the flow of elements of scientific research and providing technological supporting infrastructure including the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) in full swing. The collaboration between HSITP and the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone will be strengthened to jointly develop the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone, with a view to establishing "one zone, two parks" and leveraging the complementary advantages of both sides. The SAR Government will continue to actively facilitate the work of developing the Greater Bay Area into an international I&T hub, providing Hong Kong with a broader arena for I&T development.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

ITB041

(Question Serial No. 1377)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (6) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited (ASTRI) will continue to transfer technologies developed from its research and development projects to the industry and commercialise project deliverables through implementing corporate-level initiatives and encouraging more collaborative projects.   Please advise on:

(1)   the targeted industries (organisations) which ASTRI will collaborate with in the coming year and the specific collaborative projects;

(2)   the specific collaborative projects in the Greater Bay Area in the past year and in the coming year, as it is also mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that ASTRI will collaborate with enterprises and research institutions in the Mainland and overseas and explore development potential in the Greater Bay Area; and

(3)   whether additional manpower and expenditure are required for the relevant work mentioned in (1) and (2) above.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The requested information is provided below:

(1)   In the coming year, the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited (ASTRI) will continue to conduct research and development (R&D) focusing on 5 technology areas,   namely intelligent

manufacturing, financial technologies (FinTech), health technologies, smart city and application specific integrated circuits.   Among which, ASTRI will collaborate with organisations from various industries on R&D projects, for instance:

- On intelligent manufacturing, ASTRI is developing a software on deep learning for defect classification and intends to develop, for the use of the manufacturing industry, a high-resolution optical inspection hardware system for quality control so as to replace inspection of electronic components by naked eyes with optical devices.
- On facilitating the development of FinTech industries, ASTRI will collaborate with an international financial institution to conduct a Proof-of-Concept for Central Bank Digital Currency.
- On health technologies, ASTRI will continue to collaborate with various healthcare technology companies to develop a gastrointestinal tract inspection and diagnosis technology aided by both software and hardware, for instance the white light gastroscopy early gastric cancer screening system aided by artificial intelligence.   ASTRI also plans to collaborate with a local university to explore an automatic recognition medical imaging system to improve diagnostic capability.
- On dovetailing with the smart city development, ASTRI will conduct public road tests in Sha Tin for the application of its cellular vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) technology.   In addition, ASTRI will collaborate with an electrical works company to enhance household or building energy efficiency by making use of the emerging direct current technology.
- On application specific integrated circuits, ASTRI plans to collaborate with an electronics company to develop a kinetic energy recovery system for underground trains with a view to improving the efficiency of transportation systems.

(2)   For the collaborating projects in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) in the past year, ASTRI's partners included Hong Kong cross-boundary financial institutions operating businesses in the GBA and the Mainland, and the projects included the development of a smart advertisement management system and the smart financial service assistant.   ASTRI is collaborating with a local operator and an information and communications technology enterprise in the GBA to conduct a R&D project on C-V2X.   The application and trial of 5G C-V2X will continue in the coming year.

(3)   The R&D expenditure of ASTRI is primarily funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund on a project basis with sponsorships provided by the industry.   The expenditure and manpower involved each year are subject to the needs of the R&D projects in the year concerned.   In 2021-22, the estimated R&D expenditure of ASTRI is $378 million and the estimated number of R&D personnel is 621.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2229)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

1.   Please set out in detail the innovative technology projects successfully developed by the universities in Hong Kong which were patented internationally in the past 3 years.

2.   Please provide the number of innovative technologies mentioned above which were successfully put on the local market and commercialised.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1.   According to the annual reports submitted by the universities to the University Grants Committee (UGC), the numbers of patents granted to the 7 local universities from 2017-18 to 2019-20 are as follows:

University	Number of patents granted [Note 1]		
	2017-18	**2018-19**	**2019-20**
The University of Hong Kong	67	66	67
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	185	202	257
City University of Hong Kong	70	45	78
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	143	104	122
Hong Kong Baptist University	40	45	35
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	52	55	79
The Education University of Hong Kong [Note 2]	-	-	2
Total	**557**	**517**	**640**

Note 1:   the universities will provide the numbers of patents granted in 2020-21 to the UGC only after the end of the year.   The relevant figures are not available for the moment.

Note 2:   The Education University of Hong Kong has been included as a designated university to receive funding since 2019-20.

We do not have the information on the titles of the patents granted to the universities, the region where the patents are registered and the details of the relevant technologies.

2.   There are quite a number of examples on innovative technologies developed by the universities in Hong Kong which have been successfully launched into the local market and commercialised, for instance:

- a start-up associated with a local university has successively developed soft contact lens and spectacle lens that can retard myopia progression in children with patents subsequently granted.   The start-up has launched the said products into the market in collaboration with the industry, and its related "Defocus Incorporated Multiple Segments" technology won the Grand Prix at the 46th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva in 2018;

- a start-up associated with a local university developed a technology to identify the major bioactive components of valuable Chinese medicines, providing professional qualitative and quantitative authentication services.   The technology has been patented in regions including Hong Kong, Macao, the Mainland and the United States; and

- A joint laboratory set up in Hong Kong by a local university and an enterprise in 2018 has developed a series of long-lasting anti-epidemic bactericidal products which has been granted more than 10 patents globally.   The series is effective in killing viruses, bacteria, spores and coronaviruses, and has already been launched into the market.   The "long-lasting antimicrobial coating technology" was also awarded a Gold Medal at the 46th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva.

As the universities can utilise different resources flexibly at various stages of research and development, we do not have the relevant commercialisation data.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1286)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Launched in August 2018, the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme (RTTP) aims to subsidise local enterprises on a 2(Government):1(enterprise) matching basis to train their staff in advanced technologies, especially those related to "Industry 4.0". It supports 2 types of training courses, namely public courses that are open to the public for enrollment and tailor-made courses that are designed for a particular enterprise or enterprises. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1.   the number of companies subsidised under the RTTP (with a breakdown by type of business), and the number of staff members who participated in the training courses by business type as at the latest reference month;

2.   the numbers of public courses and tailor-made courses funded under the RTTP (with a breakdown by course content and nature, and the amount of funding approved) as at the latest reference month; and

3.   the average number of working days taken for completing the registration of public courses, and the average number of working days prior to course commencement were course providers notified that registration was successful, as at the latest reference month?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

Launched in August 2018, the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme (RTTP) subsidises local enterprises on a 2 (Government):1 (enterprise) matching basis to train their staff in advanced technologies, especially those related to "Industry 4.0". The funding ceiling for each eligible enterprise in each financial year is $500,000. The requested information is provided as follows:

1. The numbers of enterprises and trainees funded under RTTP as at end of January 2021 are tabulated as follows:

	Business type of enterprises funded under RTTP (as at end-January 2021)	Number of enterprises	Number of approved trainees
1.	Manufacturing Technology	280	342
2.	Innovation and Technology	240	426
3.	Building, Civil Engineering and Built Environment	191	387
4.	Biomedical and Healthcare	161	378
5.	Fashion and Textile	143	200
6.	Import, Export and Wholesale Trades	140	202
7.	Electronics and Telecommunications	103	248
8.	Management and Consultancy Services	74	120
9.	Hotel, Catering and Tourism	61	282
10.	Automobile	58	46
11.	Media and Communications	49	68
12.	Banking and Finance	47	160
13.	Retail Trade	43	66
14.	Electrical and Mechanical Services	35	125
15.	Transport and Logistics	35	102
16.	Others	33	91
17.	Print Media and Publishing	26	50
18.	Real Estate Services	21	26
19.	Jewellery, Watch and Clock	20	26
20.	Beauty Care and Hairdressing	17	39
21.	Insurance	17	47
22.	Testing and Certification	16	47
23.	Environmental	14	22
24.	Training and Auditing Services	6	12
25.	Maritime Service	4	6
26.	Security Services	4	7
27.	Accounting	3	6
	Total	**1 841**	**3 531**

Note: An enterprise may involve in more than one industry. The enterprises are categorised by their principal business type in the above table.

2.   The public courses registered and tailor-made courses approved under RTTP as at end of January 2021 are tabulated as follows:

Registered public courses (as at end-January 2021)			
	Technology type of public courses [Note]	Number of registered public courses	Total amount of approved training grant (rounded to the nearest dollar)
1.	Information Technology	492	$6,528,725
2.	Automation Control	114	$5,966,828
3.	Manufacturing	77	$3,099,151
4.	Digital Media	73	$2,366,793
5.	Biomedical & Healthcare	66	$2,388,461
6.	Hospitality & Catering	45	$475,109
7.	Textile & Clothing	44	$1,793,794
8.	Environmental	37	$535,380
9.	Data Communication	22	$402,909
10.	Banking	18	$345,590
11.	Quality Improvement	14	$40,265
12.	Logistics Industry Related	8	$143,700
13.	Electronic Engineering	3	$51,094
14.	Printing & Publishing	2	$16,000
15.	Sustainability	1	$21,996
16.	Wholesale/Retail & Import/Export Trades	1	$4,000
	Total	**1,017**	**$24,179,795**

Note: A training course may involve more than one technology type.   The training courses are categorised by their principal technology type in the above table.

	Approved tailor-made courses (as at end-January 2021)		
	Technology type of training courses [Note]	**Number of approved tailor-made courses**	**Total amount of approved funding (rounded to the nearest dollar)**
1.	Hospitality & Catering	14	$575,276
2.	Information Technology	14	$583,146
3.	Manufacturing	6	$553,988
4.	Automation Control	4	$373,592
5.	Biomedical & Healthcare	3	$178,560
6.	Digital Media	2	$240,000
7.	Banking	1	$140,000
8.	Electronic Engineering	1	$64,000
9.	Environmental	1	$21,927
10.	Quality Improvement	1	$16,000
11.	Sustainability	1	$19,999
12.	Wholesale/Retail & Import/Export Trades	1	$113,951
	Total	**49**	**$2,880,439**

Note: A training course may involve more than one technology type. The training courses are categorised by their principal technology type in the above table.

3. As at end of January 2021, the average time taken for approval of the applications for public course registration was about 22 working days, and course providers were notified, on average, that registration was successful 74 working days prior to course commencement.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1288)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

In order to formulate effective measures to retain innovation and technology (I&T) talents, a number of Legislative Council Members from the Panel on Commerce and Industry used to request the Government to consider collecting information on a regular basis about the career pursuits of all the researchers who had completed the engagement period under the Researcher Programme (RP) and Postdoctoral Hub (PH) and enumerating the number of those who were still working in the I&T field.   In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on:

1.   the respective numbers of applications received and processed as well as the respective numbers of jobs for the talents under the RP, PH and Research Talent Hub (after merging the RP and PH) each year since the set-up of these programmes; and

2.   whether any statistics on the career pursuits of all the talents who had completed the engagement period under the programmes have been compiled; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

Launched in July 2020, the Research Talent Hub (RTH) under the Innovation and Technology Fund merged the Researcher Programme (RP) and Postdoctoral Hub (PH) which were introduced in July 2004 and August 2018 respectively.   RTH aims to encourage university graduates to pursue careers in the innovation and technology (I&T) field and nurture more I&T talents.   It provides funding for eligible organisations/companies to recruit up to four bachelor's/master's/doctoral degree graduates to conduct R&D work.   The requested information is provided as follows:

1. As at the end of February 2021, a total of 7 931 applications were received under RTH (including RP and PH before the merger took place), of which 7 041 were approved, involving a total amount of funding of about $2.5 billion.   The remaining applications are either under processing or have been withdrawn by the applicants.   The numbers of applications received and approved are tabulated as follows by the academic qualifications of the research talents:

| Year | RTH | | | |
| | Formerly RP (bachelor's/master's degree graduates) | | Formerly PH (doctoral degree graduates) | |
	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved
2004-2017	3 304	3 003	/	/
2018	804	723	332	299
2019	1 082	960	584	555
2020	890	681	669	586
2021 (as at end-February)	127	121	139	113
Total	**6 207**	**5 488**	**1 724**	**1 553**

2. We have been inviting research talents who received funding support to submit evaluation reports after the completion of their engagement periods.   Since 2012, questions to collect information on the employment situation of the research talents engaged have been included in the evaluation report.   From the evaluation reports collected in 2020, more than 95% of the respondents expressed interest in pursuing a career related to R&D in the future; 63% indicated that they had secured R&D-related jobs, while another 26% expressed that they were still searching for jobs or decided to further their studies.   We will examine ways to step up our efforts in collecting information so as to better understand the way forward of the research talents.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1294)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme, which was launched in July last year, provides subsidies to manufacturers on a matching basis for setting up new smart production lines in Hong Kong.   The Scheme has received 12 applications so far.   Please provide information on the business nature of the manufactures of the said applications, the anticipated effectiveness, and the vetting criteria.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

Since the launch of the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) in late July 2020 up to end of February 2021, 12 applications were received.   Currently, except for 1 application which was withdrawn by the applicant, the RFS Vetting Committee (the Committee) has vetted all 11 applications and agreed in principle to support 9 of them, involving industries such as biotechnology, food processing, construction, printing, medical device and nanofiber materials.   The total funding amount is approximately $55 million.   The secretariat is following up with the applicant companies on the comments of the Committee, so as to finalise the details of their plans and the contents of the funding agreements.   After signing of funding agreement by the applicant company concerned, basic information of the project will be uploaded to the website of the Innovation and Technology Fund for reference by the public.

RFS aims to subsidise manufacturers to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong, so as to move towards high value-added production and upgrade to "Industry 4.0".   The major vetting criteria for RFS applications include:

(a)   Setting up of new production line and adoption of smart technologies - the project should involve actual set up of a production line in Hong Kong; and the entire production line or a significant portion of the production line should fulfil the "smart

manufacturing" criteria, i.e. the integrated and intelligent use of "smart" technologies such as Internet of Things, real-time data, application of data analytics and advanced human-machine interfaces, artificial intelligence/machine learning/deep learning, automation and robotics, sensors and actuators, etc. in the production process;

(b) Financial Considerations - the project should have a reasonable budget with itemised cost breakdown and detailed justifications of costs and expenses;

(c) Implementation Viability - the implementation plan of the project must be realistic and reasonable taking into account factors such as the complexity of the production line in question.   Concrete project deliverables and outcomes should be provided;

(d) Technical, Financial and Management Capabilities - the technical, financial and management capabilities and business background of the applicant; and

(e) Economic Benefits - the project should generate economic value-added for Hong Kong and/or create high-skilled employment. Favourable consideration would be given to production lines manufacturing products which are strategic in nature and the production would help enhance the stability of supply of such in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1662)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Bureau is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Distance Business Programme (the Programme) in the year with a view to supporting enterprises to continue their business and services during the epidemic.   The Government announced on June 26 an additional provision of $1 billion for the Programme, in addition to the original $500 million.   Please advise on:

1.   the detailed breakdown, in tabular form, of the applications received under the Programme (the list of names/business types of the companies, the use of the funding, and the amount of funding applied for), the applications approved, the amount of funding and its remaining amount, etc.; the reasons for rejecting some of the applications, the number of the applications and amount involved; and

2.   whether the Programme, which was closed for application on 31 October 2020, will be launched again in the future.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

The Distance Business Programme (the Programme) aims to support enterprises to continue their business and services during the epidemic through adoption of information technology (IT) solutions, and its application period was from 18 May to 31 October 2020.   The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) is responsible for implementing the Programme, and the Hong Kong Productivity Council is the Secretariat of the Programme. In view of the overwhelming response from enterprises, the Government allocated, in addition to the original $500 million, $1 billion and $400 million (amounting to a total of $1.9 billion) in June and December 2020 respectively for the Programme, with a view to benefitting more enterprises.   Besides, a number of enhancement measures were introduced in August 2020, including allowing enterprises to submit a second application,

extending the funding period for subscription-based IT solutions from 6 months to 12 months, lifting the restriction that related entities being regarded as one single entity are not allowed to submit applications, and allowing social enterprises with a Social Enterprises Certificate issued by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to submit applications, thereby enabling enterprises to fully utilise the funding to adopt a variety of IT solutions to develop distance business.

We have completed processing all of the 38 572 applications received, of which nearly 10 000 were submitted in the last week before the deadline. 34 705 applications were approved, 2 659 were rejected due to ineligibility for the Programme or non-compliance with the assessment criteria, and the remaining applications were invalid or incomplete. Apart from government representatives, the Vetting Committee comprises individuals from business sectors including the IT sector.

About 95% of the beneficiary enterprises were small and medium-sized enterprises. The industry types of the applicant enterprises and the requested funding amount are tabulated as follows:

Categorised by the industry types of the applicant enterprises

Industry	Number*
Administrative and Support Services (e.g. Advertising, Exhibitions, Public Relations, Property Management, etc.)	1 505
Construction	1 413
Creative Industry	1 459
Education and Training	2 908
Environmental Services	247
Hospitality, Food and Beverage	3 079
Import and Export Trade	5 179
Manufacturing	1 832
Media, Printing and Publishing	900
Professional Services (e.g. Accounting, architecture, legal, etc.)	3 396
Retail	10 092
Servicing (e.g. Hair salon, event organiser, tourism, etc.)	4 288
Technology Development and Services	1 934
Transportation and Logistics	1 063
Others	4 743

*Note: Applicant enterprises may engage in more than one industry.

Categorised by the requested funding amount

Amount of funding applied for	Percentage
Below $100,000	27%
$100,000 to $200,000	31%
$200,000 to $300,000	42%
Total	**100%**

As at 31 March 2021, excluding cases in which the enterprises did not accept the application results or provide relevant documents after their applications had been approved,

27 911 applications were approved, involving a total funding of around $1.8 billion, with average approved funding of about $65,000 per application. The approved IT solutions involved online business, digital customer experience enhancement, and online customer services and engagement, etc. The aforesaid Programme under the Anti-epidemic Fund is outside the scope of the Appropriation Bill or the estimates of the General Revenue Account.

The Programme is a time-limited initiative introduced under the Anti-epidemic Fund. At present, we do not plan to re-launch the Programme again. That said, the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP), a regular programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund, aims to support enterprises in using technological services and solutions to improve productivity, or upgrade or transform their business processes. Having regard to the operational experience and the industry's views, ITC introduced a number of enhancements to the TVP last year. At present, each eligible enterprise can receive a cumulative funding of up to $600,000 to carry out a maximum of 6 projects. Funding is provided for three-quarters of the project cost of each approved project, which means that the enterprise only has to contribute one quarter of the project cost. We welcome interested enterprises to submit applications.

<p style="text-align:center">- End -</p>

Reply Serial No.

ITB047

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1673)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology
                                         Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that in 2020-21, the Innovation and Technology Bureau oversaw the operation of the "Technology Talent Admission Scheme" (TechTAS) to facilitate enterprises' engagement of overseas and Mainland research and development talent.   In this connection, please list in tabular form the numbers of persons admitted into Hong Kong under TechTAS and their respective places of origin in the past 2 years.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

In 2019-20 and 2020-21 (as at the end of February 2021), the Immigration Department approved a total of 176 visa/entry permit applications in accordance with the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS).   The non-local persons approved for entry under TechTAS in the above period are categorised as follows:

Region	Number of non-local persons approved for entry under TechTAS
Mainland China	113
Other Asian regions	43
Europe	11
America	7
Australia	2
Total	**176**

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1113)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (4) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Under this Programme, one of the main responsibilities of the Innovation and Technology Bureau is to promote re-industrialisation through the development of smart production and high value-added industries. Please inform this Committee of the effectiveness of the work done in this regard in 2020-21 and the expenditure incurred.   In 2021-22, how will the Bureau promote re-industrialisation in Hong Kong through the development of smart production and high value-added industries?   Please advise on the specific measures to be taken, the expenditure to be incurred and the anticipated effectiveness in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The Government has been actively promoting "re-industrialisation" in recent years by developing advanced manufacturing industries that are based on new technologies and smart production whilst do not require much land, so as to stimulate the demand for research and development (R&D), identify new growth points for Hong Kong's economic development, create quality jobs for youngsters, and raise Hong Kong's competitiveness.   The Government has been fostering favourable conditions for "re-industrialisation" from the perspectives of infrastructure, talent, funding, technology and scientific research as exemplified below.

In respect of infrastructure, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) is developing a Microelectronics Centre in Yuen Long Industrial Estate (IE), which is expected to be completed in 2023, with a view to attracting enterprises that manufacture microelectronics products and enterprises of associated industries (such as advanced materials) as well as promoting R&D and technological application among high value-added industries.   Meanwhile, the Data Technology Hub (DT Hub) located in Tseung Kwan O IE was completed in 2020, and the Advanced Manufacturing Centre (AMC) is expected to be completed in 2022.   The HKSTPC has started inviting proposals

for leasing of these 2 projects, and will use part of the resources from the Government's $10 billion funding to offer incentives to tenants of the AMC and the DT Hub.

In respect of talent, we launched the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme (RTTP) in August 2018 to subsidise local companies on a matching basis to train their staff in advanced technologies, especially those related to "Industry 4.0".   As at end February 2021, RTTP has approved over 1 900 applications for training grant, subsidising the training of more than 3 740 staff of local enterprises with a total funding amount of over $29 million.

In respect of funding, the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) was launched in late July 2020 to subsidise manufacturers on a matching basis to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong.   As at end of February 2021, 12 applications were received.   Except for 1 application which was withdrawn by the applicant, the RFS Vetting Committee has vetted 11 applications and agreed in principle to support 9 of them, involving industries such as biotechnology, food processing, construction, printing, medical device and nanofiber materials.   The total funding amount is approximately $55 million.   In 2021-22, we will continue to organise briefings in collaboration with chambers of commerce and industry associations, etc., and promote RFS to Hong Kong manufacturers in the Greater Bay Area through the electronic newsletters and WeChat platform of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong.

In respect of technology, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) has been assisting enterprises to move towards high value-added production and gradually upgrade to "Industry 4.0", as well as traditional industries to enhance their technological level.   The major work includes co-operating with the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology of Germany (the Institute) to implement the Industry 4.0 Upgrade and Recognition Programme and, through the Invention Centre jointly set up by the HKPC and the Institute, accelerating the adoption of innovative industrial technologies by the industry to promote the development of smart industry and digital manufacturing.   In addition, the HKPC also operates the Inno Space and the "Digital@HKPC" to assist the industry in moving towards smart production.

In respect of scientific research, the 5 R&D Centres established by the Government (i.e. the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre, the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute, the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, and the Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre) will continue to engage in applied R&D and co-operate closely with the industry to promote commercialisation of R&D results and "re-industrialisation".

Promotion of "re-industrialisation" is handled by the existing manpower of the Innovation and Technology Commission that there is no breakdown of expenditures.

<center>- End -</center>

Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ITB049

(Question Serial No. 1118)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Under this Programme, one of the responsibilities of the Innovation and Technology Commission is to administer the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) to provide a fast-track arrangement for eligible companies to admit overseas and Mainland technology talent to undertake research and development (R&D) work in Hong Kong. Please inform this Committee of the efforts made by the Government on TechTAS in 2020-21 and their effectiveness. What was the expenditure? What is the number of eligible companies or organisations that has made use of TechTAS to admit overseas and Mainland technology talent to work in Hong Kong so far? Which sectors are mainly involved? Please provide a breakdown. Meanwhile, what is the estimated expenditure for 2021-22? What are the specific work plans and their effectiveness? Will the coverage of TechTAS be further extended to include companies undertaking R&D in other technology areas?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) launched the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) in June 2018. As at the end of February 2021, a total of 527 quotas were allotted by ITC and the Immigration Department approved a total of 224 visa/entry permit applications in accordance with the relevant quotas, involving 94 companies. The categories of the persons approved for entry under TechTAS are as follows:

Technology area	Number of non-local persons approved for entry under TechTAS
Artificial intelligence	48
Financial technologies	38
Material science	32
Data analytics	27
Biotechnology	25
Robotics	20
Cybersecurity	16
5G communications	11
Internet-of-Things	4
Integrated circuit design	2
Green technology	1
Total	**224**

We enhanced TechTAS in January 2020 by extending the applicable technology areas from 7 (i.e. biotechnology, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, robotics, data analytics, financial technologies and material science) to 13 (the 6 new areas are 5G communications, Internet-of-Things, integrated circuit design, microelectronics, digital entertainment and green technology) and the coverage to all companies undertaking research and development activities in the 13 technology areas in Hong Kong. The technology areas covered under TechTAS are the ones with tremendous growth potential around the world which can also be applied in many industries.

We have been promoting TechTAS through various channels such as websites, e-newsletters and videos. An online briefing was also held in April 2020 to introduce the Scheme to small and medium enterprises and start-ups. This year, we will carry on with our publicity efforts through these channels. Besides, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and the Cyberport will continue to offer advisory services and briefings on the details of TechTAS to interested tenants and incubatees.

TechTAS is part of the work under Programme (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development. No breakdown of expenditures for the individual work items is available. In 2021-22, the implementation of TechTAS will be absorbed by existing resources and there is no breakdown for the estimated expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1124)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraphs 39 and 40 of his Budget Speech regarding "Digital Economy" under "Reviving the Economy after the Epidemic" that "many traditional industries have accelerated the application of technology in their operations due to the epidemic…For various trades, it has now become a trend to speed up digital transformation in order to adapt to the new consumption modes and habits of the people. Only by making good use of information technology (IT) can enterprises seize the opportunities of development when the epidemic is over. In view of the above, we have launched the Distance Business Programme (the Programme) under the Anti-epidemic Fund to provide funding support for enterprises to adopt IT solutions and cover the expenses for providing relevant training to their employees." Please advise this Committee on the provision of funding support since the launch of the Programme in mid-2020, the industrial sectors of the funded enterprises and the contents of the IT solutions, their effectiveness, as well as the details and breakdown of expenditures regarding the allocation of an additional funding of $1 billion for the continuation of the Programme and its further enhancement as mentioned by the Government.

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

The Distance Business Programme (the Programme) aims to support enterprises to continue their business and services during the epidemic through adoption of information technology (IT) solutions. The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) is responsible for implementing the Programme, and the Hong Kong Productivity Council is the Secretariat of the Programme. We have completed processing all of the 38 572 applications received, of which nearly 10 000 were submitted in the last week before the deadline (i.e. 31 October 2020), and a total of 34 705 applications were approved. About 95% of the beneficiary enterprises were small and medium-sized enterprises. As at 31 March 2021, excluding

cases in which the enterprises did not accept the application results or provide relevant documents after their applications had been approved, 27 911 applications were approved, involving a total funding of around $1.8 billion.   These enterprises mainly engaged in the retail sector, import and export trade as well as service industry, etc.   The approved IT solutions involved online business, digital customer experience enhancement, and online customer services and engagement, etc.   The aforesaid Programme under the Anti-epidemic Fund is outside the scope of the Appropriation Bill or the estimates of the General Revenue Account.

With an overwhelming response from enterprises, the Government allocated, in addition to the original $500 million, $1 billion and $400 million (amounting to a total of $1.9 billion) in June and December 2020 respectively for the Programme, with a view to benefitting more enterprises.   Besides, a number of enhancement measures were introduced in August 2020, including allowing enterprises to submit a second application, extending the funding period for subscription-based IT solutions from 6 months to 12 months, lifting the restriction that related entities being regarded as one single entity are not allowed to submit applications, and allowing social enterprises with a Social Enterprises Certificate issued by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to submit applications, thereby enabling enterprises to fully utilise the funding to adopt a variety of IT solutions to develop distance business.

The Programme is a time-limited initiative introduced under the Anti-epidemic Fund.   At present, we do not plan to re-launch the Programme again.   That said, the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP), a regular programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund, aims to support enterprises in using technological services and solutions to improve productivity, or upgrade or transform their business processes.   Having regard to the operational experience and the industry's views, ITC introduced a number of enhancements to the TVP last year.   At present, each eligible enterprise can receive a cumulative funding of up to $600,000 to carry out a maximum of 6 projects.   Funding is provided for three-quarters of the project cost of each approved project, which means that the enterprise only has to contribute one quarter of the project cost.   We welcome interested enterprises to submit applications.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1149)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraph 111 of his Budget Speech that the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS), which was launched in July last year, provides subsidies to manufacturers on a matching basis for setting up new smart production lines in Hong Kong. The Scheme has received 12 applications so far. Please inform this Committee of the expenditure of RFS to date, the amount and content of the funded applications, the beneficiary industries, the specific work and estimated expenditure for the coming year of 2021-22, as well as the plan and timetable of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government for the work on promoting re-industrialisation in Hong Kong after the epidemic has further eased.

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

Since the launch of the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) in late July 2020, 12 applications were received up to end February 2021, among which 1 application was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant enterprise. The RFS Vetting Committee has vetted all of the 11 applications and agreed in principle to support 9 of them, involving industries such as biotechnology, food processing, construction, printing, medical device and nanofiber materials. The total funding amount is approximately $55 million. We will step up the publicity work in 2021-22 by organising briefings in collaboration with chambers of commerce, industry associations and small and medium enterprise centres, etc., and promoting RFS to Hong Kong manufacturers in the Greater Bay Area through the electronic newsletters and WeChat platform of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong. RFS is administered by the Innovation and Technology Commission with its existing manpower and no breakdown of expenditures is available.

In order to promote "re-industrialisation", the Government will, in addition to providing funding support through RFS, continue to foster favourable conditions for "re-industrialisation" through the provision of infrastructure, talent, technology and scientific research.

In respect of infrastructure, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) is developing a Microelectronics Centre in Yuen Long Industrial Estate (IE), which is expected to be completed in 2023, with a view to attracting enterprises that manufacture microelectronics products and associated industries (such as advanced materials) and promoting research and development (R&D) and technological application among high value-added industries. Meanwhile, the Advanced Manufacturing Centre (AMC) located in Tseung Kwan O IE is expected to be completed in 2022. The HKSTPC has started inviting proposals for leasing of these two projects. HKSTPC will use part of the resources from the Government's $10 billion funding allocated in 2018 to offer incentives to tenants of the AMC.

In respect of talent, we launched the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme (RTTP) in August 2018 to subsidise local companies on a matching basis to train their staff in advanced technologies, especially those related to "Industry 4.0". As at end February 2021, the RTTP has approved over 1 900 applications for training grant, subsidising the training of more than 3 740 staff of local enterprises with a total funding amount of over $29 million.

In respect of technology, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) has been assisting enterprises to move towards high value-added production and gradually upgrade to "Industry 4.0", as well as traditional industries to enhance their technological level. The major work includes co-operating with the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology of Germany (the Institute) to implement the Industry 4.0 Upgrade and Recognition Programme and, through the Invention Centre jointly set up by the HKPC and the Institute, accelerating the adoption of innovative industrial technologies by the industry to promote the development of smart industry and digital manufacturing. In addition, the HKPC also operates the Inno Space and the "Digital@HKPC" to assist the industry in moving towards smart production.

In respect of scientific research, the five R&D Centres established by the Government (i.e. the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre, the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute, the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, and the Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre) will continue to engage in applied R&D and collaborate closely with the industry to advance commercialisation of R&D results and promote "re-industrialisation".

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0414)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (4) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The construction of the Data Technology Hub (DT Hub) aims to promote the data industry of Hong Kong and foster economic development.   The Government mentioned in the Budget that since the commencement of operation of the DT Hub in the Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate, 16 enterprises have already set up offices there or signed tenancy agreements.   In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1.   the list of the 16 enterprises mentioned above and their scopes of business;
2.   whether there are any performance indicators to assess if the data technology centres have achieved the desired objectives; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons; and
3.   whether the data research results of the enterprises operating in the DT Hub are owned privately; whether the Government will consider making public the relevant research results; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

Managed by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), the Data Technology Hub (DT Hub) in the Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate (IE) commenced operation at the end of 2020.   With a gross floor area of about 27 000 square metres, the 13-storey DT Hub supports digital transformation of the industries through providing land to enterprises for data technology and uses ancillary or complementary to the related operations.   Enterprises can make use of the advanced technology complementary facilities in the DT Hub to develop jointly data-driven innovative solutions, with a view to creating an innovation and technology data ecosystem.   Enterprises admitted to the DT Hub can also promote innovation by collaborating with companies engaging in data related business. As at the end of February 2021, 16 enterprises coming from industries requiring more data support, such as finance, e-commerce, manufacturing, electronic products and information

technology, have already been admitted or signed tenancy agreements. The list of the enterprises concerned is as follows:

1.	Fusion Bank Limited
2.	Buylive Technology Hong Kong Limited
3.	Vobile Group (HK) Limited
4.	LUMI Technology Company Limited
5.	Nirotech Limited
6.	4M Industrial Development Limited
7.	UniNet InfoSystem Limited
8.	Synergy Solution (Asia) Limited
9.	Speedy Group Corporation Limited
10.	Shun Hing Technology Company Limited
11.	Dazzle Limited
12.	DCConnect Global Limited
13.	Pacific Telecom & Navigation Limited
14.	Hong Kong Intellectual Property Exchange Limited
15.	KiLax Limited
16.	Infiniti Solutions Limited

HKSTPC will assist the admitted enterprises in making use of the facilities of the DT Hub to develop solutions, and enhance their liaisons with relevant enterprises in the Tseung Kwan O IE and the Hong Kong Science Park by organising various activities so as to facilitate mutual cooperation in carrying out more data technology projects. The research outcomes of the enterprises admitted to the DT Hub would be owned and used by themselves, as the tenancy agreements signed between HKSTPC and the enterprises do not include provisions requiring the disclosure of research outcomes for sharing purpose.   This arrangement is also in compliance with the prevailing market practice.

HKSTPC will review regularly whether the business developments of the admitted enterprises match the positioning of the DT Hub, formulate strategies to attract potential enterprises, thereby promoting collaboration and innovation among enterprises and taking forward the development of data technology in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0415)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned by the Government in the Budget that the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) has received 12 applications since its launch.   In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

the details of the 12 applications (please provide the list of applicants, their business scope, the new smart production lines to be set up, etc.);

the manpower and breakdown of expenditure involved since the launch of the RFS in July 2019; and

whether there are any performance indicators to assess if the RFS has achieved the desired objectives.   If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

The 12 applications received under the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) since its launch in late July 2020 up to the end of February 2021 involve industries such as biotechnology, food processing, construction, environmental protection, printing, medical device and nanofiber materials.   The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) would conduct an initial assessment of an application and submit the funding recommendation to the RFS Vetting Committee (the Committee) for consideration.   Currently, apart from the 1 application that was withdrawn by the applicant, the Committee has vetted 11 applications and agreed in principle to support 9 of them.   The secretariat is following up with the applicant companies on the comments of the Committee, so as to finalise the details of their plans and the contents of the funding agreements.   After the signing of the project funding agreement between ITC and the applicant company concerned, the basic information of the

project will be uploaded to the website of the Innovation and Technology Fund for public reference.

RFS is administered by ITC with its existing manpower and no breakdown of expenditures is available.

The estimated number of applications to be received and processed in 2021 is about 25. We will continue to organise briefings in collaboration with chambers of commerce and industry associations etc., and promote RFS to Hong Kong manufacturers in the Greater Bay Area through the electronic newsletters and WeChat platform of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

ITB054

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0424)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme (RTTP), which was launched under the Innovation and Technology Fund, has provided training in advanced technologies for over 3 500 employees of some 1 800 enterprises.   In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

the details of the RTTP (including the types and contents of the training courses, the types and total number of public training institutions participating in the RTTP, etc.);

the total amount spent, staff establishment, breakdown of expenditure each year from 2018 to 2020; and

whether there are any performance indicators to assess if the funding has achieved the desired objectives.   If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

Launched in August 2018, the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme (RTTP) subsidises local enterprises on a 2 (Government):1 (enterprise) matching basis to train their staff in advanced technologies, especially those related to "Industry 4.0".   The Vocational Training Council (VTC) is the secretariat responsible for administering RTTP.

The staff of subsidised enterprises received trainings in advanced technologies in different technology areas, such as information technology (IT), electronics systems, biotechnology and mechanical systems, many of which are related to "Industry 4.0", and cover trainings in "Industry 4.0" procedures, automated retail and production lines, blockchain, artificial intelligence, data analytics, cybersecurity, and building information modelling, etc.   Since

the launch of RTTP, a total of 66 organisations have provided training, including public sector organisations, education institutions and private training organisations etc.

The expenditures of RTTP in 2018-19 (since 22 August 2018) and 2019-20 were around $11 million and around $6 million respectively, which were used for the disbursement of training grant to enterprises, the expenditure of VTC serving as the secretariat, and the development and maintenance of the IT system, etc.   The relevant work of RTTP is absorbed by the existing manpower of the Innovation and Technology Commission and no breakdown of expenditure is available.

We estimate that 910 applications will be processed in 2021 to provide training for 2 150 trainees.   In addition, according to a survey conducted by the VTC on the enterprises whose staff have completed the technology training with approved training grant, in 2018-19 (since 22 August 2018) over 90% of the enterprises agreed that the knowledge and skills acquired by their staff in training courses under RTTP would be beneficial to Hong Kong's economy.   Meanwhile, nearly 90% of the enterprises were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" that training courses under RTTP could enhance the knowledge and skills of their staff, and expressed that they would continue to join RTTP in the future.   The survey for 2019-20 is now underway.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0425)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Government mentioned in the Budget that it will inject $4,750 million per year to the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) for 2 years in a row and that the funding approved under the ITF increased by over 7 times in the last 7 years, involving 17 funding schemes as well as over 50 research and development (R&D) laboratories under the ITF.   In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:
the enterprises and/or projects approved, in tabular form, under each funding scheme in each of the past 3 years;
the respective total amount of grants approved under the ITF for the funding schemes and R&D laboratories in each of the past 3 years;
whether there are any performance indicators to assess if the schemes have achieved the desired objectives; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons; and
whether the funding schemes and R&D laboratories have achieved the performance indicators in the past year.

Asked by: IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

A consolidated reply to the various parts of the question is as follows:

In the past 3 years (i.e. from 2018-19 to 2020-21 (as at end January 2021)), the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) funded 11 042 projects, involving a total funding amount of about $8.603 billion.   The numbers of projects and the amounts of funding approved under ITF funding schemes are tabulated as follows:

Funding Scheme	Number of projects approved	Amount of funding ($ million) (approximate)
(a) Innovation and Technology Support Programme	499	1,938
(b) Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme	1	1.65
(c) Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme	37	57.77
(d) Partnership Research Programme	104	222
(e) University-Industry Collaboration Programme (ceased to accept new applications since April 2019)	49	71.59
(f) Enterprise Support Scheme	102	312
(g) R&D Cash Rebate Scheme	933	396
(h) Midstream Research Programme for Universities	28	150
(i) Public Sector Trial Scheme	171	360
(j) Technology Voucher Programme	3 057	482
(k) Research Talent Hub	3 750	1,700
(l) Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme	1 841	27.06
(m) General Support Programme	75	145
(n) Patent Application Grant	395	98.75
(o) Others (including the funding support under ITF for technology start-ups, operation of research and development (R&D) centres and laboratories)	Not applicable	2,602
Total	**11 042**	**8,603**

Summaries of approved projects under ITF funding schemes (including the names of the funded organisations and companies, project titles and amounts of funding) have been set out on the ITF website (https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/project-search/index.html) for public inspection.   As for Patent Application Grant, information of the relevant approved projects are not published online since the application of patents usually involves commercial secrets.   Separately, details of the public training courses registered under Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme are listed on its dedicated website (https://rttp.vtc.edu.hk/rttp/course/list?lang=en).

In the past 3 years (i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 (as at end January 2021)), the total funding amounts provided by ITF each year to the funding schemes and R&D laboratories were about $2.065 billion, $2.614 billion and $3.909 billion respectively.

The main indicators for assessing the performance of the funding schemes under ITF are listed in the Controlling Officer's Report of Head 155 – Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission.   Each of the ITF funding schemes has its specific nature, objectives and target beneficiaries, and the ways and criteria for evaluating their effectiveness vary.   On the whole, the funding schemes and R&D institutions or laboratories under the ITF all accomplished their desired objectives last year, supporting the innovation and technology (I&T) development of Hong Kong in different aspects (such as supporting R&D, facilitating technology adoption, nurturing technology talent, supporting technology start-ups and fostering an I&T culture).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1756)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (4) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Government mentioned in the Budget that the InnoCell adjacent to the Hong Kong Science Park (Science Park) provides around 500 residential spaces and facilities such as shared work spaces for the use of the research personnel in the Science Park. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on:

1.   the details on the vetting of eligible research personnel; and

2.   whether there are any performance indicators to assess if the scheme has achieved the desired objectives; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The construction of the InnoCell adjacent to the Hong Kong Science Park (Science Park) was completed at the end of 2020. It provides about 500 residential spaces with flexible design and ancillary facilities such as shared working spaces for leasing to principals of tenants and incubatees in the Science Park, their employees and visiting researchers from places outside Hong Kong, and other personnel (for example, employees and researchers from their collaborating enterprises), etc., at an affordable price. The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) will start accepting applications for admission into the InnoCell from mid-April 2021.

HKSTPC will vet applications based on two guiding principles, namely "merit" and "need" considerations. On "merit", factors including the technology skills and knowledge of the employee concerned, his/her contribution to and participation in the local technology ecosystem, as well as the willingness to interact with other residents, etc. will be taken into account. On "need", factors to be considered include the existing residence and living

environment as well as the income of the employee concerned, etc.   The HKSTPC will set up an assessment panel to vet the admission applications.

The HKSTPC will review from time to time the occupancy of the InnoCell with a view to facilitating the enterprises in the Science Park to attract new employees from the Mainland/overseas and retain their existing staff, and promoting interaction between the HKSTPC and enterprises operating in the Science Park with the trade, so as to create a vibrant innovation and technology ecosystem.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0934)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme:

(1)   What are the categories of the collaborative projects funded in the past 3 years?
(2)   What are the plans to increase the ratio of the projects being funded and monitored?
(3)   What are the reasons for the decrease in the estimated number of applications to be received and processed this year as compared with that of 2020?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

(1)   The Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS) aims to enhance collaboration on research and development (R&D) between institutions in Hong Kong and Guangdong/Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and support R&D projects with an element of Hong Kong and Guangdong or Hong Kong and Shenzhen cooperation.   The applicant organisations in Hong Kong must be local R&D Centres, universities or other designated public research institutes.   There are 3 categories of projects under the TCFS, namely Category A (projects solicited, vetted and funded solely by Hong Kong), Category B (projects solicited, vetted and funded solely by Guangdong or Shenzhen) and Category C (projects jointly solicited and funded by Hong Kong and Guangdong or Hong Kong and Shenzhen, in which the R&D work must be conducted in both Hong Kong and Guangdong or Shenzhen).   From 2018 to 2020, a total of 38 projects under Category A and Category C were approved with a total funding amount of about $57.91 million from the Innovation and Technology Fund.   The technology areas involved include biotechnology, environmental technology, information and communication technologies, manufacturing

technology as well as nanotechnology and materials science. As for the applications under Category B, since they are processed solely by the relevant Guangdong or Shenzhen authorities, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) does not have the relevant statistics.

(2) and (3)   The numbers of applications received and processed by ITC under TCFS (Category A and Category C) vary from year to year as they are generally affected by factors such as the available resources, work plans and workload of the applicant organisations. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the numbers of applications received and processed by ITC were 135, 163 and 229 respectively. With reference to our past practice, the estimated number of applications to be received and processed in 2021 is projected on the basis of the average actual numbers of applications received and processed in the past 3 years.

We will continue our efforts in administering TCFS to encourage universities and research institutions in Hong Kong and the Mainland to enhance collaborations on both sides and with the industry in different areas of scientific research. We will keep monitoring the implementation of TCFS and conduct reviews from time to time to introduce enhancement measures as appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0935)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme:

(1) What are the categories of the projects funded among the 84 applications received in 2020?
(2) What are the reasons for funding only 1 application out of the 84 applications received?
(3) What are the plans to increase the number of projects funded and being monitored in this year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

(1) Launched in April 2019, the Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme (MHKJFS) aims to support and encourage research and development (R&D) collaboration among universities and research institutes in Hong Kong and the Mainland. The 2019 MHKJFS invited proposals for projects under the themes of "Biotechnology" and "Artificial Intelligence" (AI) with 113 applications received by the application deadline on 9 July 2019. The 2020 MHKJFS invited proposals for projects under the themes of "Biotechnology: Research on Prevention and Treatment of Neurological Diseases; Research on Prevention and Treatment of Cancer; and Research on Modernisation of Chinese Medicine" and "AI" with 84 applications received by the application deadline on 15 June 2020.

(2) Applications received under MHKJFS will be first assessed by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) separately, and only those supported by both sides will be approved.

Since the Scheme has only been launched for a relatively short period of time and due to the epidemic, a longer time was required for both sides to separately assess the 113 applications received in 2019 and finalise the list of applications to be supported. After both sides had agreed on the list of projects that could be approved, ITC would request the applicants concerned to revise their project proposals with reference to the assessment comments, so as to facilitate the formal approval procedures.

As at end 2020, 1 project supported by both sides has completed all approval procedures and another 4 have also completed the same as at end January 2021.   As for the 84 applications received under the 2020 MHKJFS, they are now being assessed by MOST and ITC.

(3)   We will continue our effort in administering MHKJFS and encourage universities and research institutes in Hong Kong and the Mainland to enhance collaboration in different areas of scientific research.   Like other schemes, we will keep monitoring the implementation of MHKJFS and conduct reviews from time to time to introduce enhancement measures as appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0936)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the co-operation mechanisms with the Mainland and the "Arrangement on Enhancing Innovation and Technology Co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong",

(1)   what are the achieved outcomes of co-operation between both sides in the past 2 years and the current progress?

(2)   what are the expected goals of co-operation to be achieved this year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

A consolidated reply to questions 1. and 2. is as follows:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been closely liaising with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province, and the Science, Technology and Innovation Commission of Shenzhen Municipality in respect of innovation and technology (I&T) collaboration.   In September 2018, the HKSAR Government signed with MOST the "Arrangement on Enhancing I&T Cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong" (the Arrangement).   The Arrangement and its annex "Joint Action Plan on Mainland and Hong Kong I&T Collaboration" serve as an action guide and framework for both parties to take forward the various I&T co-operation initiatives.   Both sides will enhance co-operation in essentially 6 areas, namely scientific research, development of platforms, nurturing of talents, transfer of results and incubation of I&T industry, integration into national development strategies, and cultivation of an I&T atmosphere.

In the past 2 years, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) continued to liaise, through various co-operation mechanisms, with the relevant Mainland institutions at different levels to promote collaboration in technology.   In this regard, the outcomes and progress of collaboration include:

-   Promotion of cross-boundary remittance of research and development (R&D) funding from the Mainland to Hong Kong: from mid-2019 to the end of 2020, MOST, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province, the Science and Technology Bureau of Guangzhou Municipality, and the Science, Technology and Innovation Commission of Shenzhen Municipality approved a total of over RMB 340 million to local universities and R&D institutions to conduct around 140 R&D projects and establish approximately 20 laboratories.   In response to the recommendation of ITC, MOST agreed in September 2020 to expand the coverage of local R&D institutions eligible for lodging applications for the "National Key R&D Programme" from 10 (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, The University of Hong Kong, Lingnan University, The Education University of Hong Kong, The Open University of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong Shue Yan University) to 19 (the 9 newly included institutions are the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre, the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute, the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Vocational Training Council, the Clothing Industry Training Authority, the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology, and the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong).   Meanwhile, in response to the consultation draft compiled by MOST regarding the management of cross-boundary remittance of funding, ITC assisted in seeking comments from local R&D institutions and submitted the consolidated feedback to MOST in mid-2020.

-   Relaxation of the limitation on exporting Mainland human genetic resources to Hong Kong: since the Central Government announced the measure concerned in November 2019, so far 3 Mainland branches established by Hong Kong's universities have been recommended by ITC and confirmed by MOST to be meeting the specified requirements and will be allowed to lodge applications for exporting human genetic resources to Hong Kong independently under a pilot scheme for research purpose. ITC will continue to follow up on the applications from other universities and provide them with pertinent assistance.

-   Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme (MHKJFS): ITC and MOST launch the MHKJFS every year since 2019 to encourage collaborative R&D projects between universities and research institutes in Hong Kong and different Mainland provinces. Among the first batch of applications mutually supported by ITC and MOST under the MHKJFS, 5 projects completed the entire approval process as at the end of January 2021, and it is envisaged that the approval process for 7 projects mutually supported by both sides will be completed progressively in the first half of 2021 and the R&D work of the projects will be commenced.

- Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS): since its launch in 2004, the TCFS has been continuously promoting R&D collaboration among universities and research institutes in Hong Kong and Guangdong/Shenzhen. A total of 21 applications under the TCFS have been supported by the Innovation and Technology Fund in 2019. The applications received under the TCFS in 2020 are now being assessed by the 3 places.

Our country promulgated in March this year the "Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035" (the 14th Five-Year Plan). The HKSAR Government will fully support the relevant work of the 14th Five-Year Plan to leverage Hong Kong's advantages in meeting the country's needs and develop an international I&T hub. The work focus includes developing the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (the Park) located in the Lok Ma Chau Loop in full swing. The Park is also a core engine for the HKSAR Government to press ahead with the development of an international I&T hub in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). The Chief Executive announced in the 2020 Policy Address that the Hong Kong and Shenzhen Governments would jointly develop the Shenzhen/Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone, which comprises the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone and the Park, with a view to establishing "one zone, two parks". The HKSAR Government will continue to actively participate in the development of an international I&T Hub in the GBA and facilitate the effective flow of innovation elements such as capital, resources, talents, information, etc., with an aim to promote collaboration in scientific research and better leverage the complementary advantages of different cities in the GBA. As such, ITC will continue to promote the various measures on technology collaboration with the Mainland, and liaise with relevant institutions to explore the feasibility of enhancing the existing measures and introducing new initiatives this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0937)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (4) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

(1)   What is the latest progress of the planning of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park in the Lok Ma Chau Loop?
(2)   What are the planning targets expected to be achieved this year?
(3)   Will there be any plans to expedite the planning progress?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

A consolidated reply to the various parts of the question is as follows:

To tie in with the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (the Park), the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) started the Advance Works in June 2018.   It is expected that the first batch of land parcels in the Lok Ma Chau Loop (the Loop) will be made available at the end of this year for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park Limited (HSITPL) to carry out construction works for Batch 1 development of the Park.

The Government obtained funding approval from the Legislative Council (LegCo) in early January this year to commence Main Works Package 1 (MWP1) of the Loop, which includes site formation (about 80 hectares) and infrastructure works (such as roadworks, water supply system and drainage system).   The CEDD plans to commence MWP1 in the third quarter of 2021 at the earliest for completion in phases by the third quarter of 2027. The Government also obtained funding approval from LegCo in early February this year to commence Batch 1 development of the Park.   At present, HSITPL is taking forward the relevant works projects in full swing, including starting the detailed design this year and commencing the construction works in the first quarter of 2022, with an aim to completing the 8 buildings under Batch 1 in phases from 2024 (i.e. within 36 months upon commencement of the construction works) to 2027.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0318)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 93 of the Budget Speech that the Government decided to regularise the pilot scheme launched last year, under which subsidies would be provided for students to enroll in innovation and technology (I&T) related internships. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

1.   the scope of work, listed in tabular form, that students participated in the scheme engaged in during their internships at the I&T enterprises;

2.   the distribution of expenditure of the subsidies, promotion and manpower deployment of the pilot scheme; and

3.   whether the Government has compiled any statistics on the ratio of interns who have actually pursued a career in I&T after graduation, apart from the survey quoted in the Budget Speech that up to 80% of them indicated they would consider to do so.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The requested information is provided below:

In June 2020, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) launched, on a pilot basis, the STEM Internship Scheme (the Scheme) to arrange short-term internships for undergraduates and postgraduates taking STEM programmes in local universities, with a view to encouraging them to gain innovation and technology (I&T)-related work experience during their studies, thereby fostering their interest in pursuing a career in I&T after graduation. Participating students will receive a monthly allowance of $10,500. Last year, 7 universities (The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong,

City University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Baptist University, The Education University of Hong Kong and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) participated in the Scheme during the summer and winter breaks. A total of over 1 600 students and more than 1 000 companies have joined the Scheme. The participating students were mostly third-year university students (45.5%), followed by fourth-year students (27.4%), second-year students (21.3%), first-year students (5.4%) and postgraduates (0.4%).

1.   The companies which hired student interns came from various business sectors, including information technology, biotechnology, electrical and electronic engineering, professional services and environmental protection.   Their major businesses are categorised as follows:

Major type of business of the participating companies	Percentage
i. Information technology	47.5%
ii. Biotechnology	6.6%
iii. Electrical and electronic engineering	5.3%
iv. Professional services	3.7%
v. Environmental protection	2.1%
vi. Others	34.8%
Total	**100%**

Various I&T elements were involved in the internship positions offered, such as programme coding, web design, big data analytics, machine learning, robotics, artificial intelligence, electronic engineering, digital marketing, biotechnology and food technology.

2.   The Scheme is implemented by ITC with its existing manpower. The participating universities are responsible for administering the Scheme and making a concerted effort on its promotion.   ITC will provide the universities with an additional subsidy of 15% of the total allowance disbursed to the student interns to cover their administrative expenses.   As at the end of February 2021, the allowance disbursed to the student interns and the administrative expenses of the participating universities amounted to about $37 million in total.   ITC's expenditure on promoting the Scheme was $673,000.

3.   According to the surveys conducted by the participating universities after the end of the internships, more than 80% of the students expressed upon completion of the internships that they would consider pursuing a career in I&T after graduation.   We will consult the universities to better understand the post-graduation employment situation this year of the students who took part in the Scheme last year.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

| ITB062 |

(Question Serial No. 0320)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (2) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 108 of the Budget Speech that the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU) provided a funding of about $120 million to a total of 139 start-ups in the past 3 years.   In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

1.   list in tabular form, the respective numbers of start-ups under the 6 universities funded by the TSSSU, their names, funding amounts and their scope of work in the past 3 years;

2.   the numbers of research and development (R&D) results successfully commercialised by the funded start-ups and their respective ratios in the past 3 years, as commercialising R&D results is the purpose of the TSSSU; and

3.   whether the Government has put in place any mechanism to monitor if the funding approved was used properly, as the subsidies granted to each university under the TSSSU could amount to millions of dollars; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1.   The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) has been implementing the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU) since 2014 to encourage university teams to start businesses and commercialise their research and development (R&D) results.   In the past 3 years, 174 start-ups had been funded under the TSSSU, of which 139 were funded for the first year and 35 the second or third year, involving a total funding amount of about $120 million.   The funded start-ups were mostly in the technology areas including information and communication technologies, biotechnology and electronic technology.   Each start-up may receive funding for no more than 3 years.   Details are set out at Annex.

2. According to the information provided by the universities, in the 3-year period from 2017-18 to 2019-20, of the 156 funded start-ups, 98 (63%) had commercialised their R&D results with nearly 200 products or services rolled out in the market. The information for 2020-21 will be collected and verified by the universities after the end of the financial year and subsequently submitted to ITC.

3. ITC has put in place mechanisms under the TSSSU to monitor the proper spending of the funding approved. Participating universities are required to vet the eligibility of the applicant teams and establish a selection panel to assess and select suitable teams for recommendation to ITC. The selection panel comprises members with expertise and experience from various fields, including technologists, academics, industry experts, professionals in accounting, finance and legal sectors, incubators and venture capitalists, etc.

    In assessing the applications, the selection panel needs to take into account various factors, such as the innovation and technology content and commercial viability of the business proposed by the applicant teams, scientific research and company management capabilities of the team members, as well as the positive impact to be brought by the business on the community. Upon confirmation of the applications, the universities concerned have to monitor the implementation of the business plan of each start-up. After the end of a financial year, it is necessary for the startups, when applying to the universities for reimbursement of expenditure incurred, to provide evidence of the relevant expenses and an auditor's report. The universities will, after vetting the information, submit to ITC an annual report and a reimbursement request. The annual report shall include an assessment on the overall and individual performances and achievements of the relevant start-ups, such as products/services rolled out in the market, the number of intellectual property rights generated, the scientific research/industry awards received, the revenue, the external investment obtained and the numbers of jobs/training opportunities created. ITC will, after reviewing the relevant reports, reimburse the start-ups via the universities.

Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities
[Note: N.A. denotes "Not Applicable"]

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
			Start-ups funded for the first-time				
1	The University of Hong Kong	AI Academy Limited	Others (education technology)	N.A.	N.A.	150	150
2	The University of Hong Kong	AICity Technology Holding Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	460	390	850
3	The University of Hong Kong	Brain Investing Limited	Information and communication technologies	150	252.5	200	602.5
4	The University of Hong Kong	Corvidae Technology Limited	Others (robotics and software development)	150	N.A.	N.A.	150
5	The University of Hong Kong	CYC Motor Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	360	N.A.	360
6	The University of Hong Kong	Datax Limited	Information and communication technologies	150	252.5	200	602.5
7	The University of Hong Kong	DigiDent AI Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	260	250	510
8	The University of Hong Kong	EchoX Technology Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	110	50	160
9	The University of Hong Kong	Farmacy HK Limited	Others (agricultural technology)	N.A.	252.5	250	502.5
10	The University of Hong Kong	Hestia Technology Limited	Others (robotics and automation)	N.A.	N.A.	200	200
11	The University of Hong Kong	High Performance Solution Limited	Energy	450	725	520	1,695
12	The University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong Univisual Intelligent Technology Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	300	300
13	The University of Hong Kong	HydroSoft Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	N.A.	300	300
14	The University of Hong Kong	InterLitho Technology Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	725	530	1,255
15	The University of Hong Kong	Jushan Bio Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	390	390
16	The University of Hong Kong	Kin Technology Limited	Electronics	N.A.	110	100	210
17	The University of Hong Kong	Levobio Limited	Nanotechnology and materials science	N.A.	N.A.	300	300
18	The University of Hong Kong	Llewellyn and Partners Company Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	300	300

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
19	The University of Hong Kong	m-Chinese Solution Limited	Information and communication technologies	150	N.A.	N.A.	150
20	The University of Hong Kong	Mega Whiz Education Limited	Testing and certification	N.A.	110	N.A.	110
21	The University of Hong Kong	Momentus Robotics Limited	Others (robotics)	N.A.	N.A.	390	390
22	The University of Hong Kong	Nanopath Technologies Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	100	100
23	The University of Hong Kong	Next Insurtech Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	252.5	250	502.5
24	The University of Hong Kong	Novel Sonics Limited	Biotechnology	450	460	N.A.	910
25	The University of Hong Kong	Ossfila Technology Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	110	250	360
26	The University of Hong Kong	PhrmaSec Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	260	500	760
27	The University of Hong Kong	Physight Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	460	300	760
28	The University of Hong Kong	QuantumFabless Limited	Electronics	250	725	390	1,365
29	The University of Hong Kong	Regtics Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	110	N.A.	110
30	The University of Hong Kong	Serinno Holdings Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	490	300	790
31	The University of Hong Kong	Sherpa Careers Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	100	100
32	The University of Hong Kong	Soonlution Technology Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	N.A.	150	150
33	The University of Hong Kong	Spiral Capital Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	110	N.A.	110
34	The University of Hong Kong	Swifthon Technology Consultancy Company Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	110	200	310
35	The University of Hong Kong	Tale Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	360	N.A.	360
36	The University of Hong Kong	Ubiquity Diagnostics Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	390	390
37	The University of Hong Kong	Weavatools Limited	Information and communication technologies	250	360	250	860
38	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Advanced Plasmon Technologies Limited	Nanotechnology and materials science	N.A.	600	400	1,000

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
39	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	AIROTA Diagnostics Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	500	500
40	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Bay Jay Ray Technology Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	700	400	1,100
41	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Beth Bioinformatics Company Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	500	500
42	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	BinoViz Limited	Information and communication technologies	500	400	300	1,200
43	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Capmi Technology Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	300	300
44	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Cornerstone Robotics Limited	Others (medical robotics)	N.A.	N.A.	500	500
45	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Dragon Way Technology Limited	Information and communication technologies	500	400	N.A.	900
46	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	EggLogics Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	500	500
47	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Foresight Language and Learning Solutions Limited	Biotechnology	400	400	300	1,100
48	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	GenieBiome Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	500	500
49	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Gnetwork Limited	Information and communication technologies	200	400	300	900
50	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hynovel Biotech Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	500	500
51	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	LaSense Technology Limited	Environment	N.A.	N.A.	700	700
52	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	LOOP Sports Technology Company Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	300	300	600
53	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Mechawaves Manufacturing Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	500	400	900

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
54	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	MTcure Biotech Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	500	400	900
55	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Mushroom-X Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	400	200	600
56	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	n-hop technologies Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	700	400	1,100
57	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Pureform Technology Limited	Information and communication technologies	250	N.A.	N.A.	250
58	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Shape Driven Tech Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	700	400	1,100
59	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Targene Biotech (Hong Kong) Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	200	200
60	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Titanology Limited	Nanotechnology and materials science	500	N.A.	N.A.	500
61	City University of Hong Kong	6J Biotechnology (Hong Kong) Limited	Biotechnology	747	820	1,000	2,567
62	City University of Hong Kong	AI Guided Limited	Electronics	N.A.	N.A.	300	300
63	City University of Hong Kong	AI Motion Sports Limited	Electronics	N.A.	400	440	840
64	City University of Hong Kong	Alternis Medical Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	300	300
65	City University of Hong Kong	AmaZinc Energy Limited	Energy	N.A.	820	570	1,390
66	City University of Hong Kong	Baomatics Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	200	N.A.	200
67	City University of Hong Kong	Beon Ad Limited	Others (artificial intelligence and big data)	N.A.	350	N.A.	350
68	City University of Hong Kong	Cellomics International Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	820	900	1,720
69	City University of Hong Kong	Eafe Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	140	N.A.	N.A.	140
70	City University of Hong Kong	Freedrop Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	350	N.A.	350
71	City University of Hong Kong	GenEditBio Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	440	440
72	City University of Hong Kong	Genie6 Technology Limited	Electronics	N.A.	500	300	800
73	City University of Hong Kong	Herbsphere Biotech Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	300	300

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
74	City University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong ATIS Healthcare Technology Limited	Others (artificial intelligence and healthcare)	400	N.A.	N.A.	400
75	City University of Hong Kong	HYDD Technology Limited	Electronics	N.A.	200	N.A.	200
76	City University of Hong Kong	ITsci Company Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	530	530
77	City University of Hong Kong	Medi Biotech Limited	Nanotechnology and materials science	N.A.	720	440	1,160
78	City University of Hong Kong	MindAmp Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	450	300	750
79	City University of Hong Kong	Nautilus Software Technologies Limited	Information and communication technologies	747	N.A.	N.A.	747
80	City University of Hong Kong	PATech Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	450	440	890
81	City University of Hong Kong	Portalyze Point of Care Limited	Nanotechnology and materials science	N.A.	710	1,000	1,710
82	City University of Hong Kong	Xiaomo Biotech Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	710	300	1,010
83	City University of Hong Kong	Zeta Motion Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	440	440
84	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	3DK Tech Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	650	N.A.	N.A.	650
85	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	AUISET Biotechnology Company Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	600	N.A.	600
86	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Centauri Optics Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	800	800
87	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Dayta AI Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	400	N.A.	400
88	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Deltron Intelligence Technology Holdings Limited	Others (artificial intelligence and robotics)	N.A.	N.A.	800	800
89	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	D-Engraver Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	400	N.A.	400
90	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Direct Drive Technology Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	600	300	900

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
91	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	DropX Biotech Limited	Biotechnology	450	N.A.	N.A.	450
92	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	eFlexPV Limited	Nanotechnology and materials science	N.A.	800	400	1,200
93	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	ETH Smart Contract Tech Ecosystem Limited	Logistics and supply chain management	N.A.	400	N.A.	400
94	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Gabi Education Limited	Others (education technology and healthcare)	N.A.	N.A.	400	400
95	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Gense Technologies Limited	Biotechnology	350	300	N.A.	650
96	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Hongkong Oasis Future Technology Development Company Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	400	N.A.	400
97	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Horizon Biochip Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	800	300	1,100
98	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Infitech Limited	Biotechnology	400	200	N.A.	600
99	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	INNOWAT Limited	Environmental protection	450	N.A.	N.A.	450
100	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	iPV Limited	Nanotechnology and materials science	N.A.	N.A.	800	800
101	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	I-Square Technology (Hong Kong) Limited	Information and communication technologies	450	N.A.	N.A.	450
102	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	iSTEM Limited	Information and communication technologies	200	N.A.	N.A.	200
103	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Levolution Technology Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	800	400	1,200
104	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	LiCool Materials Tech Limited	Automative parts and accessories	N.A.	N.A.	800	800

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
105	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Lisee Technology Corporation Company Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	300	N.A.	300
106	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Ocean Science (Hong Kong) Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	200	N.A.	200
107	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Perspectivar Technology International Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	500	500
108	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	P-Sense Limited	Information and communication technologies	300	N.A.	N.A.	300
109	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Raysolve Technology Company Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	N.A.	800	800
110	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Sinocore Biotechnology Limited	Environmental protection	N.A.	500	N.A.	500
111	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	SOCIF Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	500	500
112	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Sourcebrella Inc Limited	Information and communication technologies	250	N.A.	N.A.	250
113	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	SPES Tech Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	800	400	1,200
114	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Syncord 3D Technology Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	N.A.	800	800
115	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	WexTech HK Limited	Environment	350	N.A.	N.A.	350
116	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Without Limited	Information and communication technologies	150	N.A.	N.A.	150
117	Hong Kong Baptist University	BP InnoMed Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	1,060	1,500	2,560
118	Hong Kong Baptist University	CD133 Innovation Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	1,060	1,200	2,260
119	Hong Kong Baptist University	CP2Joy IT Company Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	292	292
120	Hong Kong Baptist University	Crimson Vision Technology Limited	Others (healthcare)	N.A.	1,060	N.A.	1,060

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
121	Hong Kong Baptist University	Herbap Biotech Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	1,388	1,388
122	Hong Kong Baptist University	Mat-A-Cell Limited	Nanotechnology and materials science	910	900	1,350	3,160
123	Hong Kong Baptist University	MIND and Tech Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	1,060	1,500	2,560
124	Hong Kong Baptist University	Smilie Technology Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	240	N.A.	240
125	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Active Biotechnology (Hong Kong) Company Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	N.A.	1,500	1,500
126	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Airwood Technology (Hong Kong) Limited	Electronics	N.A.	1,000	N.A.	1,000
127	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Arise Education Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	1,000	1,000
128	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Asiabots Limited	Information and communication technologies	730	N.A.	N.A.	730
129	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Blue Pin (HK) Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	500	500
130	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Degree (Hong Kong) Education Consulting Limited	Information and communication technologies	710	290	500	1,500
131	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Eternal Billion (Hong Kong) Limited	Biotechnology	560	410	1,500	2,470
132	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Grand Rise Technology Limited	Nanotechnology and materials science	N.A.	N.A.	1,500	1,500
133	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Hercz Rehabilitation Technology Limited	Biotechnology	N.A.	1,000	N.A.	1,000
134	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Husky Data Science Company Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	N.A.	500	500
135	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	NoMatterWhat Technologies Limited	Others (computer vision and optical engineering)	N.A.	1,000	N.A.	1,000
136	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Okay Healthcare Limited	Others (healthcare)	N.A.	1,000	N.A.	1,000

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
137	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Qualife Hong Kong Limited	Electronics	N.A.	1,000	N.A.	1,000
138	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	TOZI Technology Company Limited	Advanced manufacturing/process development	N.A.	1,000	N.A.	1,000
139	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Win Victory Enterprises Limited	Logistics and supply chain management	N.A.	N.A.	1,000	1,000
Start-ups funded for the second or third year							
1	The University of Hong Kong	CISC Limited	Information and communication technologies	260	N.A.	N.A.	260
2	The University of Hong Kong	Conzeb Limited	Biotechnology	100	N.A.	N.A.	100
3	The University of Hong Kong	EN Technology Limited	Biotechnology	150	N.A.	N.A.	150
4	The University of Hong Kong	Eonzen Technology Company Limited	Biotechnology	150	N.A.	N.A.	150
5	The University of Hong Kong	Hactis Limited	Information and communication technologies	150	N.A.	N.A.	150
6	The University of Hong Kong	ImmunoDiagnostics Limited	Biotechnology	465	N.A.	N.A.	465
7	The University of Hong Kong	Lifespans Limited	Biotechnology	465	575	N.A.	1,040
8	The University of Hong Kong	SkinData Limited	Biotechnology	260	N.A.	N.A.	260
9	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	A-Biotech (Hong Kong) Company Limited	Biotechnology	100	500	N.A.	600
10	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Accukit Technology Limited	Electronics	200	N.A.	N.A.	200
11	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	ACE VR Limited	Others (ophthalmic care and vision protection)	150	N.A.	N.A.	150
12	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	CocoRobo Limited	Information and communication technologies	300	N.A.	N.A.	300
13	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	DecaSense Technology Limited	Electronics	100	N.A.	N.A.	100
14	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Imsight Medical Technology Company Limited	Biotechnology	100	400	N.A.	500

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
15	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Intelligent Sensing Limited	Electronics	200	300	N.A.	500
16	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Smarteye Tech Limited	Advanced manufacturing/ process development	100	300	N.A.	400
17	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Unitinno Architectural Technology Development Company Limited	Others (construction)	100	N.A.	N.A.	100
18	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	WIT Enterprises Limited	Information and communication technologies	300	500	N.A.	800
19	City University of Hong Kong	Hands Life Science Limited	Biotechnology	747	N.A.	N.A.	747
20	City University of Hong Kong	Initial Innovation Limited	Information and communication technologies	140	N.A.	N.A.	140
21	City University of Hong Kong	J&K Brassiere Company Limited	Others (artificial intelligence)	400	500	N.A.	900
22	City University of Hong Kong	MindLayer Limited	Information and communication technologies	400	N.A.	N.A.	400
23	City University of Hong Kong	Scooter (Technology) Limited	Others (electric vehicle)	140	N.A.	N.A.	140
24	City University of Hong Kong	V&R Laboratory Limited	Information and communication technologies	140	N.A.	N.A.	140
25	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Oxpecker Labs Limited	Electronics	N.A.	300	N.A.	300
26	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Set Sail Venture Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	200	N.A.	200
27	Hong Kong Baptist University	Gihon Biotech Limited	Biotechnology	1,030	880	N.A.	1,910
28	Hong Kong Baptist University	Hong Kong Authentication Centre of Dendrobii Officinalis Caulis Limited	Testing and certification	1,030	850	N.A.	1,880
29	Hong Kong Baptist University	New Life Medicine Technology Company Limited	Biotechnology	1,030	890	N.A.	1,920
30	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Acquaintance Enterprises Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	300	N.A.	300

Serial No.	University that submitted recommendations	Name of Technology Start-ups	Technology Area	Amount of funding approved ('000)			Total ('000)
				2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
31	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	AlikeAudience (Hong Kong) Limited	Information and communication technologies	500	N.A.	N.A.	500
32	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	ASA Innovation & Technology Limited	Environmental protection	500	500	N.A.	1,000
33	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Next WiFi Technologies Limited	Information and communication technologies	500	N.A.	N.A.	500
34	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Pokeguide Limited	Information and communication technologies	N.A.	500	N.A.	500
35	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Vision Science and Technology Company Limited	Biotechnology	500	N.A.	N.A.	500
Total							119,231

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0323)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Launched at the end of 2016, the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP) aims to support local enterprises and organisations in using technological services and solutions to improve productivity, or upgrade or transform their business processes.   In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1.   the number of applications received and the percentage of successful applications each year since the launch of the TVP;

2.   the total amount of funding approved each year and the amount of funding approved for each application since the launch of the TVP; whether there are any statistics on the technological services or solutions on which the funding was mainly spent by the successful applicant companies;

3.   whether the Government has reviewed the changes in the number of applications and the amount of funding approved since the enhancement of the TVP in April last year, and whether the changes met the expectations; and

4.   whether the Government has any objective indicators to assess the effectiveness of the TVP in improving productivity and helping enterprises grow or transform; if yes, the effectiveness of the TVP; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

Launched in November 2016, the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP) aims to subsidise local non-listed enterprises and organisations in using technological services and solutions to improve their productivity, or upgrade or transform their business processes.   Since the introduction of the enhancement measures of the TVP by the Innovation and Technology

Commission (ITC) in April last year, the number of applications and the amount of funding approved are both higher than expected. In order to cope with the related work, ITC will consider adopting other measures and enhancing the procedures for processing applications, in order to help more enterprises upgrade or transform their business processes. Regarding the various parts of the question, the requested information is provided as follows:

1., 2. and 3.

As at the end of February 2021, of the 3 854 applications assessed by the TVP Committee (the Committee), 3 623 were approved, representing a success rate of about 94% and involving a total funding of about $562 million and an average funding of about $160,000. With the substantial increase in the number of TVP applications over the past year, the remaining applications are still awaiting supplementary information from the applicants or are under preliminary assessment by ITC. The numbers of applications received and approved each year are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications Note 1	Number of applications assessed	Number of applications approved	Success rate	Total amount of funding approved ($ million)	Average amount of funding approved ($)
2016 (November to December)	15	-	-	-	-	-
2017	577	324	302	93%	39.68	Around 130,000
2018	703	707	684	97%	97.94	Around 140,000
2019	1 574	954	852	89%	137.40	Around 160,000
2020	5 795	1 670	1 596	96%	256.58	Around 160,000
2021 (as at end-February)	898	199	189	95%	30.31	Around 160,000
Total	**9 562**	**3 854**	**3 623**	**94%**	**561.91**	**Around 160,000**

Note 1:   Excluding the 2 341 applications which were subsequently withdrawn or were unable to be processed due to ineligibility or missing supporting documents.

Major technological services or solutions involved in the approved projects are tabulated as follows –

Technological service or solution	Number of applications approved Note 2
Enterprise Resource Planning Solution	2 222
Electronic Inventory Management System	789
Point-of-Sales System	770
Document Management and Mobile Access System	698
Appointment Scheduling and Queue Management System	509

Note 2:   Projects may involve more than one technological service or solution.

4. The TVP provides funding for projects on a 3 (Government):1 (enterprise/organisation) matching basis. The enterprise/organisation will decide to make the relevant investment/bear the expenditure only if it is satisfied that the project concerned is able to enhance its competitiveness. The applicant is required to submit an evaluation report to ITC 6 months after project completion on the extent the project enhanced its competitiveness through achieving the objectives to improve productivity, or upgrade or transform its business processes. So far, 798 beneficiary enterprises/organisations have already completed their projects and submitted evaluation reports to ITC. 97% of them were of the view that the projects were conducive to enhancing their competitiveness while the remaining 3% conveyed that they already enjoyed competitive edges in the mainstream or specific markets, or that they implemented the projects mainly to enhance efficiency or save cost rather than to increase profits. Almost all of them indicated that ITC should continue to implement the TVP.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0037)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology
                 Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

To tackle the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, a special call for projects was launched by the Innovation and Technology Commission from March to April 2020 to support the application of home-grown technologies for the prevention and control of the epidemic.   In this connection, please advise on:

1.   the resources and manpower deployed by the Government in this respect; and
2.   the results achieved by these projects; whether the Government has evaluated in detail the actual benefits of these projects; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1.   To tackle the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) launched a special call for projects under the Public Sector Trial Scheme from March to early April 2020 to support product development and application of technologies for the prevention and control of the epidemic.   Each project should in general be completed within 12 months.

      A total of 332 applications were received under the special call, 63 of which were approved, involving total funding amount of over $102 million.   The relevant work was handled by existing ITC staff without involving additional manpower.

2.   The 63 applications approved involved various anti-epidemic technologies such as COVID-19 virus diagnosis or detection methods, masks and other protective equipment, air purification equipment, body temperature checking equipment, disinfection equipment and virus transmission tracking devices.   Some applicant organisations and companies have already manufactured prototypes for trials in the

local public sector. For example, the Centralised Nano Bubble System for Surface Cleaning and Sanitisation developed by the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute was tried by the Fung Kai Care and Attention Home for the Elderly. The system splits ozone into nano bubbles, and fluid carrying such bubbles can be used for sanitisation and reduction of the spread of bacteria and viruses. In addition, the trial of the "COVID-19 diagnostic kit" developed by the ImmunoDiagnostics Limited was carried out in the University of Hong Kong. With a short turnaround time, the kit will be able to assist organisations such as medical institutions and testing laboratories in conducting rapid COVID-19 testing. Also, the trials of the Contactless Elevator Control Panel developed by the Hong Kong Productivity Council have already commenced in various Government buildings and the Hong Kong International Airport and it will be gradually adopted in private housing estates and shopping centres later as well. This technology allows users to activate elevators without physical contact, thereby reducing the risk of coming into contact with surfaces of elevator buttons that may have been contaminated with viruses or bacteria.

All applicant organisations and companies with projects approved under the special call for projects are required to submit an evaluation report to ITC within 2 months upon project completion. The evaluation report should state how the project has facilitated the realisation and commercialisation of the research and development (R&D) results, including the wider benefits brought to the community by putting the R&D results into application in terms of combatting the COVID-19 epidemic in Hong Kong. Public sector organisations participating in the approved trial projects will also provide comments in the relevant evaluation reports to assist ITC in understanding the trial and effectiveness of the relevant projects.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0038)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Under the amended Inland Revenue Ordinance, companies can claim enhanced tax deduction for expenditures on qualifying research and development (R&D) activities incurred on or after 1 April 2018.   In this connection, please advise on:

1.   the numbers of claims for tax deduction on R&D expenditures processed and approved as well as the largest and smallest amounts of enhanced tax deduction granted since the introduction of the amended legislation; and

2.   whether the Government has evaluated the effectiveness of the amended legislation or introduced any enhancement measures; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

To encourage more enterprises to conduct research and development (R&D) locally and promote the technological innovation and economic development in Hong Kong, the Government amended the Inland Revenue Ordinance in 2018 to provide a two-tiered enhanced tax deduction regime for expenditures on "qualifying R&D activities" incurred by enterprises on 1 April 2018 and thereafter.   The deduction is 300% for the first $2 million of the qualifying R&D expenditures incurred by the enterprises and the remaining amount is qualified for 200% tax deduction, with no cap on the amount of the enhanced tax deduction. The aforesaid amended legislation came into effect on 2 November 2018.   The requested information is provided as follows:

1.   As at February 2021, the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) received a total of 317 claims on R&D expenditures for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 assessment years.   In making tax assessments, the IRD generally adopts the "Assess First, Audit Later" mechanism and selects relevant cases applying for tax deduction for audit.   The IRD

is unable to provide the types of information such as the processed and approved number of claims as well as the assessed largest and smallest amounts of enhanced tax deduction granted.

2. After the implementation of the relevant tax measure, the amount involved in the claims for tax deduction on R&D expenditures continued to increase. As at February 2021, the total amount involved in the claims for tax deduction on R&D expenditures for the 2019/20 assessment year was about $3 billion, representing an increase of more than 58% over the approximately $1.89 billion for the 2018/19 assessment year, or close to a double increase as compared with the $1.52 billion for the 2017/18 assessment year (i.e. prior to the implementation of the measure). Besides, among the $3 billion mentioned above, about 70% of the claims were eligible for enhanced tax deduction, reflecting that the relevant tax measure was effective in attracting and encouraging enterprises to devote more resources to local R&D activities. We will keep in view the implementation and effectiveness of the measure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0050)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (4) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Government will oversee the work of the 2 *InnoHK* research clusters and keep in view the need for the third research cluster to further promote global research collaboration in Hong Kong. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the respective progresses in the establishment of the aforesaid clusters? What are the number of applications received from laboratories and the numbers of those approved and rejected by the Government to date in respect of each cluster? Please provide a specific list and the funding amount?

2. Among the admission applications (i) received and (ii) approved in respect of each cluster, what are the respective numbers of those submitted by world-renowned institutions and commercial entities? Please set out the names of the world-renowned institutions and commercial entities whose applications have been approved.

3. Regarding the establishment of the third *InnoHK* research cluster, (i) what are the progress and timetable of the relevant work; (ii) what is the area of focus of that cluster; and (iii) will its mode of operation be different from that of the aforesaid 2 clusters?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The reply to the various parts of the question is as follows:

1. and 2.   The first two *InnoHK* research clusters, namely "*Health@InnoHK*" focusing on healthcare-related technologies and "*AIR@InnoHK*" focusing on artificial intelligence and robotics technologies, have received a total of over 60 proposals

from local universities and many top-notch overseas universities and research institutes.   About 40% of the proposals are for "*Health@InnoHK*" and about 60% are for "*AIR@InnoHK*".   After a rigorous selection and assessment process, the first batch of around 20 research and development (R&D) centres have commenced operation progressively in the Hong Kong Science Park in the first quarter of this year.   The revised estimate for 2020-21 and the estimate for 2021-22 for the establishment of the two *InnoHK* research clusters are $1.68 billion and around $730 million respectively.

The research areas of "*Health@InnoHK*" cover drug discovery, personalised medicine, molecular diagnostics, bioengineering, chemical biology, bioinformatics, vaccine development, medical instrumentation and alternative medicine, etc.   The research areas of "*AIR@InnoHK*" comprise big data analytics, machine learning, medical robotics, mobile robots and construction robots, etc.   The R&D centres in the two research clusters are actively taking forward their preparatory work, including the fitting-out of laboratories, recruitment of postgraduates and R&D personnel, etc.   The work progress of some R&D centres is affected by the epidemic and other factors.   We are closely monitoring the related development and will announce the list of R&D centres admitted in due course.

3.   We will take into account factors including the strengths of Hong Kong and the global technological development in considering the research focus of the third *InnoHK* research cluster.   There are currently no fixed timeline and estimated expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0124)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology
                Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Under the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme (CRS), companies participating in R&D projects funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund or conducting applied R&D projects in partnership with designated local public research institutions can enjoy a cash rebate of 40% on their investments.   In this connection, please advise on:

1.   the number of applications received, the actual number of applications approved, and the amount of cash rebate involved in the past 3 years; and

2.   whether the Government has assessed the possibility of enhancing the CRS by expanding its scope to cover all technology companies conducting R&D in Hong Kong in view of the volatility of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, the uncertain business environment and other factors that may hinder local companies' investment in R&D activities; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

Launched in April 2010, the Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme (CRS) aims to encourage the private sector to invest more resources in research and development (R&D) and encourage companies to establish stronger partnership with local public research institutes.   CRS provides cash rebate to companies on eligible expenditure in 2 types of applied R&D projects, namely R&D projects funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund with participation from the companies, and R&D projects commissioned by the companies to designated local public research institutions and funded entirely by the companies.   The requested information is provided below:

1.   All eligible applications under CRS have been approved.   In the past 3 years (i.e. 2018, 2019 and 2020), the numbers of applications approved were 295, 381 and 311

respectively, and the total amounts of cash rebate were about $115.9 million, $155.1 million and $145 million respectively.

2. We will review the implementation and effectiveness of CRS and introduce enhancement measures from time to time to suitably respond to the industry demand.

Besides, we amended the Inland Revenue Ordinance in 2018 to provide a two-tiered enhanced tax deduction for qualifying R&D expenditure incurred by enterprises on 1 April 2018 and thereafter. The deduction is 300% for the first $2 million of qualifying R&D expenditure and 200% for the remaining amount. There is no cap on the amount of enhanced tax deduction. This measure will benefit all technology companies conducting R&D in Hong Kong, further promoting and encouraging private sector's investment in R&D.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0291)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the operation of the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS), will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the total number of applicants allotted with quotas since the launch of TechTAS and a breakdown of it by region or country;

2. a breakdown of the persons admitted into Hong Kong under TechTAS by profession;

3. whether the Government will consider relaxing the restrictions of 1 000 persons to be admitted per year and each company/organisation to be given a quota of not more than 100 persons, as well as allowing the unused quotas to be carried forward to the next year;

4. whether the Government will consider, on top of the existing technology areas, further extending the scope of TechTAS to cover technical personnel working in a wider industrial field, including practical talent like technicians and artisans; and

5. whether the Government will consider providing technology companies with more incentives such as rent subsidy and an increase in subsidy for researchers, so as to encourage more technology talent to work in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The requested information is provided below:

1. and 2.   The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) launched the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) in June 2018.   As at the

end of February 2021, a total of 527 quotas were allotted. The Immigration Department (ImmD) approved a total of 224 visa/entry permit applications in accordance with the relevant quotas. Their technology areas and respective regions are categorised as follows:

Technology area	Number of non-local persons approved for entry under TechTAS
Artificial intelligence	48
Financial technologies	38
Material science	32
Data analytics	27
Biotechnology	25
Robotics	20
Cybersecurity	16
5G communications	11
Internet-of-Things	4
Integrated circuit design	2
Green technology	1
Total	**224**

Region	Number of non-local persons approved for entry under TechTAS
Mainland China	147
Other Asian regions	54
Europe	11
America	9
Australia	3
Total	**224**

3. and 4.   We enhanced TechTAS in January 2020 by extending the applicable technology areas from 7 to 13 and the coverage to all companies undertaking research and development (R&D) activities in the 13 technology areas in Hong Kong, allowing more companies to benefit from the certainty and streamlined procedures offered by the Scheme, thus expediting the admission of R&D talent from different parts of the world. At present, each company can be allotted with a maximum of 100 quotas each year. No companies have reflected to us that the quotas are insufficient. We will be flexible in addressing the actual needs, if any, on a case-by-case basis. As for other trades, depending on the skill levels and/or academic requirements of the job vacancies concerned, employers may apply to ImmD for admission of professionals or to the Labour Department for importation of workers at technician level or below under the Supplementary Labour Scheme.

5.   In order to enlarge the pool of I&T talent in Hong Kong and allow more flexibility for employers to engage talent to conduct R&D work, the eligibility for the Research Talent Hub (RTH) was extended on 2 March 2021. In the past, the RTH provided funding support for eligible

companies or organisations to engage up to 4 graduates with a doctoral degree in a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)-related discipline from a local university or a well-recognised non-local institution (Note), or with a bachelor's or master's degree in a STEM-related discipline awarded by a local university. With the extension of the eligibility, employers may also engage graduates with a bachelor's or master's degree in a STEM-related discipline from a well-recognised non-local institution. All participants must be Hong Kong permanent residents or persons permitted to work in Hong Kong. With a funding period of up to 3 years, the scheme provides maximum monthly allowances of $18,000, $21,000 or $32,000 for research talent with a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree respectively.

We have constructed an InnoCell adjacent to the Hong Kong Science Park (Science Park) to provide around 500 residential spaces with flexible design for leasing at an affordable rent to principals of the tenants and incubatees in the Science Park as well as their employees and visiting researchers from the Mainland or overseas, offering the technology talent with suitable accommodation.

Note: "Well-recognised non-local institution" refers to one of the top 100 institutions for STEM-related subjects in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, the Academic Ranking of World Universities and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3134)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology
                     Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Policy Address that $100 million has been set aside for the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF), the Arts and Sport Development Fund, the Film Development Fund and the CreateSmart Initiative to implement projects that integrate technology and arts.   In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

(a)   the numbers of applications received under the Technology Voucher Programme of the ITF, the numbers of applications received which were related to arts technology, the overall numbers of applications approved, the numbers of applications related to arts technology that were approved and the average amounts of funding for each application in the past 2 years;

(b)   the numbers of applications received under the General Support Programme of the ITF, the numbers of applications received which were related to arts technology, the overall numbers of applications approved, the numbers of applications related to arts technology that were approved and the average amounts of funding for each application in the past 2 years; and

(c)   the measures of the Government to encourage more projects related to arts technology to apply for the relevant funding schemes under the ITF.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

The arts sector is welcome to apply for funding through various funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Fund to help promote the development of arts technology. Among the funding schemes, Technology Voucher Programme (TVP) and General Support Programme (GSP) are relevant to the promotion of the application of technologies and innovation and technology (I&T) culture relating to arts technology.

(a)   TVP provides funding for enterprises and organisations to use technological services and solutions to improve productivity, or upgrade or transform their business processes.   In the past 2 years (from January 2019 to end February 2021), a total of 8 267 applications were received under TVP.   Among the 190 applications submitted by local enterprises and organisations of the creative industries or the film and entertainment sectors, 44 of them have been approved with an average funding amount of about $180,000 for each application and 5 applications have been rejected.   Since the introduction of the enhancement measures of TVP in April 2020, the number of applications received last year increased substantially from about 1 600 in 2019 to about 5 800 in 2020.   We are now processing the remaining 141 applications submitted by local enterprises and organisations of the creative industries or the film and entertainment sectors.

(b)   GSP supports non-research and development projects that contribute to the upgrading and development of the local industries as well as the fostering of an I&T culture in Hong Kong.   In the past 2 years (from January 2019 to end February 2021), a total of 87 applications were received under GSP, of which all 3 applications relating to arts technology have been approved with an average funding amount of about $910,000 for each application.

(c)   Efforts on promoting arts technology are coordinated by the Home Affairs Bureau. The Innovation and Technology Commission will take an active part in the relevant measures to promote and support the development of arts technology.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0210)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Government launched the Distance Business Programme (the Programme) under the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF).   Owing to the overwhelming response from enterprises, a total of $1.8 billion funding support has already been granted.   As the epidemic is still volatile, will the Government launch a new round of the Programme to support enterprises to continue business and provide services during the epidemic?   If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?   The Government mentioned that some enterprises, even though have their applications approved, did not accept the application results.   Does the Government understand in detail the reasons behind such a rejection?   What are the manpower and expenditure involved in launching the Programme?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

The Distance Business Programme (the Programme) aims to support enterprises to continue their business and services during the epidemic through adoption of information technology (IT) solutions.   The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) is responsible for implementing the Programme, and the Hong Kong Productivity Council is the Secretariat of the Programme.   As the Programme is a time-limited initiative introduced under the Anti-epidemic Fund, we do not plan to re-launch it again.   That said, the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP), a regular programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund, aims to support enterprises in using technological services and solutions to improve productivity, or upgrade or transform their business processes.   Having regard to the operational experience and the industry's views, ITC introduced a number of enhancements to the TVP last year.   At present, each eligible enterprise can receive a cumulative funding of up to $600,000 to carry out a maximum of 6 projects.   Funding is provided for three-quarters of the project cost of each approved project, which means that the enterprise

only has to contribute one quarter of the project cost.   We welcome interested enterprise to submit applications.

Regarding the Programme, we have completed processing all of the 38 572 applications received, of which 34 705 were approved.   About 95% of the beneficiary enterprises were small and medium-sized enterprises.   As at 31 March 2021, excluding cases in which the enterprises did not accept the application results or provide relevant documents after their applications had been approved, 27 911 applications were approved, involving a total funding of around $1.8 billion.   Given that enterprises can decide whether to accept the approved solutions according to their own circumstances, we have not kept track of the reasons why individual enterprises withdrew from the Programme.   The aforesaid Programme under the Anti-epidemic Fund is outside the scope of the Appropriation Bill or the estimates of the General Revenue Account.

ITC launched the Programme with existing manpower and resources and no breakdown of expenditures is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0289)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Government has extended the Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS) to include incubatees of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and Cyberport earlier, with an aim of nurturing more innovation and technology talents.   Please advise this Committee on the respective numbers of organisations and companies participating in the PSTS each year in the recent 5 years; the average amount of funding for each application; the categories of the new products; has any assessment been conducted in respect of the ways the products helped enhance the efficiency of the Government; the Government's estimated numbers of start-ups and small and medium enterprises to be participating in the PSTS in the coming year; and the expenditure on promotion in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 311)

Reply:

The Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS) provides funding to research and development (R&D) projects under the Innovation and Technology Fund, incubatees and graduate tenants of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and Cyberport, and its scope has been further extended to cover technology companies conducting R&D activities in Hong Kong since March 2020 for producing prototypes/samples of their R&D outcomes and conducting trials in the public sector (including government departments).   To tackle the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic, we also launched a special call for projects for the prevention and control of COVID-19 from March to April 2020 to support the application of technologies in combatting the epidemic.   The numbers of organisations/companies applying for PSTS, the average amounts of funding for each approved project and the technology areas involved in the projects in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of projects approved	Number of applicant organisations/ companies	Average amount of funding for each approved project ($ million)	Example of the technology areas involved in the projects
2016	22	8	1.32	- Information technology
2017	33	14	1.98	- Textiles/clothing/footwear
2018	29	18	1.38	- Mechanical systems and manufacturing technology
2019	41	15	2.68	- Electrical and electronics
2020	104 (Note)	47	2.08	- Nanotechnology and materials - Biotechnology

Note: including the special call for projects under PSTS for the prevention and control of COVID-19.

Public sector organisations participating in PSTS are required to evaluate the effectiveness of the projects upon completion.   Overall speaking, they are all satisfied with the relevant prototypes/samples and/or the results of the trials.   We will continue to facilitate the realisation and commercialisation of R&D results and encourage public sector organisations to apply more local R&D outcomes through PSTS.   As for the product development of the applicant organisations after project completion, we do not have such information.

Based on previous figures, we estimate that about 28 applications may be received under PSTS in the 2021-22 financial year.

The relevant work (including promotional work) will be absorbed by the existing manpower and resources of the Innovation and Technology Commission.   We do not have a breakdown of expenditure for individual work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0303)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

What caused the Commission's estimated provision under Planning for Innovation and Technology Development for 2021-22 to have substantially increased by 49.6% compared with the revised estimate for 2020-21? What are the respective percentages of the provisions for enhancing public awareness of innovation and technology, supporting technology co-operation with the Mainland and overseas economies, organising local promotional events, and promoting the development of Chinese medicines in the financial provision under the Programme?

What is the percentage of the provision for administering the Research Talent Hub (RTH) in the financial provision under the Programme? Will the number of research talents to be engaged under RTH be increased, and their engagement period be extended?

What are the estimated expenditures for the 4 major areas with comparative advantages, namely biotechnology, artificial intelligence, smart city and financial technologies, as well as their percentage increases compared with those in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 306)

Reply:

The aim of Programme (3) is to support the formulation and co-ordination of innovation and technology (I&T) policies and sustain public awareness of I&T. Major work for 2021-22 includes:

(a)   administering the Research Talent Hub (RTH) and the Technology Talent Admission Scheme;
(b)   strengthening technology co-operation with the Mainland under established co-operation mechanisms and in accordance with the "Arrangement on Enhancing Innovation and Technology Co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong";

(c)   administering the General Support Programme, the Technology Voucher Programme, the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme and the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme, and monitoring progress of the funded projects;

(d)   overseeing the implementation of the Distance Business Programme under the Anti-epidemic Fund;

(e)   promoting an I&T culture to the general public and nurturing more young innovators, such as by organising the City Innovation and Technology Grand Challenge (City I&T Grand Challenge);

(f)   nominating entries for the State Science and Technology Awards; and

(g)   organising promotional and educational activities to enhance public awareness of I&T development.

The work involves projects and enterprises in various technology areas and application fields, including biotechnology, artificial intelligence, smart city, financial technologies, and the development of Chinese medicines, etc.

The overall estimated provision under Programme (3) for 2021-22 is $185 million, including $86 million (46.5%) of recurrent expenditure on salary of the personnel concerned and departmental expenses, and $99 million (53.5%) of non-recurrent expenditure for organising the City I&T Grand Challenge. The revised estimated expenditure under Programme (3) for 2020-21 is $124 million.

The provision for 2021-22 is 49.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirements for organising the City I&T Grand Challenge, partly offset by the decreased provision for salary with the reduction of 7 posts in 2021-22.

In order to enlarge the pool of I&T talent in Hong Kong and allow more flexibility for employers to engage talents to conduct research and development (R&D) work, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) merged the Researcher Programme and the Postdoctoral Hub into RTH on 1 July 2020 to provide funding support for each eligible company, organisation or R&D project to engage up to 4 I&T talents at bachelor's, master's or doctoral levels to conduct R&D work, with a maximum engagement period of 36 months. In March 2021, ITC extended the eligibility for RTH to holders of a bachelor's or master's degree in a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)-related discipline awarded by a well-recognised non-local institution. As one of the funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Fund, RTH is not covered by the estimated provision under Programme (3). The revised estimate of RTH for 2020-21 is $414 million.

- End -

(Question Serial No. 0305)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

According to paragraph 111 of the Budget Speech, the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme has received 12 applications so far since its launch in July last year.   Among them, how many applications are successful?   What are the average funding amount, the average processing time required for each application, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved in processing the applications this year?   Will the Government consider increasing the funding amount and ratio?   If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

The Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) subsidises manufacturers, on a 1 (Government): 2 (company) matching basis, to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong.   The funding ceiling is one-third of the total project cost or $15 million, whichever is lower.   Since the launch of RFS by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) in late July 2020 up to end of February 2021, 12 applications were received.   Currently, apart from the 1 application that was withdrawn by the applicant, the RFS Vetting Committee (the Committee) has vetted all of the 11 applications and agreed in principle to support 9 of them, involving a total funding amount of approximately $55 million and an average funding amount of about $6.1 million.   The Secretariat is following up with the applicant companies on the comments of the Committee, so as to finalise the details of their plans and the contents of the funding agreements.   After the signing of the funding agreement by the applicant company concerned, the basic information of the project will be uploaded to the website of the Innovation and Technology Fund for reference by the public.

As RFS has been launched for less than a year, we need to accumulate experience in order to review the overall workflow and collect statistics on the average processing time for each application in a more accurate manner.   RFS is administered by ITC with its existing

manpower and no breakdown of expenditures is available.   We will monitor closely the operation of RFS and introduce enhancement measures as and when appropriate.

- End -

(Question Serial No. 0350)

Head:	(155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission
Subhead (No. & title):	()
Programme:	(4) Infrastructural Support
Controlling Officer:	Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)
Director of Bureau:	Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the pursuit of the commercialisation of research and development results and technology transfer to boost the development of industries and re-industrialisation, areas such as advanced materials, nanotechnology and microelectronics offer immense potential. Will the Government inform this Committee of the specific targeted measures for achieving remarkable progress in the said areas, and the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 87)

Reply:

The Government has been actively promoting "re-industrialisation" in recent years by developing advanced manufacturing industries that are based on new technologies and smart production whilst do not require much land, so as to stimulate the demand for research and development (R&D), identify new growth points for Hong Kong's economic development, create quality jobs for youngsters, and raise Hong Kong's competitiveness. The Government has been fostering favourable conditions for "re-industrialisation" from the perspectives of infrastructure, talent, funding, technology and scientific research, including the promotion of the development in areas such as advanced materials, nanotechnology, microelectronics, etc., as exemplified below.

In respect of infrastructure, given that the R&D of microelectronics products requires specific facilities, such as dangerous goods storage, clean rooms with very high standards of production environment, and dedicated chemical waste and sewage treatment systems, etc., the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) is developing a Microelectronics Centre (MEC) in Yuen Long Industrial Estate (IE) to provide a gross floor area of about 36 180 square metres.   In addition to the said dedicated facilities, the MEC will also provide shared ancillary facilities such as shared laboratories for product quality and reliability testing analysis, ancillary offices, conference rooms, shared work spaces, etc.,

with a view to attracting enterprises that manufacture microelectronics products (such as semiconductor wafers including sensors, third generation semiconductors and heterogeneous integrated microelectronics products, etc.) and enterprises of associated industries (such as advanced materials) as well as promoting R&D and technological application among high value-added industries.   The MEC is expected to be completed in 2023.   Meanwhile, the Data Technology Hub (DT Hub) located in Tseung Kwan O IE was completed in 2020, and the Advanced Manufacturing Centre (AMC) is expected to be completed in 2022.   The HKSTPC has started inviting proposals for leasing of these two projects.   The HKSTPC will use part of the resources from the Government's $10 billion funding to offer incentives to tenants of the AMC and the DT Hub.   Besides, the Sensor Packaging and Integration Laboratory in the Hong Kong Science Park has been expanded from 3 000 square feet (sq. ft.) to 10 000 sq. ft. to support the R&D of micro sensors and associated devices.

In respect of talent, we launched the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme (RTTP) in August 2018 to subsidise local companies on a matching basis to train their staff in advanced technologies, especially those related to "Industry 4.0".   As at end February 2021, the RTTP has approved over 1 900 applications for training grant, subsidising the training of more than 3 740 staff of local enterprises with a total funding amount of over $29 million.

In respect of funding, the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) was launched in late July 2020 to subsidise manufacturers on a matching basis to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong.   As at end of February 2021, 12 applications were received.   Except for 1 application which was withdrawn by the applicant, the RFS Vetting Committee has vetted 11 applications and agreed in principle to support 9 of them, involving industries such as biotechnology, medical device and nanofiber materials.   The total funding amount is approximately $55 million.

In respect of technology, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) has been assisting enterprises to move towards high value-added production and gradually upgrade to "Industry 4.0", as well as traditional industries to enhance their technological level.   The major work includes co-operating with the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology of Germany (the Institute) to implement the Industry 4.0 Upgrade and Recognition Programme and, through the Invention Centre jointly set up by the HKPC and the Institute, accelerating the adoption of innovative industrial technologies by the industry to promote the development of smart industry and digital manufacturing.   In addition, the HKPC also operates the Inno Space and the "Digital@HKPC" to assist the industry in moving towards smart production.   In addition to the above work, the HKPC will also continue to implement the following initiatives:

- Assisting companies from different sectors in setting up smart production lines in Hong Kong, including establishing fully automatic and digital production systems, collecting real-time production data for analysis as well as setting up digital factories and production centres, so as to enhance productivity;
- Conducting R&D on advanced material manufacturing and processing technologies, such as additive manufacturing materials, degradable polymer, smart fabric and recyclable plastic, etc.;

- Conducting R&D on graphene to enhance the electric and heat conductivity of materials, and on photocatalyst as coatings to improve the anti-bacterial function of materials;
- Providing testing and certification services for biodegradable polymer, and conducting examination and analysis of microelectronics (such as integrated circuits) through electron microscope, spectrometry, X-ray or biopsy; and
- Organising Hong Kong Industry Network Clusters consultation sessions to conduct in-depth discussions with major chambers of commerce from different sectors, industry support organisations, government representatives and enterprises in Hong Kong on the challenges faced by and the needs of the industry in response to technological innovation, and to introduce the latest technological solutions, including the core technologies related to "Industry 4.0", etc.

In respect of scientific research, the 5 R&D Centres established by the Government (i.e. the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre, the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute, the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, and the Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre) will continue to engage in applied R&D and co-operate closely with the industry to promote commercialisation of R&D results and "re-industrialisation".

Promotion of "re-industrialisation" is handled by the existing manpower of the Innovation and Technology Commission that there is no breakdown of expenditures.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

ITB075

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0417)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Innovation and Technology Commission has earlier increased the government funding ratio of each project under the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP) to 75% and the cumulative funding ceiling per applicant to $600,000, and enhanced the promotion of TVP via briefings and other channels to promote the wider use of technological services and solutions among local enterprises for increasing their productivity or upgrading and transforming business processes.   What are the number of applications received under TVP, the number of successful applications, and the average amount of funding approved for each application in the past 3 years?   In addition, what are the Government's estimated publicity expenditure for TVP next year, as well as the manpower and expenditure for processing the applications?   Will the Government increase the funding amount and ratio of the TVP again as soon as possible?   If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 308)

Reply:

In the past 3 years (from January 2018 to end February 2021), the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) received a total of 8 970 applications under the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP), excluding the 1 570 applications which were subsequently withdrawn or were unable to be processed due to ineligibility or missing supporting documents.   During the same period, of the 3 530 applications assessed by the TVP Committee, 3 321 were approved, involving an average funding amount of about $160,000. The number of TVP applications increased substantially over the past year from about 1 600 in 2019 to about 5 800 in 2020.   The remaining applications are either still awaiting supplementary information from the applicants or are under preliminary assessment by ITC.

ITC has earmarked $200,000 for the expenditure on promoting TVP in 2021-22, which will be mainly used on the production of various promotional materials.   We will also continue

to carry out publicity and promotion work through channels such as briefing sessions.   In 2021-22, 11 ITC staff are responsible for the implementation of TVP.   The estimated total salary cost is about $7.6 million.   In order to cope with the related workload, ITC will consider adopting other measures and enhancing the procedures for processing applications.

We will closely monitor the implementation of TVP and introduce enhancement measures as and when necessary, in order to help more enterprises upgrade or transform their business processes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0420)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Commission estimates that the number of applications to be received and processed under the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS) in the coming year will be 176, which is lower than the target of the previous year. This runs contrary to the vision of promoting the innovation and technology industries as stated in the Policy Address and the Budget. What are the reasons for lowering the target? Will manpower be reduced for processing the TCFS applications? Will more resources be set aside for promoting the TCFS in the coming year? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 305)

Reply:

The numbers of applications received and processed by the Innovation and Technology Commission under the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS) vary from year to year as they are generally affected by factors such as the available resources, work plans and workload etc. of the applicant organisations. The numbers of applications received and processed in 2018, 2019 and 2020 were 135, 163 and 229 respectively. The estimated number of applications to be received and processed in 2021 is projected on the basis of the average actual numbers of applications received and processed in the past 3 years.

TCFS is part of the work under Programme (1) Support for Research and Development. The staff establishment for the relevant work will remain the same and we will continue our efforts in administering TCFS and encourage universities and research institutes in Hong Kong and the Mainland to enhance collaboration between both sides and with the industry in different areas of scientific research. We will keep monitoring the implementation of TCFS and conduct reviews from time to time to introduce enhancement measures as appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0975)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, the Government will oversee the work of the 2 *InnoHK* research clusters and keep in view the need for the third research cluster to further promote global research collaboration in Hong Kong. Will the Government disclose the list of successful applicants of the research clusters? What are the estimated expenditures for the development and initial operation of the research clusters, as well as the estimated manpower establishment involved next year? It is reported that the Government had put on hold the preparation work of the third research cluster due to the dwindled fiscal reserves caused by the epidemic. Is the report concerned true? If yes, will the Government provide the details of the suspension?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 307)

Reply:

We have allocated $10 billion for the establishment of the *InnoHK* research clusters in the Hong Kong Science Park (Science Park). The first two research clusters are "*Health@InnoHK*" focusing on healthcare technologies and "*AIR@InnoHK*" focusing on artificial intelligence and robotics technologies. The Innovation and Technology Fund will provide funding support for research projects undertaken by research and development (R&D) laboratories to be admitted to the two research clusters.

The first two *InnoHK* research clusters have received a total of over 60 proposals from local universities and many top-notch overseas universities and research institutes. After a rigorous selection and assessment process, the first batch of around 20 R&D centres will commence operation progressively in the Science Park in the first quarter of this year. The revised estimate for 2020-21 and the estimate for 2021-22 for the establishment of the *InnoHK* research clusters are $1.68 billion and around $730 million respectively.

The research areas of "*Health@InnoHK*" cover drug discovery, personalised medicine, molecular diagnostics, bioengineering, chemical biology, bioinformatics, vaccine development, medical instrumentation and alternative medicine, etc. The research areas of "*AIR@InnoHK*" comprise big data analytics, machine learning, medical robotics, mobile robots and construction robots, etc. The R&D centres in the two research clusters are actively taking forward their preparatory work, including the fitting-out of laboratories, recruitment of postgraduates and R&D personnel, etc. The work progress of some R&D centres is affected by the epidemic. We are closely monitoring the related development and will announce the list of R&D centres admitted in due course.

The Infrastructure Division under the Innovation and Technology Commission is responsible for the delivery of duties relating to the *InnoHK* research clusters and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, as well as the implementation of the City Innovation and Technology Grand Challenge. At present, the Infrastructure Division is headed by an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2), and the work relating to the *InnoHK* research clusters is fully supported by 12 non-directorate staff. In addition, part of the work of the *InnoHK* research clusters is supported with the assistance of 2 non-directorate staff.

We will further promote global research collaboration in Hong Kong and take into account factors including the operational experience of the first two research clusters, the strengths of Hong Kong and the global technological development in considering the development direction and research focus of the third *InnoHK* research cluster. There are currently no fixed timeline and estimated expenditure.

- End -

(Question Serial No. 1746)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (6) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Under Programme (6), the Hong Kong Productivity Council will continue to provide working space and technical support for start-ups, students and graduates through the Inno Space in the coming year.   What are the utilisation rates of the Inno Space in each of the past 3 years?   How many enterprises have been assisted in solving issues such as intellectual property rights, product development and product testing?   What are the details of the manpower and expenditure to be involved, as estimated by the Government, in operating the Inno Space in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 206)

Reply:

The Inno Space under the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) provides working space, equipment and technical support for start-ups, secondary and university students and graduates to help them transform their innovative ideas into prototypes and final products. The Inno Space is open to the public and adopts a membership system for the provision of services and support, which include providing machinery and equipment required for producing prototypes such as 3D printers, laser cutting machines and traditional metal work machinery; making available co-working makerspace, hot desks and meeting rooms; organising workshops on the use of machinery and equipment   and arranging seminars and workshops for members and start-ups in order to help them grasp the latest technological developments and market intelligence.   In addition, the Inno Space will also liaise with reliable manufacturers and cooperation partners for members and start-ups and help them identify suitable government funding schemes.   Since its establishment in October 2017 to end of February 2021, 1 152 members have been recruited.

The usage of the Inno Space in the past 3 years is as follows:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at end-February 2021)	Total
Attendance of the Inno Space (including members using the facilities and services, visitors, event participants)	16 682	14 358	5 966	37 006
Number of activities organised (including trainings and workshops on using devices, machinery and equipment safely, trainings and workshops relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), seminars and gatherings)	196	214	121	531

Note: Owing to the epidemic, the Inno Space was temporarily closed for 37 and 84 days in 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively.

Other divisions of HKPC will assist enterprises in solving problems in the areas of intellectual property rights, product development and product testing. The services they offer cover consultancy and relevant trainings on patent registration, industrial design and trademark; computer-aided engineering analysis; analyses on the quality of product design and processing faults prediction; materials property tests, and identification, analytical tests and quality evaluation on plastic materials, etc.

The Inno Space operates with the support of 5 HKPC staff members. The estimated operating expenditure for 2021-22 is around $4.1 million, covering manpower expenses, event expenses and the expenses for replacing and repairing workshop equipment.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3162)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned under Programme (1) that the Government will support the activities of the research and development (R&D) centres with emphasis on commercialisation and technology transfer of funded projects. Regarding the operation of the R&D Centres funded by the Government, will the Government inform this Committee of:

(1)   the annual operating expenditure, the number and total expenditure of R&D projects of the 5 R&D Centres respectively in the past 3 years;

(2)   the amount of industry sponsorship and contract service fees of the R&D Centres respectively in the past 3 years;

(3)   the numbers of projects commercialised and licences granted by the 5 R&D Centres respectively in the past 3 years; and

(4)   the specific work details and measures to enhance technology transfer of funded projects?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Government has set up 5 Research and Development (R&D) Centres to drive and coordinate applied R&D in selected focus areas. They play an important role in creating a vibrant innovation and technology ecosystem, and act as a focal point for technology collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors. The R&D Centres not only contribute to the applied research in key areas, but also work closely with the industry to encourage private investment in R&D in Hong Kong and drive the commercialisation of R&D results. The requested information is provided below:

(1) The operating expenditures of the 5 R&D Centres in the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20) are tabulated below:

Operating expenditure ($ million) (Actual expenditure)			
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI)	143.6	150.2	145.9
Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI)	66.0	74.4	80.4
Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre (LSCM)	33.0	36.3	44.1
Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA)	33.0	38.1	39.6
Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre (APAS)	18.2	16.3	20.8
Total:	**293.8**	**315.3**	**330.8**

The numbers of new projects and on-going projects of the 5 R&D Centres in the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20) are tabulated below:

	Number of R&D projects					
	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	New projects	On-going projects (as at end-March 2018)	New projects	On-going projects (as at end-March 2019)	New projects	On-going projects (as at end-March 2020)
ASTRI	45	63	39	71	46	69
NAMI	41	78	43	67	43	70
LSCM	21	38	25	45	25	58
HKRITA	21	52	23	54	12	48
APAS	13	47	16	51	16	56
Total:	**141**	**278**	**146**	**288**	**142**	**301**

The R&D expenditure of the 5 R&D Centres is supported by the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) on an individual R&D project basis. The amounts of R&D expenditure of the 5 R&D Centres in the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20) are tabulated below:

	Amount of R&D expenditure ($ million) (Actual expenditure)		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
ASTRI	273.6	263.7	320.8
NAMI	108.5	96.1	105.2
LSCM	107.6	79.8	88.4
HKRITA	70.1	71.2	53.2
APAS	35.8	33.1	37.2
Total:	**595.6**	**543.9**	**604.8**

(2) The amounts of industry sponsorship for new projects and the contract service incomes of the 5 R&D Centres in the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20) are tabulated below:

	Amount of sponsorship and contract service income ($ million)					
	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Amount of sponsorship for new projects	Contract service income	Amount of sponsorship for new projects	Contract service income	Amount of sponsorship for new projects	Contract service income
ASTRI	89.7	20.6	75.5	20.4	91.2	23.7
NAMI	41.8	12.4	48.1	12.8	46.8	8.0
LSCM	10.6	4.0	20.0	9.6	13.1	15.6
HKRITA	26.5	0.1	17.6	6.3	13.3	26.8
APAS	25.5	0.7	12.1	0.8	9.5	2.6
Total:	**194.1**	**37.8**	**173.3**	**49.9**	**173.9**	**76.7**

(3) The 5 R&D Centres signed 64, 72 and 68 licensing agreements in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. The R&D Centres will continue their efforts in commercialisation and technology transfer in a proactive manner.

(4) We have been attaching importance to issues on technology transfer of the R&D Centres. Each of the R&D Centres will undertake industry-driven and market relevant R&D, and subsequently transfer the technology to the industry through contract research or licensing arrangement, etc. We have adopted a new indicator "level of industry income" from 2017-18 onwards to assess the R&D Centres' performance in soliciting the industry's support, including their performance in transferring technologies to the industry. The indicator mainly covers sponsorship from the industry for new R&D projects, income arising from licensing/royalty and contract services, and other income, etc. The 5 R&D Centres reached the target level of industry income of 30% between 2017-18 and 2019-20.

Besides, in order to encourage commercialisation of R&D results of ITF-funded projects by the R&D Centres and to promote technology transfer activities, from 2017-18 onwards, the R&D Centres can retain the income generated from those

projects for use in strategic activities such as technology and market analyses, R&D infrastructure building, staff development or experimental projects, etc.

- End -

Reply Serial No.

ITB080

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0725)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (4) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the "*InnoHK* research clusters", will the Government inform this Committee of the numbers of admission applications received, approved and to be vetted so far, the average vetting time for each application, as well as the average funding amount for the applications approved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 72)

Reply:

The first two *InnoHK* research clusters have received a total of over 60 proposals from local universities and many top-notch overseas universities and research institutes. After a rigorous selection and assessment process, the relevant said process has been completed. The first batch of about 20 research and development (R&D) centres will commence operation progressively in the Hong Kong Science Park in the first quarter of this year. The revised estimate for 2020-21 and the estimate for 2021-22 for the establishment of the *InnoHK* research clusters are $1.68 billion and around $730 million respectively.

The R&D centres in the two research clusters are actively taking forward their preparatory work, including the fitting-out of laboratories, recruitment of postgraduates and R&D personnel, etc. The work progress of some R&D centres is affected by the epidemic and other factors. We are closely monitoring the related development and will announce in due course the list of R&D centres admitted.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

ITB081

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3239)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Government will inject $4,750 million per year to the Innovation and Technology Fund for two years in a row to sustain its 17 funding schemes as well as the work of over 50 research and development (R&D) laboratories in the next 3 years.   In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

1.   the amounts of funding to be received, in tabular form, by each funding scheme and R&D laboratory respectively in each of the years mentioned above; and

2.   the amounts of funding to be received, in tabular form, by upstream, midstream and downstream R&D respectively in each of the years mentioned above.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 94)

Reply:

The Innovation and Technology Commission has been closely monitoring the implementation of the various funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF).   The spending pattern and actual expenditure of ITF in the future will be affected by a number of factors such as the actual numbers of applications received, approved and the amounts of funding requested by the approved projects in an individual financial year, the new initiatives or enhancement measures to be introduced under ITF, as well as the prevailing economic conditions.   Therefore, we cannot provide a specific estimate of the amounts of funding to be provided for upstream, midstream and downstream research and development (R&D) projects supported by the R&D funding schemes under ITF.

Regarding the overall operation of ITF, as at end January 2021, the uncommitted balance of ITF was $4.4 billion.   With the growing popularity of the funding schemes and support items under ITF among stakeholders, it is expected that ITF expenditures will increase substantially.   The revised estimate for 2021-22 is $5.331 billion.   A general forecast of ITF's overall expenditures for the coming 3 years is tabulated as follows:

	2021-22 Estimate	**2022-23 Forecast**	**2023-24 Forecast**
$ million	5,062	6,267	7,338

On the other hand, the revised estimates of the funding schemes under the ITF for 2020-21 are tabulated below for reference:

Subheads under ITF	**Revised estimates for 2020-21 ($ million)**
Subhead 090 Midstream Research Programme for Universities (block vote)	*40.6*
Subhead 101 Innovation and Technology (block vote)	
Innovation and Technology Support Programme	778.2
Partnership Research Programme	83.5
Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme	15.1
Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme	4.0
University-Industry Collaboration Programme	32.1
Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme	0.4
Enterprise Support Scheme	89.9
R&D Cash Rebate Scheme	155.0
Public Sector Trial Scheme	130.7
General Support Programme	50.8
Patent Application Grant	37.7
Research Talent Hub	414.3
Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme	11.2
STEM Internship Scheme	30.7
Technology Voucher Programme	148.8
State Key Laboratories	165.0
Technology Transfer Offices of Universities	50.2
Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres	60.0
Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities	52.7
Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology – Chinese medicines	20.4
R&D funding for research centres/laboratories for establishment of research clusters	1,014.9
Subhead 101 Total	*3,345.6*
Subhead 104 Nano and Advanced Materials Institute	*77.6*
Subhead 105 Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel	*39.5*
Subhead 106 Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre	*21.7*
Subhead 107 Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre	*36.1*
Subhead 110 Innovation and Technology Venture Fund	*90.0*
Subhead 111 Research centres/laboratories for establishment of research clusters	*1,680.0*
Head 111 Total	**5,331.1**

We will brief the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the latest progress of ITF operation, including further information on the forecast of the future ITF expenditures on 20 April.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0059)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS), which was launched in July last year, provides subsidies to manufacturers on a matching basis for setting up new smart production lines in Hong Kong. The Scheme has received 12 applications so far. Please inform this Committee on:

1. the sectors of the 12 applications; and
2. whether the RFS is well-received as there are only 12 applications in the seven months' period since its launch; whether publicity and promotional activities will be stepped up; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

Launched in late July 2020, the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) subsidises manufacturers to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong, with a view to promoting re-industrialisation in Hong Kong and identifying new growth points for the local economy. The Government will provide funding on a 1 (Government): 2 (company) matching basis. The funding ceiling is one-third of the total project cost or $15 million, whichever is lower.

As at end of February 2021, the 12 applications received under the RFS involve industries such as biotechnology, food processing, construction, environmental protection, printing, medical device and nanofiber materials.

We have been actively publicising and promoting the RFS to the industries since its launch. During the period from August to December 2020, we collaborated with major chambers of commerce, the Hong Kong Productivity Council and the Support and Consultation Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) under the Trade and Industry Department to organise a number of online seminars to promote the RFS to the industries, attracting

around 680 participants.   We also promoted the RFS to Hong Kong manufacturers in the Greater Bay Area through the electronic newsletters and WeChat platform of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong.

The response of the industries to the RFS has been positive, with a total of about 200 enquires received by the RFS Secretariat so far.   We will further step up the publicity work in 2021-22 and promote the RFS to the industries in a proactive manner by organising briefings in collaboration with chambers of commerce, industry associations and SME Centre, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1419)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Commission mentions the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme which provides financial support for manufacturers on a matching basis for setting up smart production lines in Hong Kong.   Please advise this Committee on:

how new technologies will be used to dovetail with promotion of the "Made in Hong Kong" brand apart from providing financial support for manufacturers to set up production lines, as well as the expenditure and manpower to be involved for the policy concerned.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) subsidises manufacturers, on a 1 (Government): 2 (company) matching basis, to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong, with a view to providing new impetus to economic growth and rejuvenating the "Made in Hong Kong" brand.   The funding ceiling is one-third of the total project cost or $15 million, whichever is lower.   Upon the funding approval of $2 billion by the Legislative Council Finance Committee in May 2020, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) launched RFS in late July 2020.

We have been actively publicising and promoting RFS to the industries since its launch. During the period from August to December 2020, we collaborated with major chambers of commerce, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and the Support and Consultation Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises under the Trade and Industry Department to organise a number of online seminars to promote RFS to the industries, attracting a total of around 680 participants.   We also promoted RFS to Hong Kong manufacturers in the Greater Bay Area through the electronic newsletters and WeChat platform of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong.   We will step up the publicity work in 2021-22 to actively promote RFS to the industries, such as participating in the "Accelerating

Reindustrialisation in Hong Kong and Theme Hall Opening Ceremony" jointly organised by HKPC and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation on 17 March 2021. The forum aims to share with the industries the Government's funding schemes related to "re-industrialisation", technologies and trainings, advanced infrastructures, and successful cases of upgrading, thereby encouraging them to seize the opportunities brought about by innovation and technology, and move towards high value-added production and gradually upgrade towards "Industry 4.0". HKPC's "reindustrialisation" theme hall features "re-industrialisation", "Industry 4.0", "Enterprise 4.0", smart logistics and smart manufacturing, etc. Its content is also available at HKPC's website https://smarter.hkpc.org/en/index.html which can help promote the development of smart production and smart enterprises in Hong Kong.

Besides, enterprises can also apply for other funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). One example is the Enterprise Support Scheme which provides dollar-for-dollar matching funding for local enterprises to carry out in-house research and development projects, with a view to enhancing their innovation and technological capabilities for the promotion of "re-industrialisation". The funding ceiling for each approved project is $10 million, irrespective of the scale of the enterprise.

The Technology Voucher Programme (TVP) subsidises local enterprises/organisations on a matching basis to use technology services and solutions to improve their productivity, or to upgrade or transform their business processes. The Government's funding ratio under TVP for each approved project is three-fourths. The funding ceiling and number of projects to be approved for each applicant are $600,000 and 6 respectively.

The above work is administered by ITC with its existing manpower. As the relevant staff are also responsible for handling other funding schemes under the ITF at the same time, no breakdown of expenditures is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1798)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

During the year, the Government increased the government funding ratio of each project under the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP) to 75% and the cumulative funding ceiling per applicant to $600,000, and enhanced the promotion of the TVP via briefings and other channels.   The number of applications received during the period is apparently higher than that in 2019.

1.   Please list in tabular form the details of the applications and funding approved, including the types of applicant companies, the use of the funding, etc., in each of the past 3 years.

2.   What are the reasons for the Government's expected further substantial increase in the number of applications to 6 000 in 2021?   Does the Government need additional manpower to cope with the increased workload?   If yes, what is the plan?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 62)

Reply:

Launched in November 2016, the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP) aims to subsidise local non-listed enterprises and organisations in using technological services and solutions to improve their productivity, or upgrade or transform their business processes.   Regarding the various parts of the question, the requested information is provided as follows:

1.   In the past 3 years (from January 2018 to the end of February 2021), the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) received a total of 8 970 applications[Note 1] under TVP.   Of the 3 530 applications assessed by the TVP Committee, 3 321 were approved, involving an average funding amount of about $160,000.   Upon the introduction of the enhancement measures to TVP in 2020, the number of applications[Note 1] has increased substantially from about 1 600 in 2019 to about 5 800

in 2020. The remaining applications are either awaiting supplementary information from the applicants or are under preliminary assessment by ITC. The numbers of applications received and approved each year are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications Note 1	Number of applications assessed	Number of applications approved	Success rate	Total amount of funding approved ($ million)	Average amount of funding approved ($)
2018	703	707	684	97%	97.94	Around 140,000
2019	1 574	954	852	89%	137.40	Around 160,000
2020	5 795	1 670	1 596	96%	256.58	Around 160,000
2021 (as at end-February)	898	199	189	95%	30.31	Around 160,000
Total	**8 970**	**3 530**	**3 321**	**94%**	**522.23**	**Around 160,000**

Note 1 Excluding the applications which were subsequently withdrawn or were unable to be processed due to ineligibility or missing supporting documents.

The types of business engaged in by the applicants in the past 3 years (from January 2018 to the end of February 2021) are as follows –

Type of business	2018		2019		2020		2021 (as at end-February)	
	Number of applications Note 2	Number of applications approved Note 3	Number of applications Note 2	Number of applications approved Note 3	Number of applications Note 2	Number of applications approved Note 3	Number of applications Note 2	Number of applications approved Note 3
Wholesale and Retail	180	166	445	230	1 555	462	248	54
Import and Export Trade	105	115	152	107	383	104	67	14
Restaurants and Hotels	53	17	115	64	473	136	65	17
Education Services	25	24	82	43	307	83	46	16
Engineering	17	19	79	35	335	83	44	10
Personal Care Services	24	16	69	33	262	93	42	12
Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Services	10	15	35	12	140	35	40	2
Professional Services	41	50	72	56	201	48	37	4
Transportation and Logistics	16	26	69	32	249	64	36	6
Food and Beverages	16	10	28	17	114	25	33	4
Information Technology	24	33	47	23	186	52	32	4
Advertisement, Sales and Marketing	25	19	64	31	205	70	27	10
Creative Industries	16	17	20	9	109	21	20	3
Construction	15	16	26	13	115	23	18	6
Real Estate	11	7	29	14	112	39	18	6
Medical Services	30	24	73	39	145	57	17	4
Tourism	13	12	29	8	102	30	15	3
Textiles and Clothing	9	18	23	13	92	25	12	2
Electronics	21	16	27	21	83	17	10	1
Film and Entertainment	4	8	8	3	35	10	10	2
Metal Products	9	11	15	8	29	11	7	1
Printing and Publishing	6	6	16	12	60	13	7	-
Telecommunications	1	2	9	4	21	6	6	-
Electrical Appliances Manufacturing	5	4	4	3	32	9	5	-

Type of business	2018		2019		2020		2021 (as at end-February)	
	Number of applications Note 2	Number of applications approved Note 3	Number of applications Note 2	Number of applications approved Note 3	Number of applications Note 2	Number of applications approved Note 3	Number of applications Note 2	Number of applications approved Note 3
Jewellery Manufacturing	4	6	12	7	49	9	4	-
Medical and Optical Devices	4	3	4	2	28	4	4	1
Toys	2	3	12	6	27	6	4	-
Industrial Machinery	2	1	4	2	20	4	3	-
Chemical and Biotechnology	9	9	6	1	48	10	2	2
Plastics	8	12	8	1	24	8	2	1
Environmental Industries	4	3	4	3	23	6	1	-
Footwear Manufacturing	2	1	-	1	9	1	1	-
Watches and Clocks Manufacturing	4	3	5	5	18	5	1	-
Testing and Certification Services	-	3	12	5	21	9	-	1
Others	104	102	216	118	1 158	253	182	-

Note 2   Applicants may engage in more than one type of business; the figures exclude the applications which were subsequently withdrawn or were unable to be processed due to ineligibility or missing supporting documents.

Note 3   "Number of applications approved" refers to the applications that were received in or before that year and approved in that year.

The types of technological services or solutions involved in the proposed projects in the past 3 years (from January 2018 to the end of February 2021) are as follows –

Technological service or solution	2018		2019		2020		2021 (as at end-February)	
	Number of applications Note 4	Number of applications approved Note 5	Number of applications Note 4	Number of applications approved Note 5	Number of applications Note 4	Number of applications approved Note 5	Number of applications Note 4	Number of applications approved Note 5
Enterprise Resource Planning Solution	406	383	948	520	3 422	1 017	501	132
Electronic Inventory Management System	168	155	319	186	1 117	342	162	31
Document Management and Mobile Access System	118	137	270	142	1 095	306	155	38
Appointment Scheduling and Queue Management System	95	54	227	108	846	294	141	32
Big Data and Cloud-Based Analytics Solution	30	31	123	53	883	203	136	29
Point-of-Sales System	149	104	304	145	1 071	436	130	42
Product Management System	-	-	-	-	816	24	125	16
Quick Response Management (QRM) System	47	21	81	58	525	102	88	21
Logistics Management System	27	36	94	50	226	61	45	5
Electronic Procurement Management System	65	75	139	74	609	140	44	12
Real-Time Manufacturing Tracking System	9	11	17	11	113	17	26	3
Location Based Services (LBS)	8	9	26	16	73	18	21	1
Cyber Security	12	17	19	9	91	18	17	1

Technological service or solution	2018		2019		2020		2021 (as at end-February)	
	Number of applications Note 4	Number of applications approved Note 5	Number of applications Note 4	Number of applications approved Note 5	Number of applications Note 4	Number of applications approved Note 5	Number of applications Note 4	Number of applications approved Note 5
Solution								
School Management System	-	-	-	-	85	2	15	5
Fleet Management System	7	10	11	7	68	11	13	4
Computer Aided Design (CAD)	-	-	-	-	65	3	11	2
Augmented Reality (AR) Technologies System	3	5	6	1	63	5	10	-
Clinic Management System	21	16	36	19	75	29	8	1
Solution to Facilitate Compliance with Manufacturing Standards	6	9	9	4	58	8	5	1
Building Information Modeling (BIM) System	4	2	2	2	19	2	4	-
Intelligent Robot (Industrial Robot and Service Robot) Applications	-	-	-	-	39	2	4	-
System in Compliance with Environmental Management System (ISO 14001)	-	-	-	-	6	-	3	-
Energy Management System	-	-	1	-	18	2	2	-
Testing and Certification Services in Compliance with Other International Standards	-	-	2	1	9	2	2	-
System in Compliance with Energy Management System (ISO 50001)	-	-	-	-	6	-	1	-
System in Compliance with Information Security Management System (ISO/IEC 27001)	-	1	4	4	16	-	1	-
Waste Management Technology	2	1	1	1	11	1	1	-
Obtaining Other ISO/IEC Qualifications	-	1	3	1	12	3	-	-
Testing Solutions for Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM)	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Others	114	126	304	136	1 559	325	309	129

Note 4   Projects may involve more than one technological service or solution; the figures exclude the applications which were subsequently withdrawn or were unable to be processed due to ineligibility or missing supporting documents.

Note 5   "Number of applications approved" refers to the applications that were received in or before that year and approved in that year.

2.   We expect that there will be substantial increase in the number of applications in 2021 as ITC introduced various enhancement measures for TVP in 2020, and that corporates are more aware of the need for digital transformation amid the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic.   In order to cope with the related workload, ITC will consider adopting other measures and enhancing the procedures for processing applications, in order to help more enterprises upgrade or transform their business processes.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22
Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ITB085

(Question Serial No. 1799)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology
                          Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (6) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong
                          Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company
                          Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Through the INC Invention Centre Hong Kong (the Centre) jointly established with the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology (the Institute) in October 2018, the Hong Kong Productivity Council provides "Industry 4.0" consultancy services and assists the local business sector in embarking on digital transformation.   Please advise on:

1.   the breakdown of the annual operating expenditures and manpower of the Centre in each of the past 2 years; and

2.   the ways to assess the effectiveness of the work of the Centre; the performance of the Institute each year in areas such as encouraging smart manufacturing and technology transfers in Hong Kong, as well as the ways for further improvement so as to promote re-industrialisation in the city.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)

Reply:

A consolidated reply to the 2 parts of the question is as follows:

The INC Invention Centre Hong Kong (the Centre) jointly established by the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology (the Institute) provides "Industry 4.0" consultancy services for the industry to assist them to , accelerate the adoption of innovative industrial technologies and to promote the development of smart industry and digital manufacturing.   The Centre has set up a display centre to introduce technologies relating to "Industry 4.0", with the HKPC providing the venue and the Institute paying a management fee of $10,000 to the HKPC annually, covering the expenses on electricity, regular cleaning and maintenance of

telecommunications equipment, etc.   As for the manpower, the Centre is jointly staffed by members of the HKPC and the Institute consisting of 3 HKPC technical consultants and 2 Institute experts in the field of smart production to assist the operation.   All manpower expenses are covered by the revenues generated from consultancy projects or value-added services (such as project management services).

The revenue of the Centre since its launch in October 2018 up to end February 2021 amounted to about $14.95 million in total.   The Centre has carried out 16 consultancy projects and provided 4 value-added services for the industry and government departments, assisting more than 30 Hong Kong enterprises to explore technical issues and develop appropriate solutions in relation to smart industry.   In addition, the following activities were also organised:

- 2 smart innovative workshops and 33 briefings to promote the services of the Centre to industries such as logistics, transportation, aviation, banking and manufacturing so as to encourage them to grasp the opportunities brought about by technological innovation;

- over 15 training courses on topics such as data analysis for smart factories, technical training on utilising machine learning in smart manufacturing and accredited training for "Industry 4.0" professionals so as to enhance the understanding of the industry on "Industry 4.0" and smart manufacturing; and

- 27 meetings and seminars attended by experts of the Centre to promote the understanding and implementation of the industry on "Industry 4.0" and smart innovation.

To further promote re-industrialisation, the Centre will, in collaboration with the HKPC, organise activities including corporate trainings, face to face workshops on smart technologies and solutions, and sharing sessions on successful cases etc., and roll out value-added services such as trial schemes and preliminary evaluation on smart technologies, to enable local enterprises to have a better grasp of the technologies and applications involved, thereby enhancing their productivity and fostering re-industrialisation.   The HKPC has conducted surveys on the consultancy projects, value-added services and trainings of the Centre.   The customers were very satisfied and positive feedbacks were received.   The HKPC and the Institute will review the business development and progress of the Centre as and when appropriate with reference to the stakeholders' comments.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2264)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Please set out in detail the numbers of applications received and approved, the academic qualifications, job positions and salaries of the approved persons under the Technology Talent Admission Scheme in the past 3 years as well as the Government's estimated numbers of applications to be received under the Scheme in the coming 3 years.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

Since the launch of the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) in June 2018 up to the end of February 2021, a total of 612 quota applications were received by the Innovation and Technology Commission and 527 quotas were allotted. The Immigration Department approved a total of 224 visa/entry permit applications in accordance with the relevant quotas. The persons approved for entry under TechTAS, categorised by their technology areas, academic qualifications and monthly salaries, are as follows:

Technology area	Number of non-local persons approved for entry under TechTAS
Artificial intelligence	48
Financial technologies	38
Material science	32
Data analytics	27
Biotechnology	25
Robotics	20
Cybersecurity	16
5G communications	11
Internet-of-Things	4
Integrated circuit design	2
Green technology	1
Total	**224**

Academic qualification	Number of non-local persons approved for entry under TechTAS
Doctoral degree	66
Master's degree	63
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	92
Others	3
Total	**224**

Monthly salary	Number of non-local persons approved for entry under TechTAS
Below $20,000	3
$20,000 to $39,999	118
$40,000 to $79,999	78
$80,000 or above	25
Total	**224**

We do not have the statistics on the job positions of the above non-local persons.

The number of applications under TechTAS will be affected by the economic situation, business development and recruitment plans of individual companies, etc. We do not have the estimated numbers of applications for the coming 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2267)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Will the Government set out in detail the progress of the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) in the past 3 years, including the numbers of enterprises that were funded and successfully set up factories and came into production in Hong Kong as well as their profits, and the anticipated effectiveness of the RFS in the next 3 years?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) subsidises manufacturers, on a 1 (Government): 2 (company) matching basis, to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong.   The funding ceiling is one-third of the total project cost or $15 million, whichever is lower.   Upon the funding approval of $2 billion by the Legislative Council Finance Committee in May 2020, the Innovation and Technology Commission launched RFS in late July 2020.   As at the end of February 2021, 12 applications were received.   Currently, apart from the 1 application that was withdrawn by the applicant, the RFS Vetting Committee (the Committee) has vetted all of the 11 applications and agreed in principle to support 9 of them, involving a total funding amount of approximately $55 million.   The Secretariat is following up with the applicant companies on the comments of the Committee, so as to finalise the details of their plans and the contents of the funding agreements.   After the signing of the funding agreement by the applicant company concerned, the basic information of the project will be uploaded to the website of the Innovation and Technology Fund for reference by the public.

The estimated number of applications to be received and processed in 2021 is about 25. We will continue to organise briefings in collaboration with chambers of commerce and industry associations, etc., and promote RFS to Hong Kong manufacturers in the Greater Bay Area through the electronic newsletters and WeChat platform of the Hong Kong

Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong.   We will monitor closely the implementation and effectiveness of RFS.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2925)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (4) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The construction of the InnoCell has been completed and leasing activities will commence soon.   What are the earliest time for the Government to commence the leasing activities and the work to be involved?   What are the expenditures to be involved in the leasing activities?   Up to now, has any party taken the initiative to apply for lease or make enquiries on the leasing matters?   If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The construction of the InnoCell adjacent to the Hong Kong Science Park (Science Park) was completed at the end of 2020.   It provides about 500 residential spaces with flexible design and ancillary facilities such as shared working spaces for leasing to principals of tenants and incubatees in the Science Park, their employees and visiting researchers from the Mainland or overseas, and other personnel (for example, employees and researchers from their collaborating enterprises), etc., at an affordable price.

Leasing activities of the InnoCell include both the traditional and online marketing and promotion, design of a dedicated website and a mobile application, etc. carried out and funded by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation.   At the moment, the trial run of the InnoCell has already commenced and nearly 100 enquiries on leasing matters have been received.   Leasing activities are expected to be formally launched in mid-April this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2956)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Financial provision has been allocated to continue the implementation of the Distance Business Programme (the Programme). However, some enterprises reflected that while small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with a dedicated computer department encountered fewer difficulties under the Programme, micro-enterprises without such a department needed to assign a staff member to implement the Programme and hiring such a technical staff added to their burdens.

What are the numbers of applications from micro-enterprises and SMEs as well as their amounts of funding received under the Programme respectively?   Does the Government provide special assistance to micro-enterprises?   If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Distance Business Programme (the Programme) aims to support enterprises to continue their business and services during the epidemic through adoption of information technology (IT) solutions.   The Innovation and Technology Commission is responsible for implementing the Programme, and the Hong Kong Productivity Council is the Secretariat of the Programme.   We have completed processing all of the 38 572 applications received, of which 34 705 were approved.   About 95% of the beneficiary enterprises were small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (with micro-enterprises accounting for approximately 72%).

As at 31 March 2021, excluding cases in which the enterprises did not accept the application results or provide relevant documents after their applications had been approved, 27 911 applications were approved, involving a total funding of around $1.8 billion, of which about $1.71 billion was for SMEs (with about $1.37 billion for micro-enterprises).

According to our understanding, a majority of the applicant enterprises opted to seek assistance from IT service providers to implement the approved IT solutions. The Programme also provided an "IT Service Providers Reference List" for reference by applicant enterprises. In calculating the funding amount approved, we have duly taken into account the needs of the applicant enterprises to cover the reasonable expenses required for engaging IT service providers.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2960)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (6) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Through the subsidiary consulting companies set up in Shenzhen and Dongguan, as well as the HKPC Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Centre (Futian) (the Futian Centre) established in 2017, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) strengthens its support to Hong Kong companies operating in the Mainland and contributes to the Greater Bay Area development.   Please advise on:

1.   the operating expenditure and manpower of the Futian Centre in each of the past 3 years (please list the breakdown in tabular form); and

2.   the ways to assess the performance of the Futian Centre by the Government/HKPC; the details of the integrated support services as well as professional training courses provided by the Futian Centre for start-ups and small and medium enterprises; the solutions and services in the areas such as smart manufacturing, artificial intelligence, big data and environmental technology; as well as the effectiveness in various areas such as the promotion of technovation and application through attracting outstanding technology talents of the Shenzhen district and collaborating with overseas professional bodies and the governments, universities and professional institutions in the Greater Bay Area.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)

Reply:

In August 2017, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and the People's Government of Futian District, Shenzhen signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the HKPC Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Centre (Futian) (the Futian Centre), as a professional research institute and service platform to promote co-operation

and exchange in innovation and technology between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. The Futian Centre completed the relevant registration procedures to officially commence operation in Shenzhen in October 2019. The requested information is provided below:

1. The operating expenditures of the Futian Centre in 2019-20 and 2020-21 were RMB 5.36 million and RMB 2.49 million respectively. A breakdown is shown below:

	2019-20 (RMB ('000))	**2020-21** (as at end-February 2021) (RMB ('000))
Staff emoluments*	174	0
Recurrent expenditures*	86	65
Office rentals, apportionment of renovation expenses, expenses on water and electricity*	5,100	2,422
Total operating costs	5,360	2,487

* Note: the staff emoluments, recurrent expenditures, office rentals, apportionment of renovation expenses as well as expenses on water and electricity charges concerned were funded by the Futian District Government.

The Director of the Futian Centre is concurrently the General Manager of the Productivity (Shenzhen) Consulting Company Limited (the Shenzhen Subsidiary), a subsidiary of HKPC. The Shenzhen Subsidiary also arranged three of its staff to support the Futian Centre for its initial operation. The Futian Centre hired two dedicated staff in Shenzhen to be responsible for venue management and operation, and the provision of integrated support services such as consultancy services on the Greater Bay Area (GBA) policies for Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland, and the exchange and co-operation with Mainland governments. Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus epidemic in early 2020 which made travel to Shenzhen for work difficult for colleagues from Hong Kong, a majority of the work of the Futian Centre originally planned has to be postponed. To reduce operating costs, the Futian Centre terminated the employment of the two local staff with effect from April 2020. Subject to the development of the epidemic situation, the Futian Centre would employ local staff again in the future.

2. During the initial operation period, the Futian Centre focused its work on handling administrative work relating to its establishment and connections building with the relevant organisations and enterprises in the region, establishing the HKPC 5G Demo Centre and giving support to dovetail with HKPC and the Shenzhen Subsidiary, including:

    (i)   to co-operate with research institutes and enterprises in the Guangdong area to provide solutions on smart manufacturing, artificial intelligence, big data and environmental technologies, etc.;

(ii)   to organise professional training courses relating to technological innovation and actively promote the same by liaising closely with government departments and industry associations in the Mainland, attracting about 500 participants;

(iii)   to provide a 5G technology exchange platform for Hong Kong enterprises in the GBA through the HKPC 5G Demo Centre and to promote 5G technologies in the applications and solutions of Industry 4.0 and Enterprise 4.0;

(iv)   to organise and launch thematic activities, in collaboration with renowned partners inside and outside the Mainland, related to the technical and professional fields of the new trends in market demand and technological development; and

(v)   to set up a window for the provision of professional services in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, foster the collaboration platform for the two places in the development of technological innovation and application services, and bring in professional partners from both inside and outside the Mainland, so as to pool together premium resources for professional services.

Owing to the epidemic since February 2020, the Futian Centre has not taken up any direct projects from the industry or organised training courses, but only provided support and assistance to HKPC and the Shenzhen Subsidiary on the aforesaid industry projects. With a view to assisting Hong Kong enterprises to enhance their competitiveness by using innovative technologies, the Futian Centre plans to, having regard to the development of the epidemic situation, actively launch the above services in support of the development of small and medium enterprises in the GBA this year, including working closely with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and government departments in the GBA.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0986)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The novel coronavirus epidemic indirectly promoted the local innovation and technology (I&T) development.   Various kinds of new research and development and innovative products have been put on the market.   Will the Government advise this Committee on:

(1)   the details, listed in tabular form, of the realisation of the I&T project outcomes facilitated by the Public Sector Trial Scheme in the past 3 years; and

Year	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding

(2)   the projects listed above that have been successfully put on the market and their effectiveness.

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS) provides funding to research and development (R&D) projects under the Innovation and Technology Fund, incubatees and graduate tenants of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and the Cyberport, as well as technology companies conducting R&D activities in Hong Kong for producing prototypes/samples of their R&D outcomes and conducting trials in the public sector (including government departments), with a view to assisting the relevant enterprises/organisations to apply local R&D outcomes in the local context and enhance the prospects of realisation and commercialisation.   To tackle the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic, we launched a special call for projects for the prevention and control of COVID-19 under PSTS from March to April 2020 to support product development and

application of technologies in combatting the epidemic. The requested information is provided as follows:

(1) The names of the projects approved, the public sector organisations participating in the trials and the amounts of funding under PSTS in the past 3 years are tabulated at <u>Annex</u>.

(2) In the past 3 years, 174 projects were supported by PSTS with a total funding of around $367 million, benefitting over 110 different organisations in the conduct of more than 240 trials. Around 30 of these projects were completed. Among them, the R&D results of over 20 projects reached the stages of realisation and commercialisation, including the continued application of the relevant technologies by the public sector organisations concerned or the transfer of them to the industry through licensing agreements or contract research.

For example, the Water Supplies Department has tried out a novel inline hydropower and energy storage system developed by a local university. The system can provide power supply to the data monitoring system of medium water pipelines, which significantly enhances the reliability of the information system of the water supply network. As a result, the system helps improve the water supply management of the city and allows more effective control and early warning of water pipeline leakage. In addition, PSTS has supported the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) to provide quality and comfortable compression socks for the elderly to try on. The project helped HKRITA analyse the pressure distribution on the feet of the elderly, thereby improving the surface structure of the compression socks with the aim to improving the blood circulation of the elderly's feet.

For examples of projects funded under the special call for projects under PSTS, there is the "kNOw Touch" contactless elevator panel which activates elevators over-the-air to reduce the risk of virus spreading. This technology was developed by the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC). Organisations participating in the trial include the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Airport Authority Hong Kong, covering many government buildings and offices. The trial period will end in June 2021. Apart from the sites included in the trial, HKPC has, in collaboration with elevator contractors, installed the "kNOw Touch" system at around 50 sites including private housing estates, commercial buildings and shopping centres. The installation of the system at the Legislative Council Complex and the Central Government Offices have already been completed as well. Besides, the Housing Authority and the Housing Society also plan to install the system for about 200 elevators in its housing estates through companies licensed by HKPC.

We will continue our efforts in administering PSTS with a view to facilitating the realisation and commercialisation of R&D results and encouraging public sector organisations to apply more local R&D outcomes.

Projects approved under the Public Sector Trial Scheme

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
Projects approved in 2018			
1	Trial: Development of Advanced and Integrated Electronic Fuel Injection System	Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi) Auto & Motorcycle Industrial Committee of Guangdong Chamber of International Commerce	2,235,200
2	Trial: 100kW Matrix Charging System	Airport Authority Hong Kong	1,980,100
3	Trial: Core Technology Platform of Image Processing and Recognition for Driver Assistance Systems	St. James' Settlement Hong Kong Logistics Association Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation	1,219,465
4	Trial: Application of AluScan in genomic subtyping of brain metastasis	Prince of Wales Hospital	491,050
5	Trial: Development of a Virtual Environment for Training Percutaneous Renal Access	Department of Health Technology and Informatics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University School of Biomedical Engineering, Health Science Center, Shenzhen University	2,486,300
6	Trial: Commercialisation of "Smart Scar-Care" pad on Management of Hypertrophic Scar	Hong Kong Burns Association Burns Unit, Department of Surgery, Prince of Wales Hospital Burn Care Public Welfare Fund of China Social Welfare Foundation China Rehabilitation Research Centre	1,526,039
7	Trial: Technological Aspects for Designing Warp Knitted Fabrics	The Providence Garden for Rehab	727,260
8	Trial: A Modern Integrated Compression Orthesis for Improving Haemodynamics Efficacy and Preventing Osteoarthritis of Lower Extremities (Trial- Adaptive and Customised Compression Stockings for the Elderly)	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Cho Tong Social Service Building	1,334,352
9	Trial: Hi-NW light disinfection devices for effective control of MDROs in long-term care facilities for the elderly	Haven of Hope Christian Services	677,110

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
10	Trial: RFID-Enabled Building Information Modeling (BIM) Platform for Prefabrication Housing Production in Hong Kong	Hong Kong Housing Society	2,990,845
11	Trial: Antimicrobial particulate air filtration device for effective control of airborne microorganisms in palliative care facility	Haven of Hope Christian Services	1,270,520
12	Trial: Design and Development of Highly Hydrophobic Conduits with Riblet Surface for Sustainable Urban Drainage System	Drainage Services Department	1,029,890
13	Trial: Semantic Image-Based Cloud Augmentative and Alternative Communication (Cloud AAC) System	The Spastics Association of Hong Kong	659,640
14	Trial: High Performance Hong Kong Bespoke Men's Suiting for an Updated Urban Professional Application and Image-based Precise 3D Human Model Customisation on Smart Phones for Fashion Applications	Hong Kong Sports Institute	1,088,153
15	Trial: SHIELD (Smart Hacking and Intrusion Entrapment with Lawful Detection)	Federation of Hong Kong Industries	2,321,712
16	Trial: Smart AP: Wi-Fi Positioning and Optimisation for a Smart City	The Jockey Club CPS Limited Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation	2,489,750
17	Trial: Continuous Land Cover Change Monitoring Using High-Resolution SAR Images for Hong Kong	Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department	4,351,798
18	Trial: Development of Smart BMS for Battery Storage Electric Vehicle Charging Station	Police College	1,537,680
19	Trial: Anti-Ransomware Module of iNAS for NGO Sector	Christian Family Service Centre	302,870
20	Trial: Trial Project for Public Sector Trial Scheme for Dasloop - a smart device to improve health, safety and communication of construction workers	Development Bureau Drainage Services Department Water Supplies Department	999,627
21	Trial: IOT Kiosk Cluster	Hong Kong Trade Development Council	985,407
22	Trial: Application of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems + 4S solution to government vehicles, to study and enhance driving safety on road	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	966,500

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
23	Trial: Property Management Artificial Intelligence System	Dual Degree Program in Technology and Management, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	988,314
24	Trial: Solar renewable portable device with smart battery	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Environmental Protection Department Construction Industry Council	820,829
25	Trial: Uninterruptible Power Supply system for EMSD site - Highways Dept Hung Hom Underpass Lighting	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	632,566
26	Trial: IoT3 based, Smart Lighting Control System	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	999,720
27	Trial: 1-in-2-out EPR	Department of Chemistry, University of Hong Kong	957,800
28	Trial: Smart Chinese Learning Cards	Centre for Special Educational Needs and Inclusive Education, The Education University of Hong Kong	930,854
29	Trial: RV smart wheelchair	Hong Chi Association	991,352
Projects approved in 2019			
30	Trial: Laser-Assisted Progressive Forming (LAPF) Process for Fabrication of High Strength and Lightweight Automotive Parts	Hong Kong Productivity Council The Hong Kong Metals Manufacturers Association	2,813,987
31	Trial: Intelligent eBus with Light Body Structure and High Efficient Traction Motor System	Airport Authority Hong Kong Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society	13,357,015
32	Trial: A Platform for Residential Broadband Network Monitoring	Communications Association of Hong Kong Internet Society Hong Kong Chapter	1,013,576
33	Trial: Sensing Monitoring for Warehousing, Logistics, and Manufacturing	Federation of Hong Kong Industries	4,007,750
34	Trial: Interactive Content Creation for Emotional Application with Mixed Reality Enabled Multiuser Platform (MR-Emo)	The CCC Mongkok Church Kai Oi School	1,778,935
35	Trial: Intelligent Wearable System for Enhancing Mobility of People with Parkinson's Disease (Easypacer)	Hong Kong Parkinson's Disease Association	3,348,968
36	Trial: Development of Mobilised EV Charging Service Vehicle and Combo Fast Charging Station	Airport Authority Hong Kong	965,500

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
37	Trial: Application of High-Speed Large-Scale Genome Analysis System in Genomics-Based Cancer Subtyping	The Hong Kong Society for the Aged	1,864,150
38	Trial: On-board Diagnostic System With Telemetry For Civil Service Vehicles	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	1,607,123
39	Trial: Cyber Security Service for the Education Sector	Hong Kong Education City	3,000,000
40	Trial: Ultra-Wideband Elderly Movement Monitoring	Prince of Wales Hospital	1,284,550
41	Trial: Interactive Information Kiosk for Elderly Care Centre	The Hong Kong Society for the Aged	1,995,020
42	Trial: Integrated Navigation System with Advanced BLE IoT Network	Lands Department	4,787,795
43	Trial: Ultra-Personalised Design and Fabrication of 3D Wetsuit	Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department	553,909
44	Trial: Package-specific RFID Tagging and Embedding Technology	Civil Aid Service	2,220,363
45	Trial: Hong Kong Genomes Database with Applications to Precision Medicine	Department of Health	3,766,250
46	Trial: Experimental Validations of Our Developed Tree Defect Detection Device Using Local Trees	Architectural Services Department	367,425
47	Trial: Ultra-Lightweight Thermal Insulation Panels Strengthened by Palm-Fiber	The Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong	1,393,025
48	Trial: Green Functional Underwear for Elderly with Limited Mobility	The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon	2,243,351
49	Trial: Intelligent Automated Document Processing	Innovation and Technology Commission Fire Services Department	8,000,000
50	Trial: Vibration Monitoring of Automated People Mover Rail by Wireless IoT Sensors	Hong Kong International Airport	2,412,700
51	Trial: Application of Plasma Light Technology in Indoor Hydroponic Grow Light	Vegetable Marketing Organisation	3,200,000
52	Trial: Video Analytics for Traffic Flow Monitoring and Road Traffic Safety Management	Hong Kong Police Force	2,208,000
53	Trial: Development of Innovative 3D Metal Printing Technology - Hybrid Laser Energy Deposition and Milling (HLEDM)	Hong Kong Mould and Product Technology Association	4,977,878

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
54	Trial: Voluntary Intention Driven Exoneuromusculoskeleton for Mobile Rehabilitation of the Upper Limb	The Prince of Wales Hospital	641,700
55	Trial: Advanced Dispersion Technology of Nanoparticles for Ultra-durable Concrete	Architectural Services Department	1,444,150
56	Trial: A Big Data Trial Scheme for Smart Transportation Crowd Monitoring	MTR Corporation Limited	1,175,300
57	Trial: Multifunctional Roofing Materials	Architectural Services Department	882,579
58	Trial: Research and Development of High Power Density and High Efficiency Motor Drives for Electric Vehicles	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University PolyU E-Formula Racing Team	834,875
59	Trial: Development of an Innovative Compact 2-Stage Membrane-Coupled Anaerobic Digestion System for Decentralised Treatment of Food Waste to Generate Biogas	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	1,774,000
60	Trial: Multifunctional HEPA Media for Air Purification	Civil Engineering and Development Department Civil Aviation Department Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation	1,858,630
61	Trial: Outdoor IoT Sensing Network and Data Management Platform for Site-specific Tree Management	Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section, Development Bureau	13,861,281
62	Trial: SmartAP: Wi-Fi Positioning and Optimisation for a Smart City	Tseung Kwan O Hospital	3,052,100
63	Trial: A Customised Social Response Analysis System	Consumer Council The Chinese University of Hong Kong	1,794,000
64	Trial: Development of an Alkali-Activated Sprayable Cementitious Mortar for Sewerage System	Drainage Services Department	1,621,000
65	Trial: High Performance Sportswear and Devices for Hong Kong's Athletes	Hong Kong Sports Institute	1,993,042
66	Trial: Development of New Generation Advanced Motorcycle Electronic Fuel Injection System	Federation of Automobile Services Industry Hong Kong	1,876,460
67	Trial: Development and optimisation of the novel transparent heat insulation nano-coating and its application on local building glazing facade	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	1,268,450

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
68	Trial: Intelligent parking system for access gate	The Police Driving & Traffic Training Centre, Police College (Fanling), Hong Kong Police Force	1,000,000
69	Trial: Deodourisation and Disinfection System Applied in FEHD Refuse Collection Point (RCP)	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	886,000
70	Trial: A revolutionary platform for the development of colon cancer targeted therapy	School of Biomedical Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong	902,500
Projects approved in 2020 *(including the special call for projects under the Public Sector Trial Scheme for the prevention and control of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic)*			
71	Trial: 12m plug-in hybrid range extender electric coach	Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation	4,625,685
72	Trial: Development of a Low-cost Textile-Skin Stickiness Tester (TSST) Simulating Dry, Moist and Wet Skin Contact	Hong Kong Association for Testing, Inspection and Certification Limited	638,710
73	Trial: Smart Handwriting Analysis and Recognition Platform (SHARP)	Hong Kong Red Cross Princess Alexandra School cum Resource Centre Cumberland Presbyterian Church Yao Dao Primary School SKH Kei Wing Primary School	1,453,600
74	Trial: BLE Tracking Device for OGCIO's Home Quarantine Support System	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	15,496,825
75	Trial: Malodor Control (MOC) Hydrogel for Controlling Odor-Causing Microorganisms in Kai Tak River	Drainage Services Department	485,300
76	Trial: Micro-Mini PEF Water Disinfection Technology in Healthcare Setting	Haven of Hope Christian Services	487,600
77	Trial: Develop a Knowledge Based 3D Shoe Design, Patterning & Mass Customisation System to Strength the New Product Development Capability - Phase II	Helping Hand The Federation of Hong Kong Footwear Ltd Hong Kong Fashion Art Designers Association Limited Hong Kong Productivity Council	1,315,115
78	Trial: UHF RFID detachable tag and traffic antenna technologies	Transport Department	6,952,440
79	Trial: An Ionic Liquid Filtration System for Effective Improvement of Indoor Air Quality in a Special School	Haven of Hope Sunnyside School, Haven of Hope Christian Service	563,500

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
80	Trial: Laser Polishing of Cobalt-chromium Based Removable Partial Dentures	Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong	591,859
81	Trial: Food Angel Meal Box	Food Angel	2,545,000
82	Trial: AI Vision Technology for Heat Source Detection to Enhance the Effectiveness of Automated Hill Fire Surveillance	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	1,515,517
83	Trial: Multilingual Speech Transcribing On Specialised Domains	Hong Kong Police Force SLCO Community Resources Limited	4,199,800
84	Trial: NAMI Smart Reactive Color Changing Materials	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society Fung Kai Public School	2,499,640
85	Trial: Development of Self-Cleaning Antibacterial Vitreous Enamel Panel	Architectural Services Department Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	2,714,882
86	Trial: Development of an Antibacterial and Anti-dust Coating for Air Ducting	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Architectural Services Department	2,310,350
87	Trial: Germ-Repellent Bathroom Fixtures for Healthy Living	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Fung Kai Care and Attention Home for the Elderly Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation	2,720,900
88	Trial: 3D Spatial Data Platform for Modular Integrated Construction (MiC)	Construction Industry Council	3,148,700
89	Trial: Enhancing facility management security through IoT and smart analytics	Water Supplies Department	9,992,787
90	Trial: Anti-Pollution Nanofiber Window Screen	Fung Kai Care and Attention Home for the Elderly Family and Youth Services, Pok Oi Hospital	2,521,835
91	Trial: An Intelligent Decision Support System for Fashion Analytics in the Digital Era: An Integrating Visual and Text Analysis Approach	Hong Kong Police Force	1,948,100
92	Trial: A Drinking Bottle with Components made of Germ-Repellent Plastics	Family and Youth Services, Pok Oi Hospital Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	2,304,600
93	Trial: Development of a Low-cost Transplanar and In-plane Water Transport Tester for Fabrics	Hong Kong Association for Testing, Inspection and Certification Limited	594,550

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
94	Trial: Development of a Highly Efficient Filtration Cartridge as RO Alternative for Water Dispenser	The Chinese University of Hong Kong Fung Kai Care and Attention Home for the Elderly InvestHK	2,410,285
95	Trial: New Generation Advanced Driver Assistance System	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals The Hong Kong Society for the Blind Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society Caritas - Hong Kong	1,523,000
96	Trial: Evaluation of an Innovative Body-Mapping Tank Top Equipped with Biofeedback System for Adolescents with Early Scoliosis	SKH Lam Woo Memorial Secondary School Holy Trinity College	476,675
97	Trial: Development of Vertical Take-Off And Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) For Air Quality Monitoring In Greater Bay Area	Air Science Group, Air Policy Division, Environmental Protection Department	2,408,100
98	Trial: Intelligent Knowledge Management Platform - by AI and NLP for smart government	Environmental Compliance Division, Environmental Protection Department	4,549,400
99	Trial: Intrinsic Antimicrobial Textiles for Reduction of Hospital-acquired Infections	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals The University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital	3,631,182
100	Trial: Rapid Repairing Mortar Material (R2M2) for Corroded Reinforced Concrete Structure	Architectural Services Department	1,915,325
101	Trial: 16-Tonne Full-Electric Truck with Hook Lift for Solid Waste Collection	Hong Kong Waste Disposal Industry Association Environmental Protection Department	10,080,000
102	Trial: Electronic Form (e-form) system for Landslip Prevention and Mitigation (LPMit) Works	Civil Engineering and Development Department	2,578,818
103	Trial: Multi-sensor Deliverbot for Office Settings	InvestHK	3,753,416
104	Trial: Development of Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Forming and Welding Technology	The Hong Kong Metals Manufacturers Association	2,701,905
105	Trial: Incus Smart Hearing Aid Prototypes and Samples	Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists	984,035
106	Trial: Testing the precision and accuracy of prediction of stress, anxiety and depression levels by heart rate variability and biometrics measured with a sensing earphone device among university students over an examination period	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	818,000

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
107	Trial: High-Accuracy Cantonese (with mixed English) Automatic Speech Recognition Engine for Hong Kong 1823 Hotline Recordings	Efficiency Office	897,475
108	Trial: HIV co-morbidity screening with LCMS and next generation sequencing	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	999,625
109	Trial: EPR system with solvent purification system	Chemical and Biological Engineering Department, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	993,400
110	Trial: Heritage Inspection Technology by UAV	Architectural Services Department	960,000
111	Trial: A.I. Automated Algae Cell Counting System Based on Computer Vision Object Detection Algorithm	Water Supplies Department	999,000
112	An autonomous patrolling robot for scanning the body temperature of elderly people in nursing home	Haven of Hope Nursing Home, Haven of Hope Christian Service	1,755,000
113	Fully automated, high yield and highly concentrated SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA extraction system for handling bodyfluid samples	The University of Hong Kong	1,231,245
114	A non-contact high-precision body temperature and face mask detection device for access control to buildings/indoor areas	Education Bureau Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Hong Kong Productivity Council Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Customs and Excise Department Airport Authority Hong Kong	1,415,000
115	Formulated multilevel antimicrobial polymers (MAP-1+) for sustained disinfection of bedding materials in long-term care facilities for the elder	Haven of Hope Christian Services United Muslim Association of Hong Kong Tung Wah Group of Hospital	1,991,225
116	Optimisation and validation of an enhanced sensitivity method for detecting SARS-CoV-2	City University of Hong Kong	1,612,620
117	A NASBA-MP Kit to Detect SARS-CoV-2 Virus	City University of Hong Kong	1,489,200
118	Developing Antiviral and Durable Clothing for Healthcare Worker in Elderly Home	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	1,762,260
119	Controlled-release Antimicrobial Hydrogel for Decreasing Microbial Viability in Toilet Flush Water	Haven of Hope Christian Services	1,982,025

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
120	A Smart Multi-Classroom Multi-Pronged System based on Advanced NCCO Air Purification, Temperature Monitoring, Air Flow Control and other International Recommended Clean and Disinfect Protocols for Schools to Combat COVID-19 and Other Virus	Kwun Tong Government Secondary School Kwun Tong Government Primary School (Sau Ming Road) Hong Kong Red Cross Princess Alexandra School	1,997,760
121	PU30™ - Antiviral, Washable and Reusable Face Masks	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	1,999,850
122	Pilot Production and Clinical Evaluation on the Automated Multiplex Diagnostic System for COVID-19	Department of Microbiology, The University of Hong Kong	4,287,200
123	Developing Healthcare Clothing with Antiviral and Antibacterial Function	Hospital Authority	1,972,020
124	Disinfection Mobile Robot for Prevention and Control of the COVID-19 Epidemic	Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation	1,894,200
125	Anti-viral and Anti-microbial Durable Disinfectant Coatings for Facemask	The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon	1,731,647
126	Antivirus 3D printing materials and its application in public facilities	Home Affairs Department Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	1,979,725
127	Disposable Tracheal Intubation Cabin	North Lantau Hospital	731,000
128	Development of Nanopore Sequencing-based Platform for Rapid Monitoring of COVID-19 Transmission in Hong Kong	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital United Christian Hospital	1,860,470
129	Automatic body temperature measurement and high-risk areas and crowds identification system	Po Leung Kuk	1,979,070
130	Antimicrobial HEPA filter for HFU & AHU	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	1,820,600
131	Development of Fluorescence Lateral Flow Immunoassays (FLIA) for Rapid and Precision Detection of SARS-CoV-2	The University of Hong Kong	1,269,000
132	(Prototype of an) Accurate & Rapid SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic Test by Mobile Lab-on-Chip POC Platform	The University of Hong Kong	421,776
133	Development of integrated fast diagnostic kit for COVID-19	The State Key Laboratory of Emerging Infectious Diseases (The University of Hong Kong)	1,200,000
134	Production of Antimicrobial and Self-Cleaning Laboratory Gown for Students	The Prince Philip Dental Hospital	1,958,620

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
135	An Integrated Solution for the Detection/Diagnosis/Surveillance of Hygiene Conditions and Deep Cleansing of Public Toilets and Facilities	Transport Department City University of Hong Kong Hong Kong Baptist University	1,999,986
136	Noncontact Healthcare Multimeter	Customs and Excise Department	1,725,000
137	Development of Contactless Elevator control panel	Airport Authority Hong Kong Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	1,939,795
138	Online AR Training Platform for the Elderly and Persons with Chronic Diseases at Home	The Hong Kong Society for the Aged Haven of Hope Christian Service Christian Family Service Centre The Spastics Association of Hong Kong	1,998,700
139	Development of a novel nanoparticle-based indicator for rapid point-of-care detection of COVID-19	Prince of Wales Hospital	1,749,035
140	Rapid Point-of-Care Diagnosis and Surveillance of COVID-19 by Fluorescent Lateral Flow Assay Based on the Novel Aggregation-Induced Emission (AIE) Technology	Queen Mary Hospital Queen Elizabeth Hospital	1,666,481
141	Rapid and sensitive colorimetric assays for point-of-care diagnosis of COVID-19	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong	2,000,000
142	A Smart Air Cleaning and Sterilising Platform for Green, Safe and Healthy Elderly Community	Chung Shak Hei (Cheung Chau) Home for the Aged	1,950,400
143	A microsphere-based antibody assay for COVID-19	Queen Mary Hospital	535,095
144	One-kit-for-multiple-animal rapid serodiagnosis and surveillance of COVID-19	Ocean Park Corporation	1,602,054
145	COVID-19 Point-of-Care Diagnostics in Saliva: An Aptamer-Mediated Approach	Queen Mary Hospital	1,489,250
146	Production and Trial of UV based Disinfection Robots	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	1,869,095
147	Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Virus Using Isothermal Nucleic Acid Lateral Flow Assay (IsoNALFA)	The University of Hong Kong	1,411,102
148	Precision Prediction Models for COVID-19	Kwong Wah Hospital Queen Mary Hospital	1,989,500
149	Portable Disinfection Device for COVID-19 Using Far-UVC Light	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service	1,813,297

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
150	A fast-track vented enclosure for COVID-19 patients in hospitals	The University of Hong Kong	1,975,320
151	Trial: Development of Integrated Plasma Driven Catalyst and Functionalised Filter for Air Purification	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Fung Kai Innovative School Fung Kai Care and Attention Home for the Elderly	1,825,625
152	Trial: Centralised Nano Bubble System for Surface Cleaning and Sanitisation	Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Fung Kai Care and Attention Home for the Elderly	1,972,250
153	Trial: Waterborne Anti-microbial Coatings for Transportation Vehicles	MTR Corporation Limited Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	1,973,400
154	Trial use and evaluation of air disinfection performance an air purification device integrated with Ionic silver, Photocatalytic Oxidation, UV light disinfection, and Plasma sterilisation technologies	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	1,164,365
155	Development of intelligent robot with multifunction to assist frontline staff to combat COVID-19	Haven of Hope Christian Service	850,770
156	Multi-functional composite coating material with anti-microbial core-shell for multifarious surfaces	Cheung Sha Wan Kai Fong Welfare Association Lam Tam Yin Wah Kindergarten/Day Nursery CCC Kei Heep Secondary School The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council	1,679,000
157	UVC LED Sterilisation of Personal Protective Equipment for Reuse Purposes	Po Leung Kuk	833,175
158	Affordable Smart Fever Screening Systems for Widespread Deployment	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service Queen's College The Salvation Army Leisure and Cultural Service Department	1,945,110
159	Reusable Face Shields for the General Public	Hong Kong Christian Service	1,884,850
160	Anti-infection Face Shield with Enhanced Vision and Comfortness	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	1,751,200
161	Nano-diamond application for medical industry	Caritas - Hong Kong	1,290,075
162	Multi Ozone Disinfection System for Wet Market Hygiene Control	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	1,324,800
163	Clinical Trial of an All-in-one RT-PCR Kit for SARS-CoV-2	The University of Hong Kong	596,161

	Project title	Public sector organisation participating in the trial	Amount of funding (HKD)
164	Development of novel face mask filter material with antibacterial and biodegradability functions and its application on face mask	The Prince Philip Dental Hospital	1,980,300
165	COVID-19 detection based on Fluorescence polarisation measurement	City University of Hong Kong	1,150,000
166	Outdoor Disinfection Robot	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	1,995,288
167	NCCO Mask	Drainage Services Department	873,000
168	Optimisation and Effectiveness Trial of PathoBlocker in Clinical Areas for Disinfection and Epidemic Prevention	The Prince Philip Dental Hospital	991,600
169	Venti-Pro : Smart Anti-epidemic Sterilisation Dust Removal Air Purifier System	The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council The Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong	1,863,000
170	Smart Integration Spiral Filter mark 1	Housing Authority Hong Kong Society for the Blind Pok Oi Hospital	778,000
171	Self-administrable and portable electrical impedance tomography (EIT) system for remote monitoring lung functions: For screening and monitoring biomarkers of pneumonia related to COVID-19	The University of Hong Kong	1,585,000
172	High-efficiency Anti-virus Wall Paint Using Advanced Photocatalyst Technology	CCC Fong Yun Wah Primary School PLK Fong Wong Kam Chuen Primary School	1,996,780
173	Disinfectant Spraying Robot	Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation	700,000
174	Intelligent Anti-Pandemic Optical Network	Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation	1,286,500

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1378)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Government will "continue to oversee the opening up of more datasets by bureaux and departments (B/Ds) under the new open data policy".   Please provide information on the following:

1. What are the details of datasets newly opened up by B/Ds in the past year?
2. What are the details of datasets expected to be published by B/Ds in the coming year and their timetables?
3. Are any additional manpower and expenditure required for relevant work?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

(1)   Bureaux/departments (B/Ds) opened up a total of 260 new datasets in 2020.   Details are listed in **Annex 1**.

(2)   According to the third annual open data plans published by B/Ds in December 2020, B/Ds will open up a total of 154 new datasets in 2021.   Details are listed in **Annex 2**.

(3)   In general, B/Ds will use their existing manpower and resources to handle open data related tasks.   If additional resources are required, they could apply for funding from the block allocation under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerisation to implement the related tasks.   The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer does not maintain the related information in this regard.

Information on new datasets opened up by B/Ds in 2020

B/D^Note	Name of Dataset
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (total 4)	Camp Sites in Country Parks
	Distance Post of Hiking Trails and Mountain Bike Trails
	Toilets in Country Parks
	Visitor Centres in Country Parks
Architectural Services Department (total 1)	Awarded Contractors under Green Contractor Awards
Buildings Department (total 2)	Public Open Space - Areas within Private Properties Dedicated for Public Use
	Summary of Gross Floor Area (GFA) Concessions and Related Information of Private Developments
Census and Statistics Department (total 6)	Thematic Household Survey - Willingness to Live in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area - Accompanying Files [Tables]
	Hong Kong Population - Hong Kong Life Tables 2014-2069 - Accompanying Files [Tables]
	Hong Kong Population - Hong Kong Population Projections 2020-2069 - Accompanying Files [Tables]
	Hong Kong Population - Table E482 : Projected Mid-year Population by Age Group and Sex
	Hong Kong Population - Table E483 : Projected Hong Kong Life Tables
	Hong Kong Population - Table E485 : Hong Kong Domestic Household Projections
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office (total 1)	Online Magazine of talent.gov.hk
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office, Administration Wing (total 4)	Total Quantity of Archival Stock in GRS
	Justices of the Peace (JP) List
	Lists of Consulates-General, Honorary Consulates and Officially Recognised Bodies in Hong Kong
	Lists of Recipients of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Honours and Awards
Civil Engineering and Development Department (total 5)	Landslide Warning Sign - Road with a History of Landslides
	Landslide Warning Sign - Slopes Affecting Squatters
	List of Natural Hillside Catchments with Works Being Upgraded or Pending Upgrading Under Current Contracts

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset
	List of Study Areas Being Studied or Scheduled for Studying Under Current Agreements
	List of Substandard Government man-made Slopes Being Upgraded or Pending Upgrading Under Current Contracts
Civil Service Bureau (total 2)	Civil Service Training and Development Institute Annual Training Statistics
	Employment of Full-time Non-Civil Service Contract Staff by Bureaux/Departments/offices
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (total 19)	Participation in the Business of Intellectual Property Asia Forum
	Countries signed the Cooperation Documents on the Belt and Road Initiative with China's GDP and Population (provided by Hong Kong Trade Development Council)
	Holiday lists of overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs)
	Mainland Cities Implementing the Individual Visit Scheme
	Major Attractions in Hong Kong
	Number of Hotel Rooms in Hong Kong
	SME Financing Guarantee Scheme
	Figures in Relation to Participation in Annual Belt and Road Summit (provided by Hong Kong Trade Development Council)
	HKTDC Research (provided by Hong Kong Trade Development Council)
	Pump Prices of Auto-fuels (provided by Consumer Council)
	Key Performance Indicators of CreateSmart Initiative and Film Development Fund
	Statistics for Creative Industries in Hong Kong
	Complaint Statistics (provided by Consumer Council)
	Complaints Received by the Competition Policy Advisory Committee ("COMPAG")
	Online Price Watch (provided by Consumer Council)
	Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme
	Safety Standards Applicable to Children's Products
	Safety Standards Applicable to Toys
	Attendance at the Hong Kong International Wine and Spirits Fair
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (total 1)	Information of Hong Kong Offices in the Mainland and Taiwan
Correctional Services Department (total 4)	Escape Rate of Persons in Custody
	Number of Complaints, Requests and Enquiries Received by Complaint Investigation Unit (CIU) from Persons in Custody, the Public and Staff
	Recidivism Rate of Local Rehabilitated Offenders
	Suicide Rate of Persons in Custody

B/D^{Note}	Name of Dataset
Customs and Excise Department (total 1)	Trade Single Window Statistics
Department of Health (total 23)	Details of Probable/Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 Infection in Hong Kong
	Latest Situation of Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Hong Kong
	Residential Buildings in which Probable/Confirmed Cases have resided in the Past 14 days or Non-residential Building with 2 or more Probable/Confirmed Cases in the Past 14 days
	List of Flights/Trains/Ships/Cars taken by Probable/Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 During the Symptomatic Phase in the Past 14 Days
	List of Collection Points for Submission of Specimens by Patients of Private Doctors for COVID-19 Testing
	Designated Quarantine Hotels
	Statistics of Newly Issued Quarantine Orders under the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C)
	Statistics of Active Quarantine Orders (within 14-day Quarantine Period) under the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C)
	List of Buildings of the Home Confinees under Mandatory Home Quarantine according to Cap. 599A of Hong Kong Laws
	List of Buildings of the Home Confinees under Mandatory Home Quarantine according to Cap. 599C of Hong Kong Laws
	Latest Situation of Reported Cases of Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) in Mainland China
	The Areas in Mainland China Have Reported Cases COVID-19
	Countries/Areas Outside Mainland China Have Reported Cases of COVID-19
	Countries/Areas Have Reported Cases of Coronavirus Disease-2019
	The Distribution of COVID-19 Cases Reported in Guangdong Province
	The Distribution of COVID-19 Cases Reported in Korea
	Daily Statistics on Testing for COVID-19 in Hong Kong
	Statistics on Testing for COVID-19 in Hong Kong
	Countries/Areas Visited by the Cases with Travel History Outside Hong Kong During the Incubation Period (Imported and Possibly Local Cases)
	Mode of Detection for Confirmed and Probable Cases in Hong Kong
	Occupancy of Quarantine Centres
	Number of Confines by Types in the Quarantine Centres
	Large Cluster with 10 or More Cases

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset
Development Bureau (total 1)	Funding Scheme to Support the Use of Vacant Government Sites by Non-government Organisations
Drainage Services Department (total 4)	Chemical Dosage
	Effluent Quality
	Sewage Flow Data
	The Number of Public Enquiries and Complaints Received by the Drainage Services Department
Education Bureau (total 2)	The Number of Cross-boundary Students (CBS) using Various Land-based Boundary Control Points, with a Breakdown by Class Level
	Information on Schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS)
Efficiency Office (total 2)	Data on Projects Funded under Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund
	1823 External Customer Satisfaction Survey Score Data
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (total 12)	Approved List of Disposable LPG Cylinders (excluding LPG Cartridges used in Cassette Cookers)
	Approved List of Disposable LPG Cylinders (LPG Cartridges used in Cassette Cookers)
	Approved List of Domestic Gas Appliances (LP Gas)
	Approved List of Domestic Gas Appliances (Town Gas)
	Approved List of Flexible Gas Tubing for Low Pressure Applications
	List of Excess Flow Valve for Piped Gas Supply to Domestic Gas Cooking Installations
	List of Flexible Gas Tubing for Commercial Applications
	List of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Lighter
	Register of Distributors Approved by Registered Gas Supply Companies for Liquefied Petroleum Gas Cylinder Distribution in Hong Kong
	LPG Vehicle Fuel System Maintenance Workshops with Blue Identification Signage
	LPG Vehicle Fuel System Maintenance Workshops with Red Identification Signage
	Particulars of the Use Permit of Lifts / Particulars of the Use Permit of Escalators
Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department (total 1)	Smart Lampposts Air Quality Data
Financial Services and the Treasury	Annual Statistics for General Business (provided by Insurance Authority)

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset
Bureau (Financial Services Branch) (total 4)	Annual Statistics for Long Term Business (provided by Insurance Authority)
	Quarterly Release of Provisional Statistics for General Business (provided by Insurance Authority)
	Quarterly Release of Provisional Statistics for Long Term Business (provided by Insurance Authority)
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch) (total 1)	Spending Data of Head 147 - Government Secretariat: Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Fire Services Department (total 2)	Fire Protection and Prevention Indicators
	Fire Service Indicators (Incident Related) / Fire Service Indicators (Fire Protection Related)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (total 2)	Public Market Information
	Hawker licence information
Food and Health Bureau (total 3)	List of Licensed Reproductive Technology Centres - Artificial Insemination by Husband
	List of Licensed Reproductive Technology Centres - Treatment
	Key Service Throughputs by Age Group and Gender (provided by Hospital Authority)
Government Logistics Department (total 4)	Amount of Printed Materials Produced by the Printing Workshop in the Last 12 Months
	Auction lists
	Staff Wastage by Wastage Types and Grades in the Last 12 Months as at 1 April
	Value of Contracts of Green Products Handled in the Last 12 Months
Highways Department (total 1)	Tender Award and Forecast
Home Affairs Bureau (total 3)	Car Park Information of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (provided by West Kowloon Cultural District Authority)
	Ping Wo Fund School Project Grants
	Ping Wo Fund Sponsorship Scheme
Home Affairs Department (total 6)	Barrier-free Facilities in Community Halls/ Community Centres
	Barrier-free Facilities in Office Premises
	List of Executive Committee Members of 27 Rural Committees
	List of Full Council of Heung Yee Kuk
	List of Rural Representatives

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset
	Existing Village/ Market Town Boundaries for Rural Representative Election
Hong Kong Monetary Authority (total 10)	Daily Figures of Interbank Liquidity
	Daily Figures of Monetary Base
	Exchange Fund Bills and Notes Indicative Pricings
	List of CMU Instruments
	List of CMU Members
	List of Exchange Fund Bills and Notes
	List of Hotlines for Reporting Loss of Credit Card
	List of Recognized Dealers
	Tentative Issuance Schedule for Exchange Fund Bills and Notes
	Usage of Renminbi Liquidity Facility
Hong Kong Observatory (total 10)	Smart Lampposts Experimental Meteorological Data
	Data on Daily Global Solar Radiation
	Data on Daily Maximum and Mean UV Indices
	Data on Daily Total Bright Sunshine
	Latest 15-minute Mean UV Index from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Hong Kong Time
	Latest Tidal Information
	Regional Weather in Hong Kong - the Latest 1-minute Mean Air Temperature
	Regional Weather in Hong Kong - the Latest 1-minute Mean Relative Humidity
	Regional Weather in Hong Kong - the Maximum and Minimum Air Temperature from 1-minute Mean Temperatures since Midnight
	Weather and Radiation Level Report
Hong Kong Police Force (total 3)	Traffic Enforcement by Quarter
	Traffic Enforcement Statistics by Offences
	Traffic Enforcement Statistics by Offences by Police Regions
Hongkong Post (2 datasets)	Counter Service
	Self-Service Facility
Housing Department (total 1)	Transactions in the Sale of Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) Flats 2019
Immigration Department (total 1)	Statistics on Applications Approved under "Technology Talent Admission Scheme"
Independent Commission Against Corruption	Corruption Complaints for the Three Private Subsectors Attracting Most Complaints (Excluding Election-related Complaints)
	Election-related Corruption Complaints
	Establishment and Strength

B/D^Note	Name of Dataset
(total 11)	Number of Persons in Government Bureaux/Departments Prosecuted for Corruption and Related Offences (Classified by Types of Offences)
	Number of Persons in Government Bureaux/Departments Prosecuted for Offences Connected with or Facilitated by Corruption (Classified by Types of Offences)
	Number of Persons in Private Sector Prosecuted for Corruption and Related Offences (Classified by Types of Offences)
	Number of Persons in Private Sector Prosecuted for Offences Connected with or Facilitated by Corruption (Classified by Types of Offences)
	Number of Persons in Public Bodies Prosecuted for Corruption and Related Offences (Classified by Types of Offences)
	Number of Persons in Public Bodies Prosecuted for Offences Connected with or Facilitated by Corruption (Classified by Types of Offences)
	Number of Private Individuals (Concerning Government Bureaux/Departments or Public Bodies) Prosecuted for Corruption and Related Offences (Classified by Types of Offences)
	Number of Private Individuals (Concerning Government Bureaux/Departments or Public Bodies) Prosecuted for Offences Connected with or Facilitated by Corruption (Classified by Types of Offences)
Information Services Department (total 1)	Disclosure Log
Inland Revenue Department (total 4)	Analysis of ad valorem Stamp Duty Collected from Immovable Properties by Different Ranges of Consideration
	Analysis of Property Tax Assessments of Jointly Owned Properties by Gross Assessable Value Range
	Monthly Statistics on Stamp Duty Collected from Transfer of Hong Kong Stock (both Listed and Unlisted)
	Businesses Assessed under Two-tiered Profits Tax Rates and Tax Forgone
Innovation and Technology Bureau (total 3)	Esports Industry Facilitation Scheme (provided by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited)
	Esports-internship-scheme (provided by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited)
	Summary of Annual Financial Highlights of Cyberport (provided by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited)
Innovation and Technology Commission	Cumulative Quotas Allotted under the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS)
	Annual Statistics of Approved Patent Application Grant

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset
(total 7)	Approved Projects of Innovation and Technology Fund
	Business Concentration of Private Independent Testing and Certification Establishments
	HKSP Bus Stop People Queue (provided by Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation)
	Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) of Enterprise Place in Science Park (provided by Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation)
	Value Added Per Person Engaged of Testing and Certification Activities
Intellectual Property Department (total 3)	Statistics of Trade Mark, Design and Patent Applications filed by unrepresented applicants and by agents
	Survey on Manpower in Intellectual Property Trading and Management - Major Findings
	Number of Searches conducted on Trade Marks, Patents and Designs through the Intellectual Property Department's Online Search System
Labour Department (total 1)	Annual Statistical Report of Trade Unions in Hong Kong
Land Registry (total 2)	Number of Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Residential Building Units Received for Registration (by range of consideration)
	Monthly Statistics on Instruments Received for Registration (April 1993-December 2000)
Lands Department (total 6)	Grass-cutting Sites under LandsD's Grass-cutting Programme (Available in GML and GeoJSON)
	1897 Hong Kong Map
	Public Facilities (excluding Public Open Space) (Available in GML)
	1:50 000 Topographic Map of Hong Kong (GEOTIFF format)
	1:50 000 Topographic Map of Hong Kong (GML format)
	3D Pedestrian Network
Leisure and Cultural Services Department (total 8)	Collection Items Accessible on the Internet
	List of e-books of Hong Kong Public Libraries
	Sports Climbing Facilities
	Outdoor Fitness Equipment
	Training Programmes organized by Music Office
	Beach Attendance by Venue
	Number of Presentations and Attendances of Cultural Programmes by Type of Event
	Swimming Pool Attendance by Venue
Marine Department (total 2)	Addresses and Opening Hours of Marine District Offices
	Non-Convention Vessels Arrivals and Departures

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset
Office of the Communications Authority (total 6)	Numbers of Channels of Domestic Pay Television Programme Services by Nature
	Weekly Hours of Different Types of Programmes Broadcast on Integrated Chinese Channels of Domestic Free Television Programme Services
	Weekly Hours of Different Types of Programmes Broadcast on Integrated English Channels of Domestic Free Television Programme Services
	Statistics on External Telecommunications Traffic for the Calendar Years
	Statistics on External Telecommunications Traffic for the Fiscal Years
	Statistics for the Use of International Private Leased Circuits (IPLC) for the Provision of Internet Service
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (total 10)	HKCERT Security Bulletin and Security Blog (provided by Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre)
	ICT Event Calendar
	List of Service Needs of Government Departments posted in Smart Government Innovation Lab
	List of Solutions from I&T Suppliers collected in Smart Government Innovation Lab
	Training Courses under Enriched ICT Training Programme for the Elderly
	Percentage of Adjustment to T-contractors' Service Fees
	Progress of Enhancing Remuneration Packages to T-contract Staff
	Number of Registered .hk and .香港 Domain Names (provided by Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited)
	Requests for Information Disclosure made by the Government to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Companies
	Requests for Information Removal made by the Government to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Companies
Official Receiver's Office (total 1)	Dataset Statistics - Annual Statistics on Profile of Bankrupts and Types of Petitioners 2019 - Gender of Bankrupts
Planning Department (total 4)	Profile and Operations of Brownfield Sites in the New Territories
	Digital Planning Data of Statutory Plans (provided by Town Planning Board)
	Enforcement and Prosecution Cases - Enforcement Cases
	Enforcement and Prosecution Cases - Prosecution Cases
Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (total 1)	Empirical Data of the Public Policy Research (PPR) Funding Scheme Project

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset
Registration and Electoral Office (total 1)	2019 District Council Ordinary Election Constituency Boundaries (provided by Electoral Affairs Commission)
Secretariat, Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance (total 1)	Annual Report 2018 to the Chief Executive by the Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance - Statutory Tables
Security Bureau (total 6)	Latest Figures of Non-refoulement Claims under the Unified Screening Mechanism ("USM")
	Caseload and Statistics for Long-term Prison Sentences Review Board
	Caseload and Statistics for Release under Supervision Board
	Related Figures for Post-Release Supervision Board
	Public Opinion Survey on Anti-drug Publicity Measures
	Security and Guarding Services Industry Authority - List of Licensed Security Companies
Social Welfare Department (total 11)	Early Education & Training Centre Information on Cases Matched for Service through Central Referral System Rehabilitation Services - Subsystem for Disabled Pre-schoolers
	Information on Cases Selected for Services through Central Referral System Rehabilitation Services (excluding Subsystem for Disabled Pre-schoolers)
	Information on Number of Applications Waitlisted in the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services (excluding Subsystem for Disabled Pre-schoolers)
	Information on Waiting List for Day Service through Central Referral System Rehabilitation Service - Subsystem for Disabled Pre-schoolers
	Integrated Programme in Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centre Information on Cases Matched for Service through Central Referral System Rehabilitation Service - Subsystem for Disabled Pre-schoolers
	Latest Application Dates of Applications without Location Preference Being Offered Subsidised Elderly Residential Care Service Placements
	No. of Applicants Applying for Subsidised Care and Attention / Nursing Home Places
	On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services Information on Cases Matched for Service through Central Referral System Rehabilitation Service - Subsystem for Disabled Pre-schoolers
	Special Child Care Centre Information on Cases Matched for Service through Central Referral System Rehabilitation Services - Subsystem for Disabled Pre-schoolers

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset
	Volunteer Movement Participating Organisations & Registered Volunteers
	Volunteer Service Hours, portfolios of Volunteer Movement Participating Organisations and registered volunteers under Volunteer Movement
Transport Department (total 3)	Cycling Information
	Schedules and Fare Tables of Licensed Ferry Services
	Real-time Arrival Data of Green Minibuses (GMBs)
Treasury (total 1)	Spending Data of Head 188 - the Treasury
University Grants Committee Secretariat (total 11)	Grants for UGC-funded Universities as a Whole
	Number of Graduates (Headcount) of UGC-funded Programmes by Level of Study, Broad Academic Programme Category and Sex
	Number of Graduates (Headcount) of UGC-funded Programmes by University, Level of Study, Mode of Study and Academic Programme Category
	Number of Incoming Exchange Enrolled in UGC-funded Full-time Programmes by University, Level of Study and Place of Origin
	Number of Outgoing Exchange from UGC-funded Full-time Programmes by University, Level of Study and Place of Destination
	Research Output by University and Type of Research Output
	Senior-year Student Intakes (Full-time equivalent) of UGC-funded Programmes by University and Mode of Study
	Student Enrolment (Full-time equivalent) of First-year-first-degree Places of UGC-funded Programmes by University and Place of Origin
	Student Enrolment (Headcount) of UGC-funded Programmes by University, Level of Study, Mode of Study and Academic Programme Category
	Student Enrolment (Headcount) of UGC-funded Programmes by University, Level of Study, Mode of Study and Sex
	Sub-degree/Undergraduate Students (Headcount) with Special Educational Needs (SEN) from UGC-funded Programmes by University
Water Supplies Department (total 3)	Carbon Audit Report
	Annual Quantity of Fresh Water Supply
	Sea Water for Flushing Consumption
Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (total 5)	Summary of Statistics for Individual-based Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme
	Statistics of Continuing Education Fund
	Statistics of Diploma Yi Jin - Tuition Fee Reimbursement
	Statistics of Financial Assistance Scheme for Designated Evening Adult Education Courses (FAEAEC) - Tuition Fee Reimbursement
	Statistics of Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers

Note: The list is arranged in alphabetical order by names in English

Information on datasets planned to be opened up by B/Ds in 2021

B/D^{Note}	Name of Dataset	Target Release Date (month/year)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (total 4)	Barbecue Sites in Country Parks	05/2021
	Morning Walker Gardens in Country Parks	05/2021
	Visitor Centres in Geoparks	05/2021
	Spending data of Head 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)	08/2021
Architectural Services Department (total 1)	Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC) BEAM Plus Assessment Final Grading for Completed Capital Works Projects managed by the Architectural Services Department	01/2021 (opened up)
Buildings Department (total 3)	Buildings Ordinance - Schedule 5 : Schedule Areas	09/2021
	Legal Signboards	09/2021
	Modular Integrated Construction (MIC)	12/2021
Census and Statistics Department (total 2)	Spending Data of Head 26 - Census and Statistics Department-Spending Data of Head 26 - Census and Statistics Department for Financial Year 2021-22 (June 2021)	08/2021
	Social Data Collected via the General Household Survey - Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases - Accompanying Files [Tables]	12/2021
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office, Administration Wing (total 1)	Destruction of Records in the Government	04/2021
Civil Engineering and Development Department (total 10)	Boulder	06/2021
	Boundary of Scheduled and Designated Areas	06/2021
	Cavern Master Plan	06/2021
	Enhanced Natural Terrain Landslide Inventory (Crown)	06/2021
	Enhanced Natural Terrain Landslide Inventory (Trail)	06/2021
	GEO Raingauge Data	06/2021
	Ground Investigation (GI) and Laboratory Test (LT) Records	06/2021
	Hillside Pocket	06/2021
	Historical Landslide Catchment	06/2021
	Location of Landslide Incidents	06/2021
Civil Service Bureau (total 1)	Recruitment Figures for Grades Participating in the Joint Recruitment Examination	12/2021

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset	Target Release Date (month/year)
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (total 7)	General Information of "A Symphony of Lights" (SoL) show	01/2021 (opened up)
	Social Media Accounts of the Overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs)	01/2021 (opened up)
	Average achieved Hotel Room Rate in Hong Kong	02/2021 (opened up)
	Cruise Passenger Throughput and Number of Ship Calls	02/2021 (opened up)
	External Trade Statistics on Creative Goods in Hong Kong	03/2021 (opened up)
	Complaints and Enquiries Received by the Competition Commission (Provided by Competition Commission)	07/2021
	Statistics on Graduates of Local Full-time Creative Industries-related Programmes	09/2021
Companies Registry (total 1)	List of Registered Office Addresses of Live Local Companies Registered in Hong Kong	12/2021
Correctional Services Department (total 12)	Overall Passing Rate and Employment Rate of Persons in Custody - Employment Rate after 6 Months of Employment Follow-up Period After Release	02/2021 (opened up)
	Number of Participants in Rehabilitation Pioneer Project	02/2021 (opened up)
	Number of Programme Matching Sessions in Risks and Needs Assessment	02/2021 (opened up)
	Self-harm Incidents of Persons in Custody	02/2021 (opened up)
	Overall Passing Rate and Employment Rate of Persons in Custody - Overall Passing Rate in Public Examination	02/2021 (opened up)
	Overall Passing Rate and Employment Rate of Persons in Custody - Overall Passing Rate in Vocational Qualification Examinations and Trade Tests of Persons	02/2021 (opened up)
	Violent Cases Involving Persons in Custody - Number of Cases of Assault Against CSD Officers	02/2021 (opened up)
	Violent Cases Involving Persons in Custody - Number of Cases of Fighting / Assault among Persons in Custody	02/2021 (opened up)
	Acts of Indiscipline of Persons in Custody - Number of Indiscipline Cases	02/2021 (opened up)
	Joint Searching / Special Searching / Night Raid Operations Conducted in the Correctional Institutions - Number of Operations Conducted	02/2021 (opened up)

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset	Target Release Date (month/year)
	Joint Searching / Special Searching / Night Raid Operations Conducted in the Correctional Institutions - Number of Locations Covered	02/2021 (opened up)
	Acts of Indiscipline of Persons in Custody - Number of Persons in Custody Committing Disciplinary Offences	02/2021 (opened up)
Department of Health (total 4)	List of Day Procedure Centres Licensed under Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633)	01/2021 (opened up)
	List of Private Hospitals Licensed under Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633)	01/2021 (opened up)
	List of Scheduled Nursing Homes Exempted under Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633)	01/2021 (opened up)
	Number of Registrations Recorded in the Centralised Organ Donation Register (CODR)	01/2021 (opened up)
Development Bureau (total 1)	Spending Data of Head 159 - Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Works Branch)	08/2021
Education Bureau (total 2)	List of "Through-train" Schools	09/2021
	Profile of Kindergartens and Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres	10/2021
Efficiency Office (total 2)	Completed Business Facilitation Measures under the "Be the Smart Regulator" Programme	04/2021 (opened up)
	Completed Streamlining Measures under the "Streamlining of Government Services" Programme	04/2021
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (total 3)	Age Distribution of Lifts and Escalators	06/2021
	Spending Data of Head 42 - Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	08/2021
	Approval Status on the Use Permit of Lifts and Escalators under New Installation or Major Alteration Works	12/2021
Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department (total 1)	Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Hong Kong	07/2021
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Financial Services Branch) (total 1)	Spending data of Head 148 - Government Secretariat: Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Financial Services Branch)	08/2021

B/D^{Note}	Name of Dataset	Target Release Date (month/year)
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch) (total 1)	Cash Payout Scheme Registration and Payment Statistics	01/2021 (opened up)
Fire Services Department (total 1)	Fire Protection and Prevention Indicators (Provisional Figures)	05/2021
Food and Health Bureau (total 2)	Standard Premiums of the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme Certified Plans	03/2021 (opened up)
	Key Service Throughput by Age Group and Gender (Provided by Hospital Authority)	08/2021
Government Laboratory (total 1)	Calibration and Measurement Capability (CMCs) Claim	09/2021
Government Logistics Department (total 4)	Auction Result	04/2021
	Number and Value of Vehicle Hiring Service Contracts Administered by GLD Awarded in the Last 12 Months	04/2021
	Number of Suppliers in the GLD Supplier Lists as at 31 December	04/2021
	Tonnage of Recycled Printing Paper used for Production in the Printing Workshop in the Last 12 Months	04/2021
Government Property Agency (total 1)	Parking Vacancy Data of Selected Government Car Parks Open for Public Use under the Purview of GPA	Subject to the commissioning dates of the relevant government car parks
Hong Kong Monetary Authority (total 4)	Aggregate Data on the Progress in Handling Banking Complaints by the HKMA	12/2021
	List of HKTR Members Associated with Legal Entity Identifiers (LEI) Code	12/2021
	Outstanding Position Reports and Turnover Reports of the OTC Derivatives Transactions - Foreign Exchange	12/2021
	Outstanding Position Reports and Turnover Reports of the OTC Derivatives Transactions - Interest Rate	12/2021
Hong Kong Observatory (total 6)	Daily Mean Wind Speed	06/2021
	Daily Prevailing Wind Direction	06/2021
	Regional Weather in Hong Kong - the Latest 10-minute Mean Wind Speed and Wind Direction and Maximum Gust	06/2021

B/D^{Note}	Name of Dataset	Target Release Date (month/year)
	Regional Weather in Hong Kong - the Latest Global Solar Radiation, Direct Solar Radiation, Diffuse Solar Radiation	06/2021
	Regional Weather in Hong Kong - the Latest Grass Temperature	06/2021
	Regional Weather in Hong Kong - the Latest Mean Sea Level Pressure	06/2021
Hong Kong Police Force (total 3)	Conviction & Assets Recovery	06/2021
	General Figures of Disciplined Officer and Civilian Officers	06/2021
	No. of STRs Received	10/2021
Hongkong Post (total 1)	Automatic Postal Kiosk	04/2021
Information Services Department (total 1)	Establishment Figures	04/2021
Inland Revenue Department (total 2)	Analysis of Stamp Duty from Leases Stamped through e-Stamping by Different Monthly Rental Groups	04/2021
	Analysis (by Income Group) of Tax Deductions Allowed for Premiums Paid under Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme Policy, Deferred Annuity Premiums, Tax Deductible MPF Voluntary Contributions, etc.	10/2021
Innovation and Technology Bureau (total 1)	Spending Data of Head 135 - Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Bureau	08/2021
Innovation and Technology Commission (total 8)	Annual Statistics of Approved Projects under Technology Voucher Programme by Technological Services/Solutions	02/2021 (opened up)
	Annual Statistics of Approved Projects under Technology Voucher Programme by Type of Business	02/2021 (opened up)
	Approved Number of Research Talents and Funding amount by Technology Areas under Research Talent Hub	02/2021 (opened up)
	Funding Amounts provided to State Key Laboratories (SKLs) and Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres (CNERC(HK)s) in the Preceding Financial Year	04/2021
	Innovation and Technology Venture Fund Investment Portfolio	04/2021 (opened up)

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset	Target Release Date (month/year)
	Approved Projects under Public Sector Trial Scheme - Special Call for Projects for the Prevention and Control of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Hong Kong (PSTS-COVID-19)	06/2021
	Breakdown of Cumulative Quotas Allotted by Technology Areas under the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS)	07/2021
	Spending Data of Head 155 - Innovation and Technology Commission	08/2021
Intellectual Property Department (total 1)	Statistics of (i) Standard Patent (Re- registration) Applications with Designated Patent Applications based on Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Applications; and (ii) Short-term Patent Applications based on PCT Applications	06/2021
Labour Department (total 2)	Organisations Providing Case Management and Employment Support Services under the Youth Employment and Training Programme	03/2021 (opened up)
	Key Statistics of Registration of Safety Officers and Safety Auditors	09/2021
Lands Department (total 16)	3D Spatial Data /3D-BIT00	04/2021
	Designated Spots Available for Application for Setting up of Temporary Street Counters	04/2021
	Digital Aerial Photo / DAP-L0(in JPEG format)	04/2021
	Digital Land Boundary Map / iC1000	04/2021
	Digital Orthophoto / DOP1000-1963(in GeoTIFF format with Worldfile)	04/2021
	Digital Orthophoto / DOP5000(in GeoTIFF format with Worldfile)	04/2021
	Digital Orthophoto / DOPM50-L0(in JPEG format)	04/2021
	Digital Topographic Map / iB1000	04/2021
	Digital Topographic Map / iB10000	04/2021
	Digital Topographic Map / iB20000	04/2021
	Digital Topographic Map / iB5000	04/2021
	Geo-Community Database / iGeoCom	04/2021
	Geo-Reference Database / iG1000	04/2021
	Historical Map - Kowloon Peninsula(Batch 1)(in GeoTIFF format)	06/2021
	Lot Index API	06/2021
	Old Survey Sheets(Batch 1)(in GeoTIFF format)	10/2021
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	School Visit Groups by Venue	03/2021 (opened up)

B/D^{Note}	Name of Dataset	Target Release Date (month/year)
(total 5)	Curriculum Content and Syllabus of Instrumental Music Training Scheme	06/2021
	Events on Sale through URBTIX	12/2021
	Number of Presentations and Attendances of Events Organised by Community Programmes Office by Type of Event	12/2021
	Usage of Recreational and Sports Facilities by Venue	12/2021
Marine Department (total 3)	Latest Tidal Information	03/2021 (opened up)
	Berth Vacancy of Public Cargo Working Areas	04/2021
	Spending Data of Head 100 - Marine Department	11/2021
Office of the Communications Authority (total 4)	List of Registered Class Licence for Offer of Telecommunications Services (CLOTS) Licensees	01/2021 (opened up)
	Yearly Total Number of Subscribers of Domestic Pay Television Programme Services	01/2021 (opened up)
	List of Satellite Master Antenna Television (SMATV) Licensees	03/2021 (opened up)
	HKCA Specifications	08/2021
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (total 3)	"iAM Smart" Registration Locations	01/2021 (opened up)
	Awarded Service Contracts of SOA-WiFi	01/2021 (opened up)
	Spending Data of Head 47 - Government Secretariat: Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	08/2021
Official Receiver's Office (total 3)	Annual Statistics on Compulsory Winding-up of Hong Kong and Non-Hong Kong Companies	02/2021 (opened up)
	Annual Statistics on Profile of Bankrupts and Types of Petitioners - Multi-time Bankruptcy	02/2021 (opened up)
	Official Receiver's Office Spending Data	07/2021
Planning Department (total 1)	Area Assessments of Industrial Land in the Territory	12/2021
Registration and Electoral Office (total 1)	Spending Data of Head 163 - The Registration and Electoral Office	08/2021
Security Bureau (total 1)	Survey of Drug Use among Students - tables	06/2021
Social Welfare Department (total 6)	Accumulative Number of Senior Citizen Cards issued	06/2021
	Statistics on Complaints Handled by Lump Sum Grant Independent Complaints Handling Committee	06/2021

B/D^{Note}	Name of Dataset	Target Release Date (month/year)
	Statistics on Elder Abuse Cases	06/2021
	Statistics on Foster Care Service	06/2021
	Statistics on Residential Care Services for the Elderly	06/2021
	Statistics on Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services	06/2021
Transport and Housing Bureau (total 1)	Schedule of Cross-border Ferry Transfer and Coaches (provided by Airport Authority Hong Kong)	12/2021
Transport Department (total 9)	Locations of Licensing and Driving Services Offices, Driving Test and Vehicle Examination Centres, Public Vehicles Unit and Driving-offence Points Office	01/2021 (opened up)
	Distribution of Metered Parking Spaces and Occupancy of those Installed with New Parking Meters	01/2021 (opened up)
	Annual Traffic Census Survey Data	04/2021
	Traffic Data of Strategic / Major Roads	04/2021
	List of Ferry Service Timetables, Fare Tables and Real-time Estimated Time of Arrival of Next Ferry Trip (Provided by Fortune Ferry Company Limited)	06/2021 (Timetables and Fare Tables opened up)
	List of Ferry Service Timetables, Fare Tables and Real-time Estimated Time of Arrival of Next Ferry Trip (provided by Chuen Kee Ferry Limited)	12/2021
	List of Ferry Service Timetables, Fare Tables and Real-time Estimated Time of Arrival of Next Ferry Trip (provided by Hong Kong & Kowloon Ferry Limited)	12/2021
	List of Ferry Service Timetables, Fare Tables and Real-time Estimated Time of Arrival of Next Ferry Trip (provided by New World First Ferry Services Limited)	12/2021
	Traffic Notices	From Q1 2021 - Q4 2021 by batches
University Grants Committee Secretariat (total 3)	Approved Student Number Targets (Full-time equivalent) of UGC-funded Programmes by University and Level of Study	06/2021
	Average Annual Salaries of Graduates of Full-time UGC-funded Programmes who were in Full-time Employment by Level of Study and Broad Academic Programme Category	06/2021

B/D[Note]	Name of Dataset	Target Release Date (month/year)
	Average Student Unit Cost of UGC-funded Programmes by Level of Study	12/2021
Water Supplies Department (total 2)	Statistics on Water Mains Bursts	04/2021
	Departmental Expenditure for Water Supplies Department	07/2021
Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (total 1)	Student Loan Default Statistics	12/2021

Note: The list is arranged in alphabetical order by names in English

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

ITB093

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1379)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Government will "continue to oversee the enhancement of public Wi-Fi service". Please provide information on the following:

1. What is the existing coverage rate of public Wi-Fi service and how many Wi-Fi hotspots are installed?
2. What are the average numbers of daily users of public Wi-Fi service?
3. What is the expenditure for enhancement of public Wi-Fi service each year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1.   As at end-February 2021, the number of hotspots under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand was about 40 000.   Apart from over 3 000 mobile Wi-Fi hotspots installed in buses, taxis and the Airport Express, the distribution of about 36 700 Wi-Fi hotspots in 18 districts of Hong Kong is as below:

District	Number of hotspots	Coverage (percentage against the total number of hotspots)
Hong Kong Island		
Central and Western District	3 603	9.8%
Eastern District	1 676	4.6%
Southern District	2 372	6.5%
Wan Chai	2 306	6.3%

District	Number of hotspots	Coverage (percentage against the total number of hotspots)
Kowloon		
Kowloon City	4 598	12.5%
Yau Tsim Mong	2 876	7.8%
Sham Shui Po	1 238	3.4%
Wong Tai Sin	1 154	3.1%
Kwun Tong	1 710	4.7%
New Territories		
Tai Po	673	1.8%
Yuen Long	1 279	3.5%
Tuen Mun	2 300	6.3%
North District	714	1.9%
Sai Kung	1 608	4.4%
Sha Tin	4 407	12.0%
Kwai Tsing	1 301	3.5%
Tsuen Wan	908	2.5%
Islands	1 975	5.4%
Total:	**36 698**	**100%**

The hotspots under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand are distributed at the major facilities in various districts, including tourist attractions, shopping malls and stores, restaurants, public libraries, study rooms, youth services centres, community halls, public markets and cooked food centres, sports, cultural and recreational venues, district parks and promenades, sitting-out areas in public rental housing estates, public hospitals, etc.

2. In 2020-21 (as at end-February 2021), the average daily number of user connections of public Wi-Fi service operated by the Government was around 76 000. We do not maintain information regarding the number of user connections of public Wi-Fi service provided by other service providers under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand.

3. The estimated expenditure related to implementing free public Wi-Fi service under "Wi-Fi.HK" for 2021-22 is around $70.17 million.

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CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1389)

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 (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority is currently working
with the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to develop the business
version of the "iAM Smart" digital authentication platform.   It can be used to authenticate
the identity of enterprises through an electronic channel.   Please advise on the following:

1.   What is the expenditure involved for the research programme?

2.   Is there a timetable for the launch of the above programme and what are the manpower
      and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) is working with the
Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on taking forward the first phase of
Proof-of-Concept (PoC) trials and research on the business version of the "iAM Smart"
platform. The PoC is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2021. Based on
the PoC results, OGCIO will continue to deliberate with the HKMA and other stakeholders
on rolling out the next phase of digital authentication of business identities. Issues for
deliberation include assessing industries' acceptability of the proposed solution and
exploring its application, the governance framework of the platform and the detailed
implementation plan. Once a consensus among relevant stakeholders on the
implementation plan is reached, a sandbox test for assessing the system security, protection
of users' privacy and its compatibility with related platforms in other jurisdictions, etc., will
be conducted to work out recommendations on the feasibility of the sustainable
development of the platform, as well as to perform the corresponding legal and regulatory
consultation.   The implementation timetable of the programme will be decided then.

The development of the business version of the "iAM Smart" digital authentication platform will be met by the existing manpower and resources of OGCIO and the HKMA.   No additional expenses are involved.

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Reply Serial No.

ITB095

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2845)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Please advise on the actual expenditure and manpower required for the development, management and publicity of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application as at 1 March this year.
Please advise on the estimated expenditure and manpower required for the mutual recognition system for health codes of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 110)

Reply:

In 2020-21, the cumulative expenditure for the development and enhancement of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app and its back-end system is about $3 million, including about $1.1 million for the development of the mobile app and about $1.9 million for the back-end system.

In addition, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) is working in collaboration with several universities on studying new functions, including working with a team from the University of Hong Kong on developing the provision of an automatic visit recording function on the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app through the use of Bluetooth technology, involving a funding support of about $630,000 from the Public Sector Trial Scheme under the Innovation and Technology Commission; collaborating with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) on adopting the batteryless Bluetooth low energy beacon namely LuxBeacon developed by a research and development team of HKUST for installation on public transport vehicles such as minibuses, involving an expenditure of about $220,000; and working with the Baptist University on developing an auto taxi check-out function using artificial intelligence with no additional expenditure involved.

The management and publicity of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app involves an expenditure of about $2.2 million, including about $1.2 million for publicity and promotion, and about $1 million for the system maintenance and operation related contract staff and other expenses. Other supporting staff are deployed internally within OGCIO, and no additional resources are involved.

OGCIO also assists the Department of Health in developing the "Health Code" data conversion system with Guangdong Province and Macao. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure on the development and operation of the "Health Code" data conversion system is about $9.1 million, including about $520,000 for recruiting relevant contract staff. Other manpower required for system administration is met by internal deployment within OGCIO and no additional resources are involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2225)

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 (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

1.   The latest development of the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts pilot scheme.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

In light of the concerns over privacy expressed by some members of the public, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) established the Smart Lampposts Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc Committee) in August 2019 to review the privacy protection technologies and measures in respect of smart lamppost applications. The Ad Hoc Committee submitted a report to the Government in March 2020, which agreed that smart lampposts are important infrastructure for promoting smart city development and facilitating 5G mobile network development, and recommended that the Government should continue to take forward the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts Pilot Scheme (Pilot Scheme).

OGCIO briefed the Kwun Tong District Council on the implementation of the Pilot Scheme in Kwun Tong in mid-2020, and has, on the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations, actively explored more privacy-friendly technology solutions and stepped up publicity and public engagement in order to enhance public confidence in the Pilot Scheme.   OGCIO is testing the use of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to replace cameras in detection of vehicle speeds and identification of different types of vehicles, and the road test has already started in the first quarter of 2021.   If the testing results are satisfactory and subject to the development of the epidemic situation, the pilot installation of the new solution is expected to take place on existing smart lampposts in mid-2021.   In addition, OGCIO also launched an online public exhibition in March 2021 to facilitate the public's understanding of the smart devices and their applications on the smart lampposts.

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

ITB097

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2954)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

1.   What is the development cost of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application (app)?

2.   Apart from "LeaveHomeSafe", what are the numbers of other government apps
      (including all mobile phone operating systems) launched currently, the government
      departments involved, the development and maintenance costs and the numbers of
      downloads?

3.   Has the Innovation and Technology Bureau put in place a mechanism to provide
      comments or guidelines for mobile apps launched by other government departments in
      order to make the app more practical and increase the number of downloads by the
      public?   If no, will the Government give thought to providing such a mechanism?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1.   Since the launch of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app in November 2020, we have
      been continuously adding enhanced functions to it in order to meet the needs of
      epidemic prevention and anti-epidemic work, and to enhance the effectiveness of the
      app and user experience.   In 2020-21, the accumulated expenditure for the system
      development and enhancement of functions of the app is about $3 million, including
      about $1.1 million for the development of the app and some $1.9 million for the
      back-end system.

2.   Information on the mobile apps currently launched by bureaux/departments (B/Ds) is
      at **Annex**.

3. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) formulated the "Practice Guide for Developing Mobile Apps" in November 2018 and circulated it to B/Ds regularly to remind them to set clear objectives of the mobile apps and understand the needs of target user groups before developing the apps. After launching the mobile apps, they should also regularly review and evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the apps, and conduct relevant publicity and promotion to facilitate target users to understand the objectives and usage of the apps, thus enabling B/Ds to develop user-friendly mobile apps that meet the users' needs, so as to attract more citizens to download and use the apps.

Information on the mobile apps launched by B/Ds
(As at 28 Feb 2021)

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
1	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Enjoy Hiking	$38,000	$12,000	420 000
2	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Reef Check Hong Kong	$95,000	$42,000	12 000
3	Buildings Department	Quick Guide for MBIS/MWIS	$299,000	$86,000	18 000
4	Buildings Department	MWCS - Quick Guide for Minor Works	$290,000	$254,000	50 000
5	Civil Engineering and Development Department	HKGeology	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	28 000
6	Civil Service Bureau	Government Vacancies	$980,000	As the maintenance service provided by the contractor has covered other systems, no separate breakdown of an individual system is available.	770 000
7	Companies Registry	CR eFiling	Included in the enhancement of the core system of the Companies Registry.	Included in the maintenance cost of the core system of the Companies Registry. As it is not a stand-alone project, no	23 000

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
				separate cost breakdown is available.	
8	Correctional Services Department	Hong Kong Correctional Services Department Mobile App	$308,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	26 000
9	Customs and Excise Department	HK Car First Registration Tax	$230,000	$48,000	24 000
10	Department of Health (Health Promotion Branch)	EatSmart Restaurant Star+	$76,000	$16,000	45 000
11	Department of Health (Health Promotion Branch)	Snack Check	$282,000	$32,000	69 000
12	Department of Health (Infection Control Branch)	IMPACT (English version only)	$296,000	$48,000	46 000
13	Department of Health (Special Preventive Programme)	1069 Test Finder	$150,000	$70,000	36 000
14	Department of Health (Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office)	Quit Smoking App	$295,000	$127,000	63 000
15	Development Bureau	My Kowloon East (MyKE)	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	$72,000	13 000
16	Development Bureau (In collaboration with Construction Industry Council)	Construction Safety App	$883,000 (Including maintenance cost for the first 2 years)	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	620 000

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
17	Education Bureau (Applied Learning Section)	ApL	$217,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	19 000
18	Education Bureau (Curriculum Resources Section)	Educational Multimedia	$49,000	$110,000	150 000
19	Education Bureau (Kindergarten Administration Section)	Profile of Kindergartens or Kindergarten-cum-child care centres	Included in the cost of the whole project of the Profile of Kindergartens. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available. (The total cost of project of the Profile of Kindergartens: $651,000)	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	130 000
20	Education Bureau (Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Section)	Reading Town 1	$395,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	190 000
21	Education Bureau (NET Section)	Reading Town 2	$920,000 (For both Reading Town 2 and Reading Town 3)	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	160 000
22	Education Bureau (NET Section)	Reading Town 3	$920,000 (For both Reading Town 2 and Reading Town 3)	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	160 000
23	Education Bureau (Council and	e-Navigator	Developed with the related website.	$144,000	210 000

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
	Secondary Section)		As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.		
24	Education Bureau (Personal, Social and Humanities Education Section)	History Trip Go Easy: Cheung Chau Jiao Festival	Developed as a part of the e-book and e-portal project. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	43 000
25	Electrical & Mechanical Services Department	E&M Connect	$800,000	$74,500	12 000
26	Electrical & Mechanical Services Department	E&M Trade	$492,000	$74,500	34 000
27	Efficiency Office	Tell me@1823 mobile app	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	250 000
28	Environmental Protection Department	Hong Kong Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)	$80,000	$108,000	130 000
29	Environmental Protection Department	T▪PARK	$713,000	$80,000	32 000
30	Environmental Protection Department	Waste Less	$690,000	$256,000	71 000
31	Fire Services Department	Catch time, save life	$105,000	$96,000 (The maintenance cost includes 4 mobile apps of	69 000
32	Fire Services Department	Hong Kong Fire Services Department Mobile Application	$900,000		94 000

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
33	Fire Services Department	Live safe, be watchful	$250,000	the Fire Services Department. No separate cost breakdown is available.)	73 000
34	Fire Services Department	Stay Calm & Collected	$310,000		80 000
35	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Nutrition Calculator	$150,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	140 000
36	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Internet Memorial Service	$300,000	The maintenance of the mobile app is included in the whole system maintenance contract of Internet Memorial Service.	12 000
37	Food and Health Bureau	醫健通eHealth	The development of the app is bundled with other services and infrastructure. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	The maintenance of the app is bundled with other services and infrastructure. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	55 000
38	Home Affairs Department	Hong Kong Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses	$178,000	$40,000	16 000
39	Hong Kong Observatory	MyObservatory	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	8 400 000

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
40	Hong Kong Observatory	MyWorldWeather	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	310 000
41	Hong Kong Police Force	Hong Kong Police Mobile Application	$750,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	190 000
42	Hongkong Post	Hongkong Post	$328,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	450 000
43	Hongkong Post	ShopThruPost 2.0	The mobile app is a part of the Redevelopment of On-line Shopping Platform Project. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	The maintenance cost of the mobile app is included in the total system maintenance cost of the whole On-line Shopping Platform. No cost breakdown is available.	30 000
44	Immigration Department (ImmD)	Hong Kong ImmD Mobile Application	$130,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	670 000
45	Information Services Department	news.gov.hk	$270,000	$50,000	160 000
46	Intellectual Property Department	"No Fakes Pledge" Shop Search	$580,000	$37,800	60 000

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
47	Labour Department	Interactive Employment Service iES	$125,000	$72,000	1 100 000
48	Labour Department	Work Safety Alert	$75,000	$45,000	26 000
49	Labour Department	Youth Employment Start	$149,000 (Including maintenance for the first year)	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	24 000
50	Lands Department	MyMapHK	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	450 000
51	Lands Department	VoiceMapHK	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	8 000
52	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Multimedia Information	Included in the Multimedia Information System (MMIS) Major Upgrade Project. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	Included in the maintenance cost of the MMIS. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	57 000
53	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	My Library	The total cost of the project is around $3,320,000. No separate cost breakdown is available for the mobile app.	$211,000	580 000
54	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	My URBTIX	Included in the service contract of My URBTIX. As it is not a stand-alone	Included in the service contract of My URBTIX. As it	1 100 000

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	
55	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Star Hoppers	$700,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	280 000
56	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	iM Guide	iM Guide is a part of the Museum Multimedia Guide System (MMGS) project. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	Included in the routine maintenance cost of MMGS. No separate cost breakdown is available.	20 000
57	Marine Department	eSeaGo	$600,000	$165,000	73 000
58	Office of the Communications Authority	OFCA Broadband Performance Test	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	89 000 000 (Number of test)
59	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	EventHK	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	100 000
60	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Apps	$600,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	300 000
61	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Notifications	Developed internally. No additional cost is	Maintained by deploying internal	870 000

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			involved.	resources. No additional cost is involved.	
62	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Wi-Fi.HK	$340,000	$198,000	330 000
63	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	LeaveHomeSafe	$3,000,000 (Including the mobile app and backend system)	$900,000	Over 3 million
64	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	智方便 iAM Smart	The app is developed together with the "iAM Smart" platform. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	The maintenance of the app is bundled with the "iAM Smart" platform. No separate cost breakdown is available.	About 88 000 persons have registered "iAM Smart"
65	Radio Television Hong Kong	Chinese History - the Flourishing Age	$450,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	160 000
66	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Memory	$280,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	50 000
67	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Mine	$409,000	$150,000	450 000
68	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK News	$336,000	$85,000	490 000
69	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK On The Go	$200,000	$70,000	2 400 000
70	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Screen	$250,000	$33,000	580 000
71	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Vox	$380,000	Maintained by deploying	17 000

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
				internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	
72	Security Bureau	Safeguard HK	$610,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	240 000
73	Social Welfare Department	Senior Citizen Card Scheme	$147,000	$33,600	120 000
74	Tourism Commission	A Symphony of Lights	$537,000	$40,000	26 000
75	Tourism Commission	HK Food Truck	$130,000	$72,000	43 000
76	Transport Department	HKeMeter	Included in the cost of the whole project. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	Included in the cost of the whole project. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	77 000
77	Transport Department	HKeMobility	$600,000	$3,285,000 (The average cost for the past 2 years, including the costs for maintenance, system hosting services and enhancement of functions, etc.)	2 300 000
78	Water Supplies Department	WSD GA Product Directory	$175,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	11 000

No.	B/D	Name	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
79	Water Supplies Department	WSD Mobile App	$1,573,000	The maintenance of WSD Mobile App is included in the system maintenance contract of the Customer Care and Billing System (CCBS).	100 000
80	Water Supplies Department	WSD AMR System	$220,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	1 900 (The mobile application was launched in Nov 2020.)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0923)

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 (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding Government's enhancement of the public Wi-Fi service, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The amount of Government's provisions made for the public Wi-Fi service and the number of base stations set up in each of the past 3 years;
2. The numbers of users connecting to network systems via public Wi-Fi in each of the past 3 years;
3. What is the Government's target for enhancing the public Wi-Fi service in the future? Will the Government set a target for the number of users? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1.&.2. In the past 3 years, resources allocated by the Government for the Wi-Fi Connected City Programme, number of hotspots under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand installed[#] and service usage are as follows:

Year	Expenditure ($ million)	Accumulated Number of Hotspots under the "Wi-Fi.HK" Brand	Number of User Connections of the Free Wi-Fi Service Operated by the Government (in millions)*
2018-19	92.45 (Actual)	24 120	28
2019-20	106.95 (Actual)	37 030	31
2020-21	74.50 (Revised Estimate)	40 260 (as at end-February 2021)	25 (as at end-February 2021)

*   Excluding information on user connections of the public Wi-Fi service provided by other service providers under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand.

3.   To develop Hong Kong into a Wi-Fi connected city to provide convenient and free public Wi-Fi service to the public and visitors, we announced in 2016 that we aimed to progressively expand the free Wi-Fi coverage to 34 000 hotspots within 3 years, and the target was achieved in end-2019.   The number of hotspots under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand has currently reached 40 000.   We will continue to increase free Wi-Fi hotspots at suitable locations, and will also step up promotional efforts through social media and collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board with an aim to enhance the awareness of the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand among residents and visitors, enabling them to use free Wi-Fi service across the territory more conveniently.   Apart from providing free Wi-Fi service at government venues, we will also encourage the industry as well as public and private organisations to join the programme and provide free Wi-Fi service at more venues under the public-private collaboration arrangement.   With a funding allocation of about $205 million from the Lotteries Fund, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched a 4-year pilot scheme to progressively provide Wi-Fi service at around 1 350 service units operated by subvented organisations under SWD from January 2020.   SWD also completed the implementation of Wi-Fi service at around 180 welfare facilities which it operates in November 2020.   Moreover, we will work with the Heung Yee Kuk to implement the Smart Village Pilots by installing free Wi-Fi service at rural and village offices, facilitating citizens to access the Internet and various electronic services through Wi-Fi.

- End -

(Question Serial No. 0968)

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 (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

In respect of the implementation of the "iAM Smart" Platform under continuous monitoring, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide details on the latest number of downloads and utilisation of the "iAM Smart" Platform since its launch.

2. What is the cumulative expenditure on the "iAM Smart" Platform? What are the estimated expenditures on the platform in the coming three years?

3. Please provide a list of the government departments that can currently use the platform and the services available on it, as well as a list of the government services that will be made available on the platform in the coming three years.

4. Does the Government have any plan to further promote the use of the platform?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. As at mid-March 2021, the one-stop personalised digital services platform "iAM Smart" has recorded over 120 000 registered users, with some 600 000 instances of accessing and using online services, such as renewal of vehicle licence and checking of the COVID-19 electronic vaccination and testing record, etc. through "iAM Smart".

2. Since the development of the "iAM Smart" platform in 2019, the cumulative expenditure of the project is about $88.71 million. The estimated expenditures for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are about $63.78 million and $65.26 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2023-24 and onwards will be evaluated after 2 years subject to the actual operational needs of the "iAM Smart" platform

3. As at mid-March 2021, around 30 commonly used government online services have adopted "iAM Smart" platform (see **Annex 1**).   It is expected that by end-2023, more than 130 government online services will be accessible through "iAM Smart" platform (see **Annex 2**).

4. To promote the "iAM Smart" platform to the public, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) takes a number of measures to step up publicity , including publishing promotional videos and latest information on "iAM Smart" through the thematic website and different media platforms such as television, radio, MTR stations and bus stops.   Moreover, by leveraging on the launch of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, OGCIO deploys mobile registration teams in the Community Vaccination Centres to assist the public in registering "iAM Smart" on-the-spot so as to facilitate them to download the electronic vaccination record through the "iAM Smart" app.   Depending on the development of the epidemic, OGCIO will further deploy mobile registration teams at shopping malls and government premises, and set up self-registration kiosks at different locations such as MTR stations, shopping malls, sports centres to promote "iAM Smart" and facilitate registration for "iAM Smart" by members of the public.

    In addition to arranging government services to adopt the "iAM Smart" platform, OGCIO also actively promotes and supports public organisations (such as the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority and Hospital Authority) and private organisations to adopt "iAM Smart" in their online services.   OGCIO, in collaboration with Cyberport, launched the "iAM Smart" Sandbox Programme (Sandbox) in March 2020, enabling financial institutions as well as companies engaging in FinTech-related business at Cyberport and Hong Kong Science and Technology Park to conduct testing.   The Sandbox was progressively extended to the information and communications technology sector to facilitate different industries' development of more application solutions adopting "iAM Smart".   As at mid-March 2021, around 240 organisations have registered to participate in the Sandbox.   In particular, an insurance company has successfully adopted "iAM Smart" to verify identities of the customers purchasing its medical insurance.   According to the current testing progress, we anticipate that starting from the second quarter of 2021, more financial institutions will progressively launch their services that adopt "iAM Smart".   We believe that when organisations from different sectors progressively start testing and become familiar with the application of "iAM Smart" in their business, more and more public and private organisations will participate in the "iAM Smart" platform, and the public will more readily register and use "iAM Smart" to experience the convenience brought by the platform.

Government online services that have adopted "iAM Smart"
（**As at mid-March 2021**）

Government bureau / department and related organisation	Government online service
Food and Health Bureau	eHealth
Highways Department	Excavation Permit Management System (XPMS)
Hong Kong Observatory	Suggestion Form
Hongkong Post	EC-Ship
	HongKong Post Circular Service
	My Speedpost
	ShopThruPost
Housing Authority	e-Services for Public Rental Housing Tenants
	iHousing
Inland Revenue Department	eTAX
Labour Department	Registration for Employment Services by Job Seekers
	Registration for Job Seekers with disabilities
Marine Department	Electronic Business System
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Change of Address Service
	COVID-19 Electronic Vaccination and Testing Record System
	Enquire/Cancel COVID-19 Vaccination Booking
	MyGovHK
	Registration of Outbound Travel Information (MyGovHK)
Rating and Valuation Department	eRVD Bill (MyGovHK)
Transport Department	Email notification service for the issue of the Certificate of Particulars of Vehicle
	Online Application for Renewal of Full Driving Licence
	Online Application for Renewal of Vehicle Licence

Government bureau / department and related organisation	Government online service
Transport Department	Online Checking of Driving Licence Status (Authorised Person) (MyGovHK)
	Online Checking of Driving Licence Status (Licence Owner) (MyGovHK)
	Online Services for Personalized Vehicle Registration Marks
	Online Services for Traditional Vehicle Registration Marks
Student Finance Office, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency	SFO E-link - My Applications (Financial Assistance Schemes at Post-secondary and Tertiary Levels) (MyGovHK)
	SFO E-link - My Bills and My Loan Information (MyGovHK)
	SFO E-link - My Counter Appointments (MyGovHK)

Government online services anticipated to adopt "iAM Smart" in future
(Mid-March 2021 to the end of 2023)

(1) **Licence Application and Renewal** (7, for example, electronic submission of documents under the Licensing Regime for Trust or Company Service Providers Licensing Regime, application for Liquor / Club Liquor Licence and other licensing services (such as food business licence), etc.)

(2) **General Application and Registration** (13, for example, EMSD (Regulatory Services) Web-Based Registration Services, application for HKSAR Passport, Integrated Registration Information System Online Services of the Land Registry and voter registration and change of registration particulars, etc.)

(3) **Public Traffic and Transport** (8, for example, appointment booking for Transport Department Licensing Office Counter Services, online application for Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Macao Port Park-and-Ride Scheme, online application for a Certificate of Particulars of Motor Vehicle and online booking for driving tests, etc.)

(4) **Permits and Other Commercial Matters** (10, for example, Government Electronic Trading Services, Application for Exemption from Duty on Hydrocarbon Oil, Dutiable Commodities Ordinance, Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Declaration System (CDS), Road Cargo System (ROCARS), downloading tender documents and e-Procurement Programme, etc.)

(5) **Education** (9, for example, application for Quality Education Fund, Application for Registration of a School, Electronic Advance Application System for Post-secondary Programmes and electronic application for Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme, etc.)

(6) **Application for Vacancies and Employment Service** (7, for example, On-line Application System - Application Form for Employment as an Administrative Officer / Executive Officer II / Assistant Labour Officer II / Assistant Trade Officer II / Transport Officer II (CSB606), On-line Application System - Application Form for Employment with the Government (G.F. 340), booking of Youth Employment Start (YES) Services and Facilities and Youth Employment and Training Programme (YETP) trainee application, etc.)

(7) Medical and Health Services (17, for example, Centralised Organ Donation Register, Cervical Screening Information System, Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme, Student Health Service online services, Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly, Private Medical Practitioners Communicable Diseases Sentinel Surveillance, Vaccination Subsidy Scheme, Electronic Health Record Sharing System - online submission of application for healthcare recipient (patient) registration and Primary Care Directory - primary care provider platform, etc.)

(8) Application for Financial Assistance (2, Legal Aid Electronic Services Portal and electronic submission of application for Working Family Allowance)

(9) Public Housing (2, e-Services for Public Rental Housing Application and online application for Subsidised Sale Flats Schemes)

(10) Public Enquiry (5, for example, general enquiry / feedback form of bureaux/departments, etc.)

(11) Other Public Services (26, for example, cemeteries and crematoria service, Government Bookstore and Government Photo Store of the Information Services Department, Hong Kong Map Service 2.0, Leisure Link, Urban Ticketing System and Water Supplies Department Electronic Services, etc.)

- End -

(Question Serial No. 0969)

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 (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Subsequent to the vandalism of a number of smart lampposts caused by some rioters during the "anti-extradition amendment bill" incidents, the Government has suspended the pilot scheme concerned. In March 2020, however, members of the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Committee held an unanimous view that the Government should continue to take forward the smart lampposts pilot scheme as smart lampposts are key digital infrastructure for promoting smart city development and facilitating 5G mobile network implementation in Hong Kong. Will the Government inform this Committee of the time when the Pilot Scheme will be re-launched? Will the Government need to apply for funding again to take forward the pilot scheme? Will there be any changes made to the scale and contents of the pilot scheme? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

In light of the concerns over privacy expressed by some members of the public, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) established the Smart Lampposts Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc Committee) in August 2019 to review the privacy protection technologies and measures in respect of smart lamppost applications. The Ad Hoc Committee submitted a report to the Government in March 2020, which agreed that smart lampposts are important infrastructure for promoting smart city development and facilitating 5G mobile network development, and recommended that the Government should continue to take forward the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts Pilot Scheme (Pilot Scheme).

OGCIO briefed the Kwun Tong District Council on the implementation of the Pilot Scheme in Kwun Tong in mid-2020, and has, on the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations,

actively explored more privacy-friendly technology solutions and stepped up publicity and public engagement in order to enhance public confidence in the Pilot Scheme.   OGCIO is testing the use of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to replace cameras in detection of vehicle speeds and identification of different types of vehicles, and the road test has already started in the first quarter of 2021.   If the testing results are satisfactory and subject to the development of the epidemic situation, the pilot installation of the new solution is expected to take place on existing smart lampposts in mid-2021.   In addition, OGCIO also launched an online public exhibition in March 2021 to facilitate the public's understanding of the smart devices and their applications on the smart lampposts.

The estimated expenditure for the Pilot Scheme is $272 million, including the design and manufacture of smart lampposts, smart devices such as sensors, smart device management and data transmission systems, as well as installation of lampposts, smart devices, network equipment and telecommunications cabling, electrical and additional road works such as minor utility diversion works, etc.   We will continue to, in accordance with the Government's prevailing funding mechanism, seek funding from the Capital Works Reserve Fund (CWRF) block allocation Subhead 6100TX under Head 706 (Highways) and Subhead A007GX under Head 710 (Computerisation) to cover the costs having regard to the implementation timetable and resources required for the phased installation.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1054)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

In the light of the epidemic, the Government has expedited its work in taking forward the e-Government.   The Government has also spearheaded the promotion of electronic transactions in wet markets.   In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1.   What is the timetable for the Government to promote e-Government services in 2021-22?   What is the expenditure involved?
2.   What is the percentage of the usage rate of e-Government services in the overall government services in 2020-21?   Please list out the nature of services involved.
3.   What is the target usage rate of e-Government services in 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Government has been actively promoting e-Government services in order to make it more convenient for citizens to use government services through the Internet, including submission of applications and payment of government fees.

For submission of applications, through the "Be the Smart Regulator" Programme coordinated by the Efficiency Office, about 200 license applications can already be submitted electronically.   Unless there are legal or operational constraints, the Government's goal is that approximately 400 license applications in total can be submitted electronically by mid-2022 to save citizen's time to go to government offices in person for processing.   On the other hand, under the "Streamlining of Government Services" Programme, bureaux/departments (B/Ds) will continue to reform a number of government services, including the provision of more electronic services.   The target of the Government is that most of the applications for services can be submitted electronically in mid-2022 or earlier. With the launch of the "iAM Smart" one-stop personalised digital service platform at

end-December 2020, related B/Ds are arranging suitable e-Government services to adopt "iAM Smart" for further enhancement of service experience.

For payment of government fees, the electronic payment services currently provided by the Government include "Faster Payment System" (FPS), Payment by Phone Service (PPS), Internet banking, Internet credit card, Octopus, autopay, automatic teller machines (ATM), phone banking and e-Cheque.   The new "FPS" option allows citizens to pay with the use of mobile apps by scanning QR codes.   At present, the most common types of government bills including taxes, rates and rent, water bills, and payment counters and self-service kiosks of the Immigration Department, Transport Department, etc., have already accepted FPS payments.   Electronic payment options (including "FPS") will be made available for most of the government bills and license related payments by mid-2022.   A number of government departments have also started planning to allow the citizens to use "FPS" when using payment services on their web pages in order that the services frequently used by the citizens will be covered, including applications for licenses, certificates and registration services etc.

At present, the Government does not maintain the information relating to the usage rate of e-Government services among the overall government services.

Regarding the expenditure for electronic services, B/Ds generally provide their e-Government services with their existing manpower and resources.   Where necessary, B/Ds can apply for funding through the "Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710—Computerisation Project" to implement their e-Government services.   The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer does not maintain the information on individual B/Ds' expenditures related to the promotion of e-Government services.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

ITB102

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0413)

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 (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Government will launch the "Knowing More About IT" Programme, as an extension of the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme to primary schools.   A funding of up to $400,000 will be provided to each subsidised primary school in the coming 3 school years.   The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will set up a one-stop support centre to provide assistance for primary schools.   In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

• The specific funding arrangements (including whether the primary schools will be allowed to organise activities and recruit staff members by themselves, types of support to be provided by OGCIO, whether any assessment of school teachers' professional knowledge will be conducted prior to the implementation of the programme, and the procurement arrangement of the innovation and technology teaching materials that meet the learning needs of students);

• Has the Government formulated any performance indicators to review whether the funding meets the expected targets?   If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

Under the "Knowing More About IT" Programme, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will provide each publicly-funded primary school with a funding of up to $400,000 in 3 school years from 2021/22 to 2023/24 for organising IT-related extra-curricular activities and procuring IT equipment and professional services such as cloud services required for organising the activities.   Participation in the Programme is voluntary and schools may, after taking into consideration of their actual requirements and students' needs, participate in the Programme and draw up the contents of

the extra-curricular activities as well as the IT equipment and professional services required for the implementation of the activities. Schools can recruit short-term or part-time staff such as programming class instructors, part-time tutors, etc. with the funding according to their needs. The one-stop support centre set up by OGCIO will provide professional advice and support to schools, including issuing application guidelines, arranging briefing and experience sharing sessions, as well as providing reference lists on types of activities and IT equipment applicable to primary schools. Regarding the qualifications of teachers, the requirements for teachers' IT professional knowledge to organise IT-related activities in primary schools will not be too demanding. OGCIO will actively facilitate the industry to arrange relevant training, workshops, sharing sessions and technical support to assist teachers in organising different extra-curricular activities.

The performance indicators of the Programme include the number of participating schools, the nature and number of extra-curricular activities organised, and the number of students participating in the activities. As participation in the Programme is voluntary, we consider it inappropriate to set any fixed targets.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1355)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

What support services have been provided by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) to government departments to meet the need for working from home? How has OGCIO assisted the various departments in the procurement of information technology products and equipment for remote working and conducting video conferencing? Whether assessments have been made on the application of technology by the various departments and the effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

Government departments have been, having regard to their practical needs, making arrangements for their authorised officers to access their departmental intranets and servers by Virtual Private Network (VPN) for working remotely. Under the work-from-home arrangement due to the COVID-19 epidemic, between end-January 2020 and end-February 2021, all government departments have increased the number of officers authorised for using VPN by more than 14 000. Besides, government departments have, taking into account their operational needs, procured additional computers, other mobile devices/equipment as well as computer software, through the Standing Offer Agreements for the Supply of Personal Computer Equipment and Standing Offer Agreement for the Supply of Network Products and Server Systems coordinated by the Government Logistics Department or other prevailing procurement procedures. Video conferencing software and related facilities for conducting video conferencing are also included in such procurement exercises.

Furthermore, the Smart Government Innovation Lab which was established by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, has jointly organised an online technology forum themed "Technology Solutions for Remote Work" in October 2020 with Cyberport,

the Hong Kong Productivity Council and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, for sharing innovative solutions and a wide spectrum of products that facilitate remote work and digital transformation and enhancing government departments' understanding of the innovative technologies required for remote working and working from home.   The event attracted over 280 participants, involving 38 different government departments and a number of public and private organisations/enterprises.

- End -

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CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 2062)

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 (Victor LAM)
Director of Bureau:	Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

One of the duties of the Innovation and Technology Bureau is to monitor the progress of smart city initiatives.   Regarding the Smart Village Pilots (the Pilots) put forward in the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

a. What are the expenditure and staff establishment for the Pilots in 2021-22?
b. Has a timetable been drawn up for the Pilots?   If yes, what are the details?   If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

The Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 has put forth the idea of Smart Village Pilots to explore the use of technology in addressing the daily life issues faced by residents living in rural and more remote areas, such as detecting illegal dumping, flooding and wild animal nuisance to improve the rural living environment, using robotics technology and artificial intelligence to assist in early detection of hill fire in country parks to protect the nature more effectively, and provision of telehealth services for the elderlies living in remote areas, etc.

a.   In 2021-22, relevant bureaux, departments and organisations will endeavour to promote and implement the Smart Village Pilots with existing resources and manpower.

b.   The Government has liaised with the Heung Yee Kuk New Territories and other relevant organisations to conduct study for certain pilot projects based on the actual situation of different locations.   The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer will progressively install Wi-Fi hotspots at some 200 rural and village offices starting from April 2021 for providing free Wi-Fi services.

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- End -

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CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1844)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region launched the "LeaveHomeSafe" exposure notification mobile app for severe special infectious pneumonia, i.e. "LeaveHomeSafe" QR code on 16 November 2020.   "LeaveHomeSafe" is available for free download and facilitates its users to record their visits.   Will the Government inform this Committee of the number of applications for venue QR code and the QR code for catering and scheduled premises under Cap. 599F respectively?   What is the respective nature of these venues and premises?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Government launched the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app on 16 November 2020 to provide members of the public with a convenient digital tool for recording the time of their visits to different venues and taxi rides.   As at 7 April 2021, over 82 000 public and private venues have participated in the scheme to display "LeaveHomeSafe" venue QR code for members of the public to scan and record their visits, of which about 19 000 are public venues and over 63 000 are private venues.   A breakdown of venues is at **Annex**.   We do not maintain relevant breakdowns of the applications from individual catering businesses and scheduled premises under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F).

Number of Venues Participated in Displaying "LeaveHomeSafe" Venue QR Code as at 7 April 2021

Public Venue	Number of Venues
• Government and Public Organisations Buildings and Facilities	Around 8 000
• Community Facilities, e.g. Sports Facilities, Swimming Pools, Libraries, Museums, Community Halls, Community Centres and Playgrounds	Around 3 100
• Public Works and Construction Sites, Transportation and Related Facilities	Around 1 600
• Public Rental Estate Blocks and Related Facilities	Around 3 000
• Education Institution Venues	Around 1 400
• Hospitals and Clinics	Around 1 300
• Others (e.g. Public Rental Estates Shopping Malls, Markets and Cooked Food Centres)	Around 600
Total：	Around **19 000**

Private Venue	Number of Venues
• Food and Beverage Venues, e.g. Restaurants, Coffee Shops, Cake Shops, Bakeries and Catering related companies	Around 26 000
• Non-Government Organisations and Residential Buildings	Around 8 800
• Stores and Shopping Malls	Around 7 800
• Sports, Recreation and Leisure Facilities	Around 5 800
• Hair Salons, Massage Establishments and Beauty Parlours	Around 8 600
• Hotels and Guesthouses	Around 1 600
• Bank Branches and Financial Institutions Offices	Around 1 500
• Construction Sites	Around 800
• Hospitals and Clinics	Around 900
• Education Institution Venues	Around 500
• Transportation & Related Facilities	Around 800
• Others (e.g. Religious Places)	Around 900
Total：	Around **64 000**

- End -

Reply Serial No.

ITB106

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1845)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Various government departments have developed a variety of mobile applications (apps) in recent years. Please list out the name, nature, relevant development cost, maintenance cost and the number of downloads of their apps. How many apps have been decommissioned in recent 3 years because of the unsatisfactory number of downloads?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

(1) Information of the mobile applications (apps) launched by bureaux/departments (B/Ds) is at **Annex**.

(2) Under the requirements of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO), B/Ds have to conduct regular reviews after the launch of a mobile app, including whether the app has met users' needs and achieved the expected outcomes and cost-effectiveness. If the projects/initiatives relating to the mobile app have been completed, or there are other more effective ways to provide such service, or the needs of the target user groups have changed, departments concerned should consider decommissioning the app. For those mobile apps designed for use by the general public, B/Ds concerned have to decommission them if the number of downloads was under 10 000 one year after launch. In the past 3 years, a total of 15 mobile apps were decommissioned due to their number of downloads was under 10 000 more than one year after launch.

Information on the mobile apps launched by B/Ds
(As at 28 Feb 2021)

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
1	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Enjoy Hiking	The mobile app supports speedy mountain rescue operations.　By activating the "Hiker Tracking Service" and GPS of the mobile phone before your hiking trip, the system will record your tracking location which could be retrieved to shorten the rescue time if the need arises.　The mobile app also links to the "Enjoy Hiking" website, which adopts a responsive design for viewing on mobile phones. The website features different hiking trails, hiking routes and attractions across the country parks, enabling users to choose a suitable route based on personal interest, physical fitness and experience to enjoy the countryside in Hong Kong.	$38,000	$12,000	420 000
2	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Reef Check Hong Kong	Citizens may use this app to browse the coral coverage rate of the 33 survey sites in the eastern waters of Hong Kong as well as the distribution and photos of 48 indicator species including reef building corals, fish and invertebrates.	$95,000	$42,000	12 000
3	Buildings Department	Quick Guide for MBIS/MWIS	To provide the public with a convenient way to understand MBIS/MWIS via pictures, flowcharts, FAQ, etc.	$299,000	$86,000	18 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
4	Buildings Department	MWCS - Quick Guide for Minor Works	To provide the public with a handy way to access information about the procedures and requirements for carrying out minor works. To allow users to easily identify class/type/item of minor works, provide search function on the registers of registered building professional/registered contractors for minor works; and to provide information on Validation Schemes for Household Minor Works and Unauthorised Signboards, and Designated Exempted Building Works.	$290,000	$254,000	50 000
5	Civil Engineering and Development Department	HK Geology	To give a simplified account of the geology of Hong Kong as a reference tool in the field, which is useful for geotechnical practitioners as well as teachers, students and members of the public.	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	28 000
6	Civil Service Bureau	Government Vacancies	To facilitate the public to browse or search for information of government vacancies by mobile communication devices.	$980,000	As the maintenance service provided by the contractor has covered other systems, no separate cost breakdown on an individual system is available.	770 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
7	Companies Registry	CR eFiling	"CR eFiling" is a free mobile app developed by the Companies Registry to facilitate registered users of our e-Registry to submit application for incorporation, Annual Return and commonly filed specified forms to the Registrar of Companies for registration using smartphones and mobile devices anytime and anywhere. A tool named "e-Form Filler" is included in this app for opening, editing, saving, signing and submitting an e-form.	Included in the enhancement work of the core system of the Companies Registry.	Included in the maintenance cost of the core system of Companies the Registry. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	23 000
8	Correctional Services Department	Hong Kong Correctional Services Department Mobile App	To enhance communication with all sectors of the community. It enables the public to receive the latest and important information and services of the Department (including the locations and visiting hours of correctional facilities as well as travel routes), and learn more about the Department.	$308,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	26 000
9	Customs and Excise Department	HK Car First Registration Tax	To provide the public with information on the motor vehicle first registration tax.	$230,000	$48,000	24 000
10	Department of Health (Health Promotion Branch)	EatSmart Restaurant Star+	The "EatSmart Restaurant" mobile app contains information of all EatSmart restaurants in Hong Kong. Through its simple search engine and GPS navigation, users can find their favourite EatSmart restaurants instantly.	$76,000	$16,000	45 000
11	Department of	Snack Check	The "Snack Check" mobile app helps you choose	$282,000	$32,000	69 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
	Health (Health Promotion Branch)		healthier snacks. Simply enter the product information, "Snack Check" will classify the snacks based on its nutritional quality and provide advice on the amount of intake. It also includes the nutrition information of nearly 200 healthier snacks from the "Database of Prepackaged snack", assisting you in practising healthy eating.			
12	Department of Health (Infection Control Branch)	IMPACT (English version only)	IMPACT provides "Reducing bacterial resistance with IMPACT guidelines". This app has search function. Users can use this app to browse the antibiograms uploaded by the Clusters of Hospital Authority and to perform calculator functions using pre-set medical formulae. This app aims to enhance the awareness of medical staff on using antibiotics and is a very important reference.	$296,000	$48,000	46 000
13	Department of Health (Special Preventive Programme)	1069 Test Finder	Promote Human Immunodeficiency Virus Antibody Test and safer sex.	$150,000	$70,000	36 000
14	Department of Health (Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office)	Quit Smoking App	For Quitters This app provides a wealth of information on quitting smoking, and introduces quitting methods as well as offers users tips to cope with withdrawal symptoms through video clips featuring local celebrities. The app also offers appropriate quitting	$295,000	$127,000	63 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			advice, keeps track of their quitting progress and issues regular reminders according to their smoking habit. For Non-smokers Non-smokers can learn more about quitting smoking and recommend the app to their family and friends.			
15	Development Bureau	My Kowloon East (MyKE)	A comprehensive mobile app for Kowloon East. Using information and communications technology in conjunction with the information in Kowloon East to promote the Smart City initiative and the concept of "Walkable Kowloon East".	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	$72,000	13 000
16	Development Bureau (In collaboration with Construction Industry Council)	Construction Safety App	To provide a safety information platform for the construction industry.	$883,000 (Including the maintenance cost for the first 2 years)	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	620 000
17	Education Bureau (Applied Learning Section)	ApL	Purpose: Let students, parents, teachers and schools understand the curriculum of Applied Learning and help students choose suitable courses. Content: Information on courses of Applied Learning, Snapshots of students' sharing, Frequently Asked	$217,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	19 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			Questions and What's New, etc.			
18	Education Bureau (Curriculum Resources Section)	Educational Multimedia	It provides a convenient platform for students, teachers and parents to access over 1 200 Educational Multimedia (EMM) curriculum-based resources currently on the EDB EMM website anytime and anywhere.	$49,000	$110,000	150 000
19	Education Bureau (Kindergarten Administration Section)	Profile of Kindergartens or Kindergarten-cum-child care centres	To provide relevant information of kindergartens across the territory and enhance the transparency of the kindergartens to help parents make informed school choices for their children.	Included in the cost of the whole project of the Profile of Kindergartens. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available. (Total cost of project of Profile of Kindergartens: $651,000)	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	130 000
20	Education Bureau (Native-speaking English Teacher	Reading Town 1	The app provides short stories and phonics books with interactive features to develop P1 students' interest in reading and their literacy skills and to	$395,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No	190 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
	(NET) Section)		support the piloting of a primary literacy programme designed by the NET Section.		additional cost is involved.	
21	Education Bureau (NET Section)	Reading Town 2	The app provides short stories and phonics books with interactive features to develop P2 students' interest in reading and their literacy skills and to support the piloting of a primary literacy programme designed by the NET Section.	$920,000 (For both Reading Town 2 and Reading Town 3)	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	160 000
22	Education Bureau (NET Section)	Reading Town 3	The app provides short stories and phonics books with interactive features to develop P3 students' interest in reading and their literacy skills and to support the piloting of a primary literacy programme designed by the NET Section.	$920,000 (For both Reading Town 2 and Reading Town 3)	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	160 000
23	Education Bureau (Council and Secondary Section)	e-Navigator	This career exploration tool helps students search for course information across different local institutions and levels (e.g. degree and sub-degree programmes, Diploma Yi Jin and other programmes from the Qualifications Register) under the New Academic Structure to assist them in planning for their future studies according to their interests and abilities.	Developed with the related website. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	$144,000	210 000
24	Education Bureau (Personal, Social and Humanities Education Section)	History Trip Go Easy: Cheung Chau Jiao Festival	This mobile app contains an e-book with guideline on field trips and exemplars of learning and teaching activities. It also adopts augmented reality (AR) which creatively incorporates field trips into the	Developed as a part of the e-book and e-portal project. As it is	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is	43 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			learning and teaching activities of intangible cultural heritage (Cheung Chau Jiao Festival) and provides virtual reality (VR) activities to enhance students' motivation to learn.	not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	involved.	
25	Electrical & Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)	E&M Connect	The E&M Connect mobile app of EMSD provides members of the public with the latest updates and convenient electronic services with the aid of smartphones, including: 1. Energy Saver: Using the camera and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) functions to capture the reference number on the energy efficiency label to instantly show and compare the energy performance of different models of 7 household electrical products with mandatory energy efficiency labels (except compact fluorescent lamp) and provide electricity consumption estimates and other similar high-efficiency products to facilitate the public for selection of more energy efficient household electrical appliances., 2. E&M Finder: Using the current location of the mobile phone to show the nearby Registered Electrical Contractors and LPG Cylinder Distributors on Google Map, and give calls to the merchants to	$800,000	$74,500	12 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			search for services. 3. E&M Trade App: The subapp provides information on safety, updates on standards for the industry, training courses, etc. to Registered Electrical Workers, Lifts Workers and Escalators Workers. Users can sign up a mobile app account and bind the certificate of registration to the account after authentication of identity so as to enroll for relevant courses, record training hours and receive push notification reminders on registration expiry. 4. Scan Fast: Using the camera and OCR functions to scan the registration cards of the Registered Gas Installer (RGI) to show the related RGI information and registered classes.			
26	Electrical & Mechanical Services Department	E&M Trade	The E&M Trade mobile app of EMSD enables E&M trade practitioners to receive information on safety tips, code of practice or other relevant documents updates, training courses, etc. with their smartphones. Users can sign up a mobile app account and store the information of their certificate of registration so as to enroll for relevant courses directly on the app, record training hours and receive push notification reminders on registration expiry.	$492,000	$74,500	34 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
27	Efficiency Office	Tell me@1823 mobile app	A mobile app that enables citizens to submit enquiries, complaints, compliments or suggestions to 1823.	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	250 000
28	Environmental Protection Department (EPD)	Hong Kong Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)	To provide real-time AQHI recorded at the 15 general and 3 roadside air quality monitoring stations of EPD.	$80,000	$108,000	130 000
29	Environmental Protection Department	Hong Kong T ▪ PARK	The Hong Kong T ▪ PARK mobile app engages visitors to make the most of their visits with features including exploring T ▪ PARK's attractions, setting reminders, scanning QR codes to unlock extra content, taking pictures and learning more about the fun facts of the facility.	$713,000	$80,000	32 000
30	Environmental Protection Department	Waste Less	Content: To provide information of over 7 000 recyclable collection points all over Hong Kong and the latest news and knowledge about waste treatment, reduction and recycling. Purpose: To enable members of the public to obtain information on waste reduction and recycling more easily; and share the contents and messages of the "Waste Less" app with their friends.	$690,000	$256,000	71 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
31	Fire Services Department	Catch time, save life	"Catch time, save life" is a series of games which enables players to perform the duties of a Console Operator, learn about the functions of the Mobilizing and Communications Group and know the tips when making emergency calls.	$105,000	$96,000 (The maintenance cost includes 4 mobile apps of FSD. No separate cost breakdown is available.)	69 000
32	Fire Services Department	Hong Kong Fire Services Department Mobile Application	The mobile app provides various information including "What's new" and events; job vacancies; locations of fire stations and ambulance depots; Augmented Reality interactive centre; and games download.	$900,000		94 000
33	Fire Services Department	Live safe, be watchful	The objective of "Live safe, be watchful" is to build a safe building where players of the game have to eliminate the potential fire hazards in a building and assist an Ambulanceman in discharging his duties.	$250,000		73 000
34	Fire Services Department	Stay Calm & Collected	"Stay Calm & Collected" is a series of games which enables members of the public to learn more about fire safety and ambulance aid through the games.	$310,000		80 000
35	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Nutrition Calculator	Help the public make better food choices by using nutrition labels.	$150,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	140 000
36	Food and Environmental	Internet Memorial Service	A memorial website provided for the public, facilitating them to pay tribute and show condolence	$300,000	The maintenance of the mobile app	12 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
	Hygiene Department		to their lost loved ones at any time and anywhere.		is included in the whole system maintenance contract of Internet Memorial Service.	
37	Food and Health Bureau	醫健通eHealth	One-stop access of useful health information and health records.	The development of the app is bundled with other services and infrastructure. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	The maintenance of the app is bundled with other services and infrastructure. No separate cost breakdown is available.	55 000
38	Home Affairs Department	Hong Kong Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses	Users can search for the latest details of licensed hotels, guesthouses, holiday flats and holiday camps in Hong Kong. They can also report suspected unlicensed guesthouses through the "Report" function.	$178,000	$40,000	16 000
39	Hong Kong Observatory	MyObservatory	To provide weather information to mobile users.	Developed internally. No additional cost is	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No	8 400 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
				involved.	additional cost is involved.	
40	Hong Kong Observatory	MyWorldWeather	To provide official city weather forecast worldwide to mobile users.	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	310 000
41	Hong Kong Police Force	Hong Kong Police Mobile Application	To engage the community and strengthen the communication with different sectors of society, the Police launched the first "Hong Kong Police Mobile Application" on 18 July 2012. By using this mobile app on smartphones, users can access the latest police information anytime and anywhere.	$750,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	190 000
42	Hongkong Post	Hongkong Post	The app aims to provide information on the services provided by Hongkong Post (HKP). Its functions include: Checking and tracking of the latest delivery status of mail items; calculating postages and comparing different postal services; searching postal facilities and providing relevant information; providing the latest notices or press releases of HKP; finding the correct presentation of Hong Kong local addresses; arranging pickup services of mail items of SpeedPost and Local CourierPost; providing information electronically for customs clearance; uploading e-Cheque to settle HKP bills; changing	$328,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	450 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			mail collection office; applying for mail redelivery service; and settling surcharge for underpaid mail.			
43	Hongkong Post	ShopThruPost 2.0	The app aims to provide an online platform to place advance order for or make purchases of the latest philatelic products and postal stationeries supported by Hongkong Post local and cross-border delivery services.	Included in the implementation cost of the Redevelopment of On-line Shopping Platform Project. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	The maintenance cost of the mobile app is included in the total system maintenance cost of the whole On-line Shopping Platform. No cost breakdown is available.	30 000
44	Immigration Department (ImmD)	Hong Kong ImmD Mobile Application	To facilitate the public to make an appointment booking, apply for or enquire about various services of ImmD, such as application and appointment booking for Hong Kong smart identity card and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passport, online services for foreign domestic helpers, etc. Hong Kong residents and visitors can also obtain information on the estimated passenger waiting time at all land boundary control points and other ImmD information anytime and anywhere.	$130,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	670 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
45	Information Services Department	news.gov.hk	To facilitate the browsing of news.gov.hk with smartphones or mobile devices.	$270,000	$50,000	160 000
46	Intellectual Property Department	"No Fakes Pledge" Shop Search	To facilitate tourists and consumers in searching for shop information of all participating retail merchants of the "No Fakes Pledge" Scheme.	$580,000	$37,800	60 000
47	Labour Department	Interactive Employment Service iES	To facilitate job seekers to search for suitable vacancies in the job vacancy database of the Labour Department with mobile devices anytime and anywhere.	$125,000	$72,000	1 100 000
48	Labour Department	Work Safety Alert	To alert employers/proprietors/contractors to the occurrences of serious or fatal work injuries and remind them of relevant measures needed to be taken to prevent recurrence of similar accidents.	$75,000	$45,000	26 000
49	Labour Department	Youth Employment Start	To provide the latest employment support information of Youth Employment Start to young people.	$149,000 (Including the maintenance cost for the first year)	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	24 000
50	Lands Department	MyMapHK	"MyMapHK" is a pilot mobile map app which provides members of the public convenient and on-the-go access to up-to-date, detailed bilingual	Developed internally. No additional cost is	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No	450 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			maps and integrated geospatial information of over 120 types of public facilities in Hong Kong. "MyMapHK" also provides different themes, namely "Map", "Hiking", "Old Hong Kong", "Election", "SOS", and "Offline Map" with specific functions to account for different users' needs.	involved.	additional cost is involved.	
51	Lands Department	VoiceMapHK	"VoiceMapHK" is a digital inclusion mobile map app. Making use of the "voice-over feature" of smartphones, "VoiceMapHK" facilitates users, especially the visually impaired, to locate their current positions and retrieve geographic information about surrounding areas. The location information provided by the App will be supplemented by orientation and distance information, which further helps the visually impaired users understand the surrounding environment. "VoiceMapHK" provides the following functions: - "My Location" function which allows users to locate their current position. - "Nearby Facilities" function which searches for the nearby buildings, facilities, MTR accesses, bus stops, etc. - "Voice Over" feature which facilitates the visually impaired users to retrieve location information	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	8 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			- Available in Chinese and English versions and operates on iOS 8.1 or higher operating systems.			
52	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Multimedia Information	The Multimedia Information app allows members of the public to access digitized resources in the Multimedia Information System (MMIS) portal (https://mmis.hkpl.gov.hk) of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) via their mobile devices, letting them view or play digital content of eBooks, images, audio and video materials delivered from MMIS anytime and anywhere.	Included in the MMIS Major Upgrade Project. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	Included in the maintenance cost of the MMIS Project. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	57 000
53	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	My Library	"My Library" provides a safe and convenient channel to access the services of the Hong Kong Public Libraries. Through the app, members of the public can: > log in their library accounts > search, reserve and renew library materials > save and retrieve library materials in My List > check the addresses and opening hours of public libraries The app also uses push notification technology to provide personalized alert services, including pick-up notice and due date reminder.	The total cost of the project is around $3,320,000. No separate cost breakdown is available for the mobile app.	$211,000	580 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
54	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	My URBTIX	My URBTIX app allows patrons to browse events on sale through URBTIX, pick their seats and pay online for ticket purchases conveniently. Registered members can also enjoy personalised services such as email reminders on scheduled dates to attend purchased events and email promotional information on their favourite event categories.	Included in the service contract of My URBTIX. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	Included in the service contract of My URBTIX. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	1 100 000
55	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Star Hoppers	Equipped with Chinese and Western star charts which simulate the star field with bilingual audio recordings of information on celestial objects and asterisms. The latest information on astronomical events and activities of the Space Museum is also provided.	$700,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	280 000
56	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	iM Guide	"iM Guide" is a museum mobile multimedia guide platform. Visitors can have a deeper understanding on exhibits through text, audio, video and multimedia contents. It makes use of indoor positioning technique and outdoor GPS to provide location-based information and navigation services for exhibits and facilities.	"iM Guide" is a part of the Museum Multimedia Guide System (MMGS) project. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	Included in the routine maintenance cost of MMGS. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	20 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
57	Marine Department	eSeaGo	The "eSeaGo" offers simple and convenient solution for displaying the chart information for the Hong Kong waters free of charge. Through the "eSeaGo", users can download the chart information provided by the Hydrographic Office of the Marine Department and display it in offline mode. With mobile device's positioning function, "eSeaGo" will assist sailing in Hong Kong waters. Meanwhile, the information provided on "eSeaGo" can also be read in an offline mode. The "eSeaGo" provides content and information in raster images which should not be used as a substitute for paper nautical charts or electronic navigational charts. The "eSeaGo" is not designed to be used for navigational purposes or as a substitute for any navigational equipment that is required under applicable regulations or laws.	$600,000	$165,000	73 000
58	Office of the Communications Authority	OFCA Broadband Performance Test	A platform that enables consumers to measure the performance of their broadband connections. For details, please refer to the OFCA's website https://speedtest.ofca.gov.hk/index.html.	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	89 000 000 (Number of test)
59	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	EventHK	A one-stop inter-departmental platform that provides users with a convenient way to look for public events organised by government departments or in government premises.	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	100 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
60	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Apps	A one-stop inter-departmental platform for members of the public to search for and download an array of government mobile apps.	$600,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	300 000
61	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Notifications	An inter-departmental mobile app that provides a convenient way for members of the public to receive government information and alerts via smart phones.	Developed internally. No additional cost is involved.	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	870 000
62	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Wi-Fi.HK	To facilitate the public and visitors in searching for the locations of hotspots providing Wi-Fi service that is either completely free or free for a limited period of time under the Common Hong Kong Wi-Fi Brand "Wi-Fi.HK".	$340,000	$198,000	330 000
63	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	LeaveHomeSafe	To provide members of the public with a convenient digital tool for recording the time of their visits to different venues and taxi rides. The mobile app will notify a user if he or she is later identified to have visited the same venue that a confirmed patient has visited at about the same time or taken the same taxi that a confirmed patient (either the driver or the passenger) has taken on the same day. In the unfortunate event of infection, the user's visit records stored in the app can assist the Centre for	$3,000,000 (Including the mobile app and backend system)	$900,000	Over 3 million

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			Health Protection in epidemiological investigations.			
64	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	智方便 iAM Smart	"iAM Smart" mobile app facilitates members of the public to login and use online services with a single digital identity using their personal mobile phone through the one-stop personalised digital services platform of "iAM Smart".	The app is developed together with the "iAM Smart" platform. As it is not a stand-alone project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	The maintenance of the app is bundled with the "iAM Smart" platform. No separate cost breakdown is available.	About 88 000 registered users
65	Radio Television Hong Kong	Chinese History – the Flourishing Age	Flourishing ages including the Han and Tang Dynasty are selected in the long Chinese history. Heroes and stories in these two dynasties are featured in audio drama, cartoon and text for easy understanding of the Chinese history. World events at the same period will also be shown.	$450,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	160 000
66	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Memory	Users can use their mobile devices to view a collection of RTHK's classic programmes and photos over the years, which documented the historic changes and cityscapes of Hong Kong in different times.	$280,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	50 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
67	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Mine	It provides live webcasts of RTHK radio channels, radio archive, highlighted video clips, programme archive, traffic news and weather forecast. Users can also customize their favourite playlist by making use of personalised settings such as "Favourites" and "Play Later", and share with friends popular programmes and video clips via social media.	$409,000	$150,000	450 000
68	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK News	It provides instant news, news programmes, weather forecast and traffic news in both Chinese and English, which contain texts, photos and audio-visual contents. Users can listen to live programmes of RTHK Radio 1 or Radio 3. The "Push Alert" function instantly brings the latest world and local news to users.	$336,000	$85,000	490 000
69	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK On The Go	Its functions include listening to live RTHK radio programmes, access to instant news, photo news and video news as well as weather forecast. Users can listen to/watch the 10 newest episodes of some 100 RTHK podcasts available at Podcast Station.	$200,000	$70,000	2 400 000
70	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Screen	It provides live webcast of RTHK TV 31 and 32, video-on-demand and download to enable users to access video programmes anytime and anywhere. Users can also customize their favourite playlist by making use of the programme subscription function.	$250,000	$33,000	580 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
71	Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Vox	Users can use the app to shoot and upload their own videos to participate in specific RTHK programmes or campaigns.	$380,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	17 000
72	Security Bureau	Safeguard HK	Safeguard HK is a one-stop platform providing useful information on safeguarding life and property in daily lives and while travelling.	$610,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	240 000
73	Social Welfare Department	Senior Citizen Card Scheme	It facilitates both the elderly and their family members in searching for and selecting the concessions and services under the "Senior Citizen Card Scheme" of the Social Welfare Department.	$147,000	$33,600	120 000
74	Tourism Commission	A Symphony of Lights	It lets visitors and the public to tune into the music of "A Symphony of Lights" and obtain information on this spectacular show.	$537,000	$40,000	26 000
75	Tourism Commission	HK Food Truck	It helps users check out food trucks' locations, menus, schedules and the information of tourist attractions, etc.	$130,000	$72,000	43 000
76	Transport Department	HKeMeter	It provides real-time occupancy information of metered parking spaces so as to facilitate motorists in finding vacant on-street parking spaces. Motorists could also pay the parking fee remotely with	Included in the cost of the whole project. As it is not a stand-alone	Included in the cost of the whole project. As it is not a stand-alone	77 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
			multiple payment means through the app. The key features of "HKeMeter" includes: 1. Real-time metered parking spaces information 2. Remote payment for parking time with multiple electronic payment means 3. Notification to users before expiry of parking time	project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	project, no separate cost breakdown is available.	
77	Transport Department	HKeMobility	"HKeMobility" is an all-in-one traffic and transport mobile application with an enhanced user interface which facilitates fast and convenient search for routes of different transportation mode, journey times and fares, and disseminates real-time traffic and transport news to enable the users to plan for the most appropriate travel arrangements.　The key features of it includes: (a) one-stop route search for public transport, driving and walking; (b) real-time traffic and transport information; (c) promoting walking by offering barrier-free walking route search information covering all districts of Hong Kong ; and (d) HKeMobility also provides an elderly mode to facilitate senior citizens in obtaining public transport information.	$600,000	$3,285,000 (The average cost for the past 2 years, including the costs for maintenance, system hosting services and enhancement of functions, etc.)	2 300 000

No.	B/D	Name	Nature	(Approximate) Relevant Development Cost	(Approximate) Annual Maintenance Cost	Total Number of Downloads as at 28 February 2021
78	Water Supplies Department	WSD GA Product Directory	Users can make use of the "WSD GA Product Directory" to search for plumbing products with WSD's General Acceptance by entering category, brand or model number.	$175,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	11 000
79	Water Supplies Department	WSD Mobile App	Members of the public can browse water bill summary, bill reminder, water suspension notices and important notifications of the WSD through their smart phones.	$1,573,000	The maintenance of WSD Mobile App is included in the system maintenance contract of Customer Care and Billing System (CCBS).	100 000
80	Water Supplies Department	WSD AMR System	"WSD AMR System" provides customers with timely water consumption information, benchmarking of water usage, alerting of suspected water leakage and water saving tips. Users are required to log on using their registered user IDs and passwords for the Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) Services of the Water Supplies Department to access the functions.	$220,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	1 900 (The mobile application was launched in Nov 2020)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0938)

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 (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

On developing Hong Kong into a Wi-Fi Connected City and facilitating the application of open data:

1. What is the latest progress?
2. What are the progress targets expected to be achieved in this year?
3. Does the Government have any plans to expedite the development progress? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

To develop Hong Kong into a Wi-Fi connected city to provide convenient and free public Wi-Fi service to the public and visitors, we announced in 2016 that we aimed to progressively expand the free Wi-Fi coverage to 34 000 hotspots within 3 years, and the target was achieved in end-2019. Currently, the number of hotspots under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand has reached 40 000, with an average connection speed reaching 20 Mbps or above.

The hotspots under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand are distributed at major facilities in various districts, including tourist attractions, shopping malls and stores, restaurants, public libraries, study rooms, youth services centres, community halls, public markets and cooked food centres, sports, cultural and recreational venues, district parks and promenades, sitting-out areas in public rental housing estates and public hospitals. In addition, over 3 000 mobile Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in vehicles such as buses, taxis and the Airport Express, etc. We will continue to increase free Wi-Fi hotspots at suitable locations and step up promotional efforts through social media and collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board with an aim to enhance the awareness of the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand among citizens and visitors, enabling them to use free Wi-Fi service across the territory more conveniently.

Apart from providing free Wi-Fi service at government venues, we will also encourage the industry as well as public and private organisations to join the programme and provide free Wi-Fi service at more venues under the public-private collaboration arrangement. In addition, with a funding allocation of about $205 million from the Lotteries Fund, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched a 4-year pilot scheme to progressively provide Wi-Fi service at around 1 350 service units operated by subvented organisations under SWD from January 2020. SWD already completed the implementation of Wi-Fi service at around 180 welfare facilities which it operates in November 2020. Moreover, we will work with the Heung Yee Kuk to implement the Smart Village Pilots by installing free Wi-Fi facilities at rural and village offices, facilitating citizens to access the Internet and various electronic services through Wi-Fi.

We also released the datasets of the common "Wi-Fi.HK" brand, which include names of organisations that have joined the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand and information of their Wi-Fi hotspot locations, in machine readable formats as open data via the "data.gov.hk" portal. Industry practitioners and the general public can download these datasets and develop more innovative applications, facilitating the public and visitors to use free public Wi-Fi service across the territory.

- End -

(Question Serial No. 0939)

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 (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the planning work for the smart city infrastructure projects,

1.   What is the latest progress in planning?   Please set out the progress in respect of the "iAM Smart" platform, the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts pilot scheme and the Next Generation GovCloud/Big Data Analytics Platform respectively.

2.   What targets for planning progress are expected to be achieved this year?

3.   Does the Government have any plan to expedite the planning progress?   If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

"iAM Smart" platform

The one-stop personalised digital services platform "iAM Smart" was launched in end-December 2020 and has recorded over 120 000 registered users as at mid-March 2021. At present, around 30 commonly used government online services and 4 public utilities and private organisations have adopted "iAM Smart", including the 2 power companies, the gas company and an insurance company.

To promote the "iAM Smart" platform, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) takes a number of measures to step up publicity, including publishing promotional videos and latest information on "iAM Smart" through the thematic website and different media platforms such as television, radio, MTR stations and bus stops. Moreover, by leveraging on the launch of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, OGCIO

deploys mobile registration teams in the Community Vaccination Centres to assist the public in registering "iAM Smart" on-the-spot so as to facilitate them to download the electronic vaccination record through the "iAM Smart" app. Depending on the development of the epidemic, OGCIO will further deploy mobile registration teams at shopping malls and government premises, and set up self-registration kiosks at different locations such as MTR stations, shopping malls, sports centres to promote "iAM Smart" and facilitate registration for "iAM Smart" by members of the public.

In addition to arranging government services to adopt the "iAM Smart" platform, OGCIO also actively promotes and supports public organisations (such as the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority and Hospital Authority) and private organisations to adopt "iAM Smart" in their online services. OGCIO, in collaboration with Cyberport, launched the "iAM Smart" Sandbox Programme (Sandbox) in March 2020, enabling financial institutions as well as companies engaging in FinTech-related business at Cyberport and Hong Kong Science and Technology Park to conduct testing. The Sandbox was progressively extended to the information and communications technology sector to facilitate different industries' development of more application solutions adopting "iAM Smart". As at mid-March 2021, around 240 organisations have registered to participate in the Sandbox. In particular, an insurance company has successfully adopted "iAM Smart" to verify identities of the customers purchasing its medical insurance. According to the current testing progress, we anticipate that starting from the second quarter of 2021, more financial institutions will progressively launch their services that adopt "iAM Smart". We believe that when organisations from different sectors progressively start testing and become familiar with the application of "iAM Smart" in their business, more and more public and private organisations will participate in the "iAM Smart" platform, and the public will more readily register and use "iAM Smart" to experience the convenience brought by the platform.

"Multi-functional Smart Lampposts" Pilot Scheme

In light of the concerns over privacy expressed by some members of the public, OGCIO established the Smart Lampposts Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc Committee) in August 2019 to review the privacy protection technologies and measures in respect of smart lamppost applications. The Ad Hoc Committee submitted a report to the Government in March 2020, which agreed that smart lampposts are important infrastructure for promoting smart city development and facilitating 5G mobile network development, and recommended that the Government should continue to take forward the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts Pilot Scheme (Pilot Scheme).

OGCIO briefed the Kwun Tong District Council on the implementation of the Pilot Scheme in Kwun Tong in mid-2020, and has, on the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations, actively explored more privacy-friendly technology solutions and stepped up publicity and public engagement in order to enhance public confidence in the Pilot Scheme. OGCIO is testing the use of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to replace cameras in detection of vehicle speeds and identification of different types of vehicles, and the road test has already started in the first quarter of 2021. If the testing results are satisfactory and subject to the development of the epidemic situation, the pilot installation of the new solution is expected to take place on existing smart lampposts in mid-2021. In addition, OGCIO also launched

an online public exhibition in March 2021 to facilitate the public's understanding of the smart devices and their applications on the smart lampposts.

"Next Generation Government Cloud" and "Big Data Analytics Platform"

The "Next Generation Government Cloud" and "Big Data Analytics Platform" came into operation in September 2020 to facilitate departments in implementing new e-Government services and application systems.   Current e-Government services and application systems running on existing cloud platforms are also being progressively migrated to the new platform.

In 2021-22, we would continue the migration of e-Government services and application systems from existing cloud platforms to the new platform, and launch the new application architecture to further facilitate departments in developing and providing e-Government services in a more agile manner in support of the development of "Smart Government".

OGCIO will not only continue to encourage B/Ds to implement big data analytics, but will also assist them in developing new big data analytics projects as well as provide data analytics advisory and support service to them.   In addition, OGCIO will continue to follow up on projects which are currently using the platform, including the Transport Department's "Traffic Data Analytics System" that enhances traffic management and efficiency ; assisting the Architectural Services Department, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in performing data analytics to optimise the management and maintenance of public toilets; and assisting the Hongkong Post in analysing historical data of airmail to optimise postal management and improve efficiency etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3265)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Since the implementation of the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) and the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E),

1.   What are the types of electronic wristbands developed and procured for compulsory quarantine and the quantity procured?

2.   What are the expenditures for the development and operation of the "StayHomeSafe" mobile application, and the numbers of downloads of the "StayHomeSafe" mobile application on different platforms?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 88)

Reply:

1.   To prevent spreading of the COVID-19 in the community through inbound travellers from outside Hong Kong and to tie in with the mandatory home quarantine measures implemented by the Government since early February 2020, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) rolled out the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app and electronic wristbands to monitor whether persons under quarantine are staying in designated dwelling places.   The electronic wristbands include reusable and disposable electronic wristbands.   As at February 2021, 13 000 pieces of reusable electronic wristbands and 762 000 pieces of disposable electronic wristbands have been procured by OGCIO.

2.   In 2020-21, expenditure for the development of the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app and related systems was about $1 million.   Operating expenses were about $4 million including costs for data analytics and the operation and maintenance of the app and

related systems. As at end-February 2021, the number of downloads of the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app was about 141 000 on the Android platform and about 224 000 on the iOS platform.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0322)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Government is committed to promoting innovation and technology, and in recent years, many government departments and public organisations have developed mobile applications.   In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1.   Please state in tabular form the names, contents, development costs, maintenance expenditures, publicity expenditures and number of accumulated downloads of the mobile applications developed by government departments in the past year;

2.   The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has revised in end-2018 the Practice Guide for Developing Mobile Apps, requesting government departments to decommission those applications that have been launched for many years but not yet reached 10 000 accumulated downloads.   How many government department applications have been decommissioned or consolidated in the past year?   Has the Government calculated the amount of money that can be saved; and

3.   Would the Government consider stepping up consolidation of government department applications with a view to realising "one app pass" for reducing costs such as those related to daily maintenance?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

1.   Government departments have developed and launched a total of 5 new mobile applications (apps) in 2020-21.   The relevant information is at **Annex**.

2.   Under the requirements of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO), bureaux/departments (B/Ds) have to conduct regular reviews after the launch of a mobile app, including whether the app has met users' needs and achieved

the expected outcomes and cost-effectiveness.   If the projects/initiatives relating to the mobile app have been completed, or there are other more effective ways to provide such service, or the needs of the target user groups have changed, B/Ds should consider decommissioning the app.   For those mobile apps designed for use by the general public, B/Ds have to decommission them if the number of downloads was under 10 000 one year after launch.   A total of 5 mobile apps were decommissioned in 2020-21 and the savings in the annual maintenance cost are about $33,000.

3.   B/Ds will take into account their operational needs, mode of service and various factors, including the objectives and usage of the apps, the needs of target user groups, resources required for developing and maintaining the mobile apps, and whether the functions incorporated would render the apps complicated and difficult to use, etc., to determine whether to launch new mobile apps or consolidate the existing mobile apps. To facilitate the public to download government mobile apps, the "GovHK Apps" mobile app launched by OGCIO contains a list of government mobile apps.   Besides, the "iAM Smart" mobile app launched in December 2020 also facilitates citizens to access online government and commercial services with a single digital identity.

OGCIO will regularly circulate the relevant guidelines and remind B/Ds to launch and update mobile apps or integrate existing mobile apps in a cost-effective manner by referring to the "Practice Guide for Developing Mobile Apps"

Information of the mobile apps launched by B/Ds in 2020-21 (as at 28 Feb 2021)

No.	B/D	Name	Descriptions	Development Cost	Maintenance Cost	Promotion Expenditure	Total Number of Downloads
1	OGCIO	LeaveHome Safe	Provides citizens with a convenient digital tool for recording the time of their visits to different venues and taxi rides. The mobile app will notify a user if the user has visited the same venue that a confirmed patient has visited at about the same time or taken the same taxi that a confirmed patient has taken on the same day. The visit records of the user who is a confirmed patient can also assist the Centre for Health Protection in conducting epidemiological investigations and tracing other close contacts.	$3,000,000 (Include the mobile app and back-end system)	$900,000	$1,200,000	Over 3 million
2	Water Supplies Department	WSD AMR System	Provides customers of smart water meters (users registered for the Automatic Meter Reading Services) with timely water consumption information, benchmarking of water usage, alerting of suspected water leakage and water saving tips.	$220,000	Maintained by deploying internal resources. No additional cost is involved.	Not applicable	1 900
3	OGCIO	智方便 iAM Smart	Enables citizens to log in and use various online services with a single digital identity on the "iAM Smart" one-stop personalised digital services platform with their personal mobile phone.	The app is developed together with the "iAM Smart" platform and is not a stand-alone project. No separate cost breakdown is available.	The maintenance of the app is bundled with the "iAM Smart" platform. No separate cost breakdown is available.	The promotion expenditure of the app was included in the overall promotion cost of the "iAM Smart" platform and is not a stand-alone project. No separate cost breakdown is available.	About 88 000
4	Food and Health Bureau	醫健通 eHealth	One-stop access of useful health information and health records.	The development of the app is bundled with other services and infrastructure and is not a stand-alone project. No separate cost breakdown is available.	The maintenance of the app is bundled with other services and infrastructure. No separate cost breakdown is available.	The promotion expenditure of the app is bundled with other publicity and promotional activities of the whole electronic health record programme.	55 000

No.	B/D	Name	Descriptions	Development Cost	Maintenance Cost	Promotion Expenditure	Total Number of Downloads
						No separate cost breakdown is available.	
5	Transport Department	HKeMeter	Provides real-time occupancy information of metered parking spaces to facilitate motorists in finding vacant parking spaces. Motorists could also pay the parking fee remotely by multiple electronic payment means through this mobile app, and they will be notified before expiry of parking time.	Included in the cost of the whole project and is not a stand-alone project. No separate cost breakdown is available.	Included in the cost of the whole project and is not a stand-alone project. No separate cost breakdown is available.	Included in the cost of the whole project and is not a stand-alone project. No separate cost breakdown is available.	77 000

- End -

<div align="center">CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY</div>

(Question Serial No. 0591)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Under Programme (1) Use of IT in Government, matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 include supporting the healthcode system for cross boundary travel with Guangdong Province and Macao. Besides, according to the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision for Programme (1), the provision for 2021-22 is $172.8 million (26.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21.   This is mainly due to the increased provision for the implementation of anti-epidemic related initiatives and departmental expenses, partly offset by the decreased requirement for capital expenditure and personal emoluments.   In addition, there will be a deletion of nine posts in 2021-22.   In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1.   What are the details of the increased expenditure of $172.8 million and the offset of the decreased requirement for capital expenditure and personal emoluments, including the offset amount, in 2021-22, as well as the reasons for the decreased requirement for capital expenditure and personal emoluments?

2.   Among the increased expenditure of $172.8 million in 2021-22, what is the estimated expenditure for tackling the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) epidemic and what are the detailed breakdown of the expenditure?

3.   What are the details of the estimated expenditures for supporting the healthcode system for cross boundary travel with Guangdong Province and Macao and making preparation for the "Hong Kong Health Code" system respectively in 2021-22, including the amount of the estimated expenditures, the manpower involved and the estimated timetable for the rollout of the "Hong Kong Health Code"?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

1. The estimated total expenditure for 2021-22 under the Programme "Use of Information Technology in Government" is $820.2 million, which is $172.8 million higher than the revised estimate for the previous year. This is mainly due to an increase of about $167.6 million in expenditure for the combat against the COVID-19 epidemic and about $8.5 million mainly in departmental expenses. This increase is partly offset by the reduced requirement for scheduled replacement of minor plant and equipment of about $2.7 million and the decreased provision for personal emoluments of about $600,000. The decrease of posts is due to the lapse of 9 time-limited posts in 2021-22.

2. Out of the increased expenditure of $172.8 million in 2021-22, the estimated expenditure for tackling the COVID-19 epidemic is about $167.6 million. The details of the expenditure breakdown are as follows:

	Item	2021-22 Estimate ($ million)
1	Support the mandatory quarantine arrangement (including electronic wristbands and related equipment, IT system support and staff cost for the hotline, technical support and information processing centre, etc.)	127
2	Support the "Health Code" data conversion, booking systems for cross boundary travel to and from Guangdong Province and Macao and the "Return2hk" Scheme	27.5
3	"LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app	1.5
4	Electronic consumption voucher registration system	11.6
	Total	**167.6**

3. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has assisted the Department of Health in developing the "Health Code" data conversion system with Guangdong Province and Macao. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure on the development and operation of the "Health Code" data conversion system is about $9.1 million, including about $520,000 for recruiting related contract staff. Other manpower required for system administration will be absorbed by OGCIO through internal deployment and no additional resources are involved.

The detailed timetable for the implementation of the "Hong Kong Health Code" System will be determined upon further deliberations by Hong Kong, Guangdong Province and Macao having regard to the development of the epidemic situation. The "Return2HK" Scheme which makes use of the "Health Code" data conversion system to facilitate Hong Kong residents currently in Guangdong Province or Macao to return to Hong Kong was launched in November 2020.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0592)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the "LeaveHomeSafe" COVID-19 exposure notification mobile app launched by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, please inform this Committee of the following:

(1) The latest number of downloads of the app, the types of premises covered and the number of related types of premises;

(2) The details of further optimisation and enhancement of the app's functions in the prevention and combat against the epidemic, including the details in respect of the related functions to be optimised or the new functions to be added, the performance target and the implementation timetable;

(3) What are the actual and estimated expenditures required for the development and optimisation of the "LeaveHomeSafe" app's functions respectively?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

(1) As at 7 April 2021, the number of downloads of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app exceeds 3.73 million.   Over 82 000 public and private venues have participated in the scheme to display the "LeaveHomeSafe" venue QR code for members of the public to scan and record their visits, of which about 19 000 are public venues and over 63 000 are private venues.   A breakdown of the venues is at **Annex**.

(2) To provide a better user experience, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is working in collaboration with several universities on developing new functions, including working with a team from the University of Hong Kong on

studying the provision of an automatic visit recording function on the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app through the use of Bluetooth technology, involving a funding support of about $630,000 from the Public Sector Trial Scheme under the Innovation and Technology Commission; collaborating with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) on adopting the batteryless Bluetooth low energy beacon namely LuxBeacon developed by a research and development team of HKUST for installation on public transport vehicles such as minibuses, involving an expenditure of about $220,000; and working with the Baptist University on developing an auto taxi check-out function using artificial intelligence with no additional expenditure involved. The functions are currently undergoing field testing. We are also working with the Centre of Health Protection on enhancing the notification function of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app. Apart from issuing notifications to users who have visited the same venues that a COVID-19 confirmed case has also visited at about the same time, compulsory testing notifications and exposure notifications will also be, where necessary, issued to users who have visited high-risk venues and users who have visited places in the vicinity of high-risk venues respectively, in order to further support the anti-epidemic work.

(3) In 2020-21, the total expenditure on the development and enhancement of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app and its back-end system is about $3 million, including about $1.1 million for the mobile app and about $1.9 million for the back-end system. The estimated expenditure on the maintenance and operation of the app for 2021-22 is about $900,000.

Number of Venues Participating in the Scheme to Display the "LeaveHomeSafe" Venue QR Code as at 7 April 2021

Public Venues	**Number of Venues**
• Government and Public Organisation Buildings and Facilities	About 8 000
• Community Facilities, e.g. Sports Centres, Swimming Pools, Libraries, Museums, Community Halls, Community Centres and Playgrounds	About 3 100
• Public Works and Construction Sites, Transportation and Related Facilities	About 1 600
• Public Rental Estate Blocks and Related Facilities	About 3 000
• Education Institution Venues	About 1 400
• Hospitals and Clinics	About 1 300
• Others (e.g. Public Rental Estates Shopping Malls, Markets and Cooked Food Centres)	About 600
Total：	About **19 000**

Private Venues	**Number of Venues**
• Food and Beverage Venues, e.g. Restaurants, Cafes, Cake Shops, Bakeries and Food and Beverage Related Companies	About 26 000
• Non-Government Organisations and Residential Buildings	About 8 800
• Stores and Shopping Malls	About 7 800
• Sports, Recreation and Leisure Facilities	About 5 800
• Hair Salons, Massage Establishments and Beauty Parlours	About 8 600
• Hotels and Guesthouses	About 1 600
• Bank Branches and Financial Institution Offices	About 1 500
• Construction Sites	About 800
• Hospitals and Clinics	About 900
• Education Institution Venues	About 500
• Transportation and Related Facilities	About 800
• Others (e.g. Religious Premises)	About 900
Total：	About **64 000**

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0039)

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 (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Government launched the "iAM Smart" at end-2020 for providing the public with a one-stop personalised digital government services platform.   In this connection, please advise on the following:

1.   How many users have registered for this platform since its launch?   Is the progress in line with expectations?

2.   Will the Government take any measures to enhance publicity and make efforts to attract the public and private organisations to adopt the "iAM Smart"?   If yes, what are the details?   If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1.   The one-stop personalised digital services platform "iAM Smart" was launched in end-December 2020 and has recorded over 120 000 registered users as at mid-March 2021.   At present, around 30 commonly used government online services and 4 public utilities and private organisations have adopted "iAM Smart", including the 2 power companies, the gas company and an insurance company.   It is expected that by mid-2021, more than 110 online services of the Government, public and private organisations will be accessible through "iAM Smart".   We believe that with more and more online services of the Government, public and commercial organisations participating in the "iAM Smart" platform, the public will more readily register and use "iAM Smart" to experience the convenience brought by the platform.

2.   To promote the "iAM Smart" platform, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) takes a number of measures to step up publicity,

including publishing promotional videos and latest information on "iAM Smart" through the thematic website and different media platforms such as television, radio, MTR stations and bus stops. Moreover, by leveraging on the launch of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, OGCIO deploys mobile registration teams in the Community Vaccination Centres to assist the public in registering "iAM Smart" on-the-spot so as to facilitate them to download the electronic vaccination record through the "iAM Smart" app. Depending on the development of the epidemic, OGCIO will further deploy mobile registration teams at shopping malls and government premises, and set up self-registration kiosks at different locations such as MTR stations, shopping malls, sports centres to promote "iAM Smart" and facilitate registration for "iAM Smart" by members of the public.

In addition to arranging government services to adopt the "iAM Smart" platform, OGCIO also actively promotes and supports public organisations (such as the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority and Hospital Authority) and private organisations to adopt "iAM Smart" in their online services. OGCIO, in collaboration with Cyberport, launched the "iAM Smart" Sandbox Programme (Sandbox) in March 2020, enabling financial institutions as well as companies engaging in FinTech-related business at Cyberport and Hong Kong Science and Technology Park to conduct testing. The Sandbox was progressively extended to the information and communications technology sector to facilitate different industries' development of more application solutions adopting "iAM Smart". As at mid-March 2021, around 240 organisations have registered to participate in the Sandbox. In particular, an insurance company has successfully adopted "iAM Smart" to verify identities of the customers purchasing its medical insurance. According to the current testing progress, we anticipate that starting from the second quarter of 2021, more financial institutions will progressively launch their services that adopt "iAM Smart". We believe that when organisations from different sectors progressively start testing and become familiar with the application of "iAM Smart" in their business, more and more public and private organisations will participate in the "iAM Smart" platform.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0040)

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 (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Financial Secretary states in paragraph 92 of his Budget that the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme has received positive response since its launch.   Over $200 million will be set aside to extend the programme to primary schools.   In this connection, please advise on the following:

1.   What are the numbers of participating secondary schools and students in the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme since its launch as well as the average funding amount for each secondary school?

2.   If the programme is to be extended to primary schools, what are the estimated resources and manpower to be allocated by the Government in 2021/22?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1.   The IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme was open for application from December 2020.   As at early March 2021, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has received applications from a total of 103 secondary schools, of which around 50 applications have been approved.   The total amount of funding involved is about $20 million, and the average amount of funding for each secondary school is about $400,000, which is expected to benefit about 10 000 secondary school students.

2.   The Government will allocate an additional funding of $225 million to extend the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme to primary schools for implementation of the "Knowing More About IT" Programme.   In the 3 school years from 2021/22 to 2023/24, all publicly-funded primary schools can apply for a

maximum funding of $400,000 from OGCIO to organise extra-curricular activities for stimulating primary school students' interest in IT and enhancing their basic IT knowledge. OGCIO will recruit three additional contract staff members for their services in respect of performing administration and support duties related to the programme. The cash flow estimate for the 2021-22 financial year is $39 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3264)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

In respect of monitoring the epidemic, will the Government inform the Committee of the following:

1.   What is the number of downloads of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app?   What are the expenditures on the development and maintenance of the app?

2.   How many exposure notifications have been issued through the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app so far?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

1.   As at 7 April 2021, the number of downloads of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app exceeds 3.73 million.   The expenditure on the development of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app and its back-end system is about $3 million, including about $1.1 million for development of the mobile app and about $1.9 million for the back-end system. The estimated maintenance and operation expenditure for 2021-22 is about $900,000.

2.   The visit records of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app are stored in the apps installed in the users' mobile phones. We do not have the number of exposure notifications issued.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0208)

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 (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

According to the Budget Speech, the Government will allocate over $200 million to roll out the "Knowing More About IT" Programme. A funding of up to $400,000 will be provided to each subsidised primary school. Comparing with the funding of up to $1million for the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme, the allocation to the new programme is obviously smaller. Will the Government increase the funding amount to the subsidised primary schools as soon as possible so that they will have more resources for providing IT education and procuring more IT related facilities? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons? What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the "Knowing More About IT" Programme?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)

Reply:

With reference to the funding support of up to $1 million for each secondary school under the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme, we expect that the IT extra-curricular activities at the primary school level are, generally speaking, relatively simple and should require less professional services and equipment than activities at the secondary school level. We therefore consider that under the "Knowing More About IT" Programme, a funding support of $400,000 should be sufficient for a primary school to organise IT extra-curricular activities that meet students' needs and the actual requirements of the school.

We will allocate an additional general non-recurrent provision of $225 million for the implementation of the "Knowing More About IT" Programme in 3 school years from 2021/22, which includes the expenditure of about $9 million for the services provided by 3 contract staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0307)

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 (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

E-sports is a rapidly developing industry with great potential in recent years.   The
Government has allocated $100 million to Cyberport for promoting the development of the
e-sports industry.   Has the effectiveness of the promotion efforts been assessed?   What
are the details?   Will the Bureau continue to allocate additional resources in staff
establishment and expenditure estimates next year?   If yes, what are the details?   Besides,
will the Bureau allocate resources for conducting publicity work in the coming 3 years?   If
yes, what are the work plans and the estimated expenditure involved?   If no, what are the
reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 310)

Reply:

It was announced in the 2018-19 Budget that $100 million would be injected into the
Cyberport for promoting the development of local e-sports industry, with a view to
providing support for the stable development of the e-sports industry at an early stage.
$50 million of the provision was used to set up a well-equipped and dedicated e-sports
competition venue in the Cyberport Arcade for hosting more activities that are conducive to
the local development of e-sports, such as e-sports competition and promotional activities.
The venue was opened in July 2019.   During the period from July 2019 to January 2020, a
total of 12 competitions and e-sports-related events had been held at the venue, and the
number of audience participated exceeded 3 000.   Afterwards, in the face of the
COVID-19 epidemic, e-sports competitions and activities have been suspended.   Cyberport
has made flexible arrangement for those activities funded by the E-sports Industry
Facilitation Scheme to be held online.   As at end-February 2021, a total of 32 activities had
been held online.

The remaining $50 million has been used for supporting the development of the e-sports
industry.   Cyberport also introduced two funding schemes, namely:

(1)   E-sports Internship Scheme: provides employers with a salary subsidy for interns, covering different positions such as e-sports competition co-ordinator, animated effects designer and e-sports stadium manager, with a view to nurturing more e-sports talent; and

(2)   E-sports Industry Facilitation Scheme: provides financial support to the industry for hosting e-sports competitions and activities, participating in overseas exchange trips to explore new business opportunities, introducing e-sports education programmes and organising promotional activities, etc.

Since the introduction of the 2 schemes in April 2019, a total funding of about $34.6 million has been approved.

In the next year, Cyberport will continue to collaborate with the industry to promote the development of e-sports and talent nurturing in the long run, etc. through these schemes. Apart from organising various e-sports activities and competitions, Cyberport will also carry out a wide spectrum of publicity and promotion work, including the arrangement of talks and visits for target groups such as young people, and the shooting of promotional videos in collaboration with different organisations in addition to coverage and thematic interviews, etc. on traditional media, the Internet and social media.   The above work does not involve any additional funding provision from the Government.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2426)

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 (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme has received positive response since its launch. What are the respective numbers of applications received and approved by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer under the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme? What is the average time required for assessing the applications and the total amount of funding approved?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 62)

Reply:

The IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme has been open for application since December 2020. As at early March 2021, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has received applications submitted by 103 secondary schools, of which about 50 applications have been approved, involving a total funding of about $20 million. The average application vetting time is around 1 month.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0719)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

One of the main responsibilities of the Innovation and Technology Bureau is to support the use of local technology products and services.   Will the Government inform this Committee of the details and progress of such procurement, the number and categories of enterprises involved, and the government departments and expenditures involved in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)

Reply:

The Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) supports the use of local technology products and services in Government through a number of measures.

On procurement, the Office of Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has set up a Minor Group in the Standing Offer Agreement for Quality Professional Services (SOA-QPS) to enable local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to provide information technology (IT) services to government departments.   Under the prevailing SOA-QPS4, the contract value limit of the Minor Group has increased from the previous $1.43 million to $3 million, so as to facilitate the SMEs to participate in government projects of higher contract values. Among the 49 companies participating in the SOA-QPS4, 16 of them (33%) are SMEs, representing an increase of 6 SMEs as compared with the last SOA-QPS3.   We are preparing the new SOA-QPS and will continue to introduce effective measures for providing local SMEs with more opportunities to bid for government IT projects.

In addition, the Government introduced the pro-innovation government procurement policy in April 2019, including that all procuring departments are required to increase the weighting of technical score and product quality in tender evaluation.   Besides, certain scores must be allocated to assess innovative suggestions, including those related to adoption of technology, environmental protection and social well-being.   OGCIO has also

revised the existing Standard Marking Scheme for tenders and the marking scheme under SOA-QPS4 to tie in with the pro-innovation procurement policy and arrangement.   As all government departments have been inviting tenders for their required products and services individually, OGCIO does not maintain relevant statistical figures.

In respect of other support to the use of local technology products and services, OGCIO established the Smart Government Innovation Lab (Smart Lab) in April 2019 to encourage and assist government departments in their wider use of innovation and technology, and invited the industry to introduce various IT solutions for assisting government departments in improving public services, thereby creating more business opportunities for local start-ups and SMEs.   In addition to regular exchange activities such as technology forums and thematic workshops, OGCIO has set up a thematic website and published about 100 problems being faced by different public services.   The industry has already submitted more than 320 technology solutions and product suggestions for addressing such problems. OGCIO has also arranged, in collaboration with relevant departments, to conduct testing and proof-of-concept for over 20 proposals that can address the departments' needs.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) launched the E&M InnoPortal in mid-2018 to consolidate and list the technological development needs of various government departments, public bodies and the Electrical and Mechanical (E&M) trade. Organisations such as start-ups and universities can match the needs by proposing E&M-related innovation and technology (I&T) solutions via the portal.   EMSD will provide venues for the trial of suitable projects, assist in prototype testing and the implementation of pilot projects.   Validated performance reports will be uploaded to the E&M InnoPortal for sharing with the public, in a bid to promoting and driving the research and development (R&D) and application of I&T solutions.   Currently, there are about 330 I&T wishes and about 730 I&T solutions collected through the E&M InnoPortal.   More than 110 I&T projects are under trial in different stages, and among which about 30 projects are completed.

Moreover, the Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS) under the Innovation and Technology Commission provides funding support for production of prototypes or samples for trials in public sector organisations so as to facilitate the realisation and commercialisation of local R&D results.   The scope of PSTS covers R&D projects under the Innovation and Technology Fund, incubatees and graduate tenants of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) and Cyberport, and all technology companies conducting R&D activities in Hong Kong.   As at end-December 2020, 277 projects have been funded with an amount of about $540 million, benefitting over 150 organisations to participate in more than 380 trials.   Among which, incubatees and graduate tenants of HKSTPC and Cyberport have participated in 22 and 2 funded projects respectively, involving a funding amount of over $20 million and $1.3 million respectively.

To tackle the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government launched a special call for projects under the PSTS from March to April 2020.   A total of 63 projects were approved for trials in 57 public organisations, involving total funding amount of over $102 million.   The approved projects were submitted by local universities, R&D Centres, designated local public research institutes and technology companies conducting R&D activities in Hong Kong, involving various categories relating to the prevention and combat against the epidemic such as the diagnosis or testing methods of COVID-19 disease, masks and other

protective equipment, disinfection equipment and products, body temperature checking equipment, and virus transmission tracking devices.

The ITB set up the TechConnect (block vote) in mid-2017 to support the government departments in implementing technology projects, so as to enhance operational efficiency and improve public services.   Since the launch of the scheme, departments have responded positively.   As at early March 2021, the scheme has supported 93 technology projects proposed by 31 departments, involving a total sum of more than $470 million.   Under the scheme, government departments have been encouraged to contact the stakeholders of the I&T sector, including local SMEs and start-ups, through OGCIO's Smart Lab and EMSD's E&M InnoPortal for suitable technological solutions and products.

Under the Efficiency Office (EffO), the "Be the Smart Regulator" (BTSR) Programme, the "Streamlining of Government Services" (SGS) Programme and the Innovation and Technology Trade Show also support the Government in promoting I&T as well as the use of local technology products and services with a view to improving public services and enhancing operational efficiency.

Under the BTSR Programme, the target of the Government is that by mid-2022, all licence applications can be submitted electronically unless there are legal or operational constraints. Under the SGS Programme, the target of the Government is that by mid-2022, applications for relevant services can be submitted electronically.   The EffO assists bureaux/departments in identifying and analysing their business needs and challenges and, where necessary, sourcing relevant technical solutions through the Hong Kong Science Park, the Cyberport and other platforms, and in assessing their effectiveness, so that government departments can better leverage the opportunities brought about by I&T to enhance the quality of public services.

Moreover, to encourage more government departments to apply I&T for better public services, the EffO co-organised two Innovation and Technology Trade Shows with the I&T sector in 2019 and 2020 to showcase the latest I&T solutions from about 80 local startups and SMEs to the personnel of various government departments, thus enabling them to better understand and adopt I&T solutions and products for enhancement of service quality.   The EffO will continue to organise events in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0723)

Head:	(47) Government Secretariat: Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
Subhead (No. & title):	()
Programme:	(1) Use of IT in Government
Controlling Officer:	Government Chief Information Officer (Victor Lam)
Director of Bureau:	Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

On promoting wider use of electronic submission of government forms, will the SAR Government advise on the following:

Please list out by service in tabular form the numbers of electronic forms available, the numbers of electronic forms received by the Government and the numbers of users in the past 2 years.   What are the future plans of the Government?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)

Reply:

 In the past 2 years, the Government made available 537 new electronic forms for use by the public/businesses concerned, involving the public services provided by 46 bureaux/departments (B/Ds).   Details are at **Annex**.   At present, there are over 2 000 government forms supporting electronic submission.   Unless there are legal or operational constraints, all government forms will support electronic submission by mid-2022.   B/Ds do not maintain information about the numbers of electronic forms received and the numbers of users involved.

New electronic forms rolled out in 2019-20 and 2020-21

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
1	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Application for Alteration to Conditions of Local Fishing Vessel Registration (New item)
2		Application for Cancellation of Local Fishing Vessel Registration (New item)
3		Application for Change of Ownership for Local Fishing Vessel Registration (New item)
4		Application for Duplicate Certificate of Local Fishing Vessel Registration (New item)
5		Application for Duplicate Marine Fish Culture Licence (New item)
6		Application for Emergency Relief Fund (Marine Fish Culture)
7		Application for Import Permit (For Importation of Non-food Mammals from Mainland China)
8		Application for Import Permit (For the Importation of Animal Products)
9		Application for Import Permit (For the Importation of Breeding Pigs from Mainland)
10		Application for Mainland Fishermen Deckhand Scheme (New item)
11		Application For Permit to Conduct Business Activity (Cargo Loading/Unloading/Transhipment) in The Brothers Marine Park – Application Form
12		Application for Pesticides Licence Renewal
13		Application for Pesticides Permit
14		Application for Pesticides Permit Extension
15		Application Form for Equipment Improvement Project
16		Application Form for Fishing Moratorium Special Loans
17		Application Form for Pesticide Registration
18		Application Form for Renewal of Marine Fish Culture Licence
19		Application Form for Research Fishing Permit
20		Application Form of "Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund"
21		Application form of "Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund" – Pond Fish Culture
22		Application Form of "Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund"– Mariculture
23		Application Form of Emergency Relief Fund (Capture Fisheries)
24		Emergency Relief Fund Application for Pond Fish Rehabilitation Grant
25		Farm Improvement Scheme Application Form
26		Loan Application Form of "Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund"

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
27	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Loan Application Form of "Fisheries Development Loan Fund" (For Loans to Owner of Fishing Vessels and Fish Collectors)
28		Loan Application Form of "Fisheries Development Loan Fund" (Pond Culture/Mariculture)
29		Loan Application Form of "World Refugee Year Loan Fund"
30		Registration of Local Fishing Vessel – Change of Particulars
31		Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund Application Form
32		Written Notice on Release of GMO
33		Borrowing Farm Machinery Application Form
34		Tractor Service Application Form
35		Application Form of Marine Parks Fisherman Fishing Permit
36		Application For Coaches entering Sai Kung Country Parks (Pak Tam Chung Barrier)
37		Application Form for Fishermen Training Programme
38		Application Form for Toothfish Import Licence
39		Application Form for Toothfish Export Licence
40		Application Form for Toothfish Re-export Licence
41		Application for Local Fishing Vessel Registration
42		Application for Provisional Approval of Registration (Registration of local fishing vessels)
43		Application for Certificate of Eligibility for Registration (Registration of local fishing vessels)
44		Application for Transfer of Ownership of Marine Fish Culture Licence
45	Architectural Services Department	Application for Access to Information
46	Audit Commission	Enquiry, suggestion and complaint form
47	Buildings Department	Check List on Documents Included in New Building / A & A Plan Submissions (ADM-2 Appendix A)
48		Request for Fast Track Processing of Plans of Alteration and Addition Works and Certificate of Preparation of Plans (ADM-19 Appendix H)
49		Certificate of Accepted Building Materials and Products (APP-13 Appendix A)
50		Certificate of Accepted Building Materials and Products (Minor Works) (APP-13 Appendix B)
51		Self-certification by Authorized Person, Registered Structural Engineer and Registered Geotechnical Engineer for the Streamlined Processing of Hoardings, Covered Walkways or Gantries Application (APP-23 Appendix E)
52		Certificate for Hoardings / Covered Walkways or Gantries (Annual Safety Certification) (APP-23 Appendix F)
53		Certificate for Hoardings / Covered Walkways or Gantries (Renewal Application) (APP-23 Appendix G)
54		Certificate for Hoardings / Covered Walkways or Gantries (Minor Amendments) (APP-23 Appendix H)

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
55	Buildings Department	Payment of Fees on Submission of Plans (APP-55 Appendix A)
56		Certificate on Completion of Drain Test (APP-58 Appendix A)
57		Request for Fast-track Processing of Plan Submission for Signboard & Self-certification by Authorized Person and Registered Structural Engineer　(APP-126 Appendix I)
58		Certificate of Completion of Vehicular Run-in and Run-out (APP-144 Appendix B)
59		Declaration on Annual Energy Use of a Building Development (APP-151 Appendix B)
60		RTTV Summary Sheet (APP-156 Appendix A)
61		OTTV of Resident's Recreational Facilities Summary Sheet (APP-156 Appendix B)
62		Notice of Commencement of Rectification Works after Issue of Occupation Permit (Appendix I)
63		Certificate on Completion of Rectification Works (Appendix II)
64		Notice of Cessation of Appointment of Project Team Member and Certificate on Rectification Works Carried Out (Appendix III)
65		Notice of Change of Project Team Member and Commencement of Rectification Works (Appendix IV)
66		OTTV Summary Sheet (APP-67 Appendix A)
67		Application for Testing of Drainage Works (PNRC-11 Appendix A)
68		Application for QP Card (QP Card)
69		Emergency Situations Telephone Numbers for Use Outside Office Hours (PNAP ADM-3 Appendix A)
70		Application for In-principle Acceptance of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) (MiC1)
71		Application for Renewal of In-principle Acceptance for Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) (MiC2)
72	Census and Statistics Department	Application for 20% Sample Listing of Establishments from the Central Register of Establishments
73		Application for Matching Operation for Specified List of Establishments against Records in the Central Register of Establishments
74	Chief Secretary for Administration's Office (Administration Wing)	Application for Access to Information
75		Honours and Awards Nomination Form for Members of Public
76		Legal Advice Scheme for Unrepresented Litigants on Civil Procedures (Procedural Advice Scheme) Application Form for Enrolment as Community Lawyer[#]
77		Non-official Justices of the Peace Nomination Form for Members of Public

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
78	Chief Secretary for Administration's Office (Administration Wing)	Legal Advice Scheme for Unrepresented Litigants on Civil Procedures (Procedural Advice Scheme) Application Form for Participating Law Firm[#]
79		Application Form for Online Group Visit to the Public Records Office of the Government Records Service
80		Application Form for Onsite Group Visit to the Public Records Office of the Government Records Service
81	Civil Aviation Department	Application for Approval of a Dangerous Goods Training Programme in Hong Kong under Regulation 8(3) of Schedule 16 to Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 (i.e. Cap. 448C of the Laws of Hong Kong) (For Aircraft Operators, Ground Handling[#]
82		Application for Approval of a Dangerous Goods Training Programme in Hong Kong under the Dangerous Goods (Consignment by Air) (Safety) Regulations (i.e. Cap. 384A of the Laws of Hong Kong) (For Shippers and Freight Forwarders)[#]
83		Application for HKAR-181 Approval (DCA 565)[#]
84		Application for Hong Kong Crew Member Certificate
85		Application for Permission for Carriage of Munitions of War in Aircraft[#]
86		Application for Permission to AN(HK)O 1995 for Carriage of Dangerous Goods in Aircraft[#]
87		Application for Permission to Operate Non-Scheduled Services for Hire or Reward (Paragliders)
88		Application for Renewal of HKAR-181 Approval (DCA 567)[#]
89		Application for the Inclusion of an Aircraft Rating in a Hong Kong Pilot's Licence (DCA 528 Multi-engine Helicopter)[#]
90		Application for the Inclusion of an Aircraft Rating in a Hong Kong Pilot's Licence (DCA 528 Single-engine Helicopter)[#]
91		Application for the Inclusion of an Aircraft Rating in a Hong Kong Pilot's Licence (DCA 528 ZFT)[#]
92		Application for Variation of HKAR-181 Approval (DCA 566)[#]
93		Applications for Operational Approvals/Permission (DCA 4010)[#]
94		Private Pilot Licence (Helicopters) Flight Test [DCA 527 PPL(H)][#]
95		Recommendation for C of A Renewal (DCA 568)[#]
96		Recommendation for Design Reclassification Acceptance (DCA 21J – 1)[#]
97	Civil Engineering and Development Department	Application Form for Dumping Licence
98		TSW - B12 - Hong Kong Natural Sand Final User Certificate
99		TSW - Q14 - Sand Removal Permit

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
100	Civil Engineering and Development Department	Application for Approval of Non-blasting Explosives for Use in Hong Kong
101		Application for Authorization to Use Explosives under the Supervision of a Registered Shotfirer
102		Application for a Mine Blasting Certificate
103		Application for Renewal of Mine Blasting Certificate
104		Application for Removal Permit(s) to Convey Category 1 Dangerous Goods on Land
105		Application for a Licence to Store Category 1 Dangerous Goods(Ammunition/Marine Pyrotechnics)
106		Application for a Licence to Possess Category 1 Dangerous Goods and for a Permit to Use Category 1 Dangerous Goods
107		Application for a Mode A Store Licence for Storage of Blasting Explosives
108		Application for Approval of Non-blasting Explosives for Use in Hong Kong
109	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)	Application Form for Membership of the Panel of Adjudicators of the Obscene Articles Tribunal
110		Application Form for the Future International Talent (FIT) Programme[#]
111		Future International Talent (FIT) Programme – Quarterly Report by Participating Company[#]
112	Correctional Services Department	Rehabilitation Pioneer Project Application Form
113	Customs and Excise Department	Declaration - Document (s) Produced for Assessment of Duties (For Liquor Only)
114		Storage Approval (Schedule 1 or 2 subject to Cap.145) Application for approval of the Commissioner of C&E for premises and containers in which substances specified in Schedule 1 or 2 of the Ordinance are stored or kept
115		Application for Ships' Stores
116		Application for Licence, Control of Chemicals Ordinance
117		Application for Operation in Bond, Dutiable Commodities Ordinance
118		Application Form for Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme
119		Application form for Carriage Licence for Prescribed Articles
120		Notification of Changes in Particulars
121		Notification of Cessation of Operating Money Service
122		Supplementary Information Sheet for Licensed Money Service Operators
123		Fit and Proper Person Declaration Form (For sole proprietor / partner / director / ultimate owner who is an individual)
124		Fit and Proper Person Declaration Form (For partner / director which is a corporation)
125		Application for Certificate of Licensee from the Register of Money Service Operator Licensees

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
126	Customs and Excise Department	Application for a certified copy or uncertified copy of the Register or of an entry in or extract from the Register
127		Application for Refund of Duties
128		Intermodal Transhipment Facilitation Scheme (ITFS) Registration Form
129	Department of Health	Application for Renewal of Registration as Authorized Person
130		Import Licence for Pharmaceutical Products (Import Licence Form 3)
131		Export Licence for Pharmaceutical Products (Export Licence Form 6)
132		Application for Import Certificate, Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, Cap. 134
133		Application for Import Licence, Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, Cap. 134
134		Application for Export Licence Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, Cap. 134
135		Application for Removal Licence Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, Cap. 134
136		Application for Diversion Licence Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, Cap. 134
137		Application Form for Hospital Licence, Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633) (Applicable for Registered Hospitals and Scheduled Nursing Homes during Specified Period (2 July 2019 to 31 December 2019))
138		Application Form for Hospital Licence, Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633)
139		Application Form for Day Procedure Centre Licence, Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633)
140		Health Education Material Order Form
141		No Smoking Sign and Poster Order Form
142		Application Form for Smoking Cessation Health Talk
143		Application Form for Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance Exhibition Boards on Designated No Smoking Areas
144		Statement by a Company Carrying on the Business of Medical Laboratory Technologist
145		Statement by a Company Carrying on the Business of Practising Occupational Therapy
146		Statement by a Company Carrying on the Business of Practising Optometry
147		Statement by a Company Carrying on the Business of Practising Physiotherapy
148		Statement by a Company Carrying on the Business of Practising Radiography
149		Application for Licence / Permit / Endorsement(s) under the Animals (Control of Experiments) Ordinance (Cap. 340) - Form 1
150		Submission of Returns of Experiments under the Animals (Control of Experiments) Ordinance (Cap. 340) - Form 7

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
151	Department of Health	Medical Device Adverse Event Report Form
152		User Reporting Form - Medical Device Adverse Events
153		Application for Import or Transshipment of Biological Materials
154		Application for Import of Human Corpse
155		Application for Updating Personal Particulars / Transfer of Health Record (FHS46CD)
156		Application Form for Variation of Service / Particulars of Day Procedure Centre
157		COVID-19 Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting
158		Prescribed Notice Application Form
159		Application for Artificial Insemination by Husband (AIH) Licence (First-Time Application) (Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance (Cap. 561))
160		Application for Artificial Insemination by Husband (AIH) Licence (Renewal) (Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance (Cap. 561))
161		Application for Treatment Licence (First-Time Application) (Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance (Cap. 561))
162		Application for Treatment Licence (Renewal) (Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance (Cap. 561))
163		Application for Research Licence (First-Time Application) (Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance (Cap. 561))
164		Application for Research Licence (Renewal) (Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance (Cap. 561))
165		Application for Licence to Store Gametes, Embryos and/or Testicular/Ovarian Tissue (First-Time Application) (Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance (Cap. 561))
166		Application for Licence to Store Gametes, Embryos and/or Testicular/Ovarian Tissue (Renewal) (Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance (Cap. 561))
167	Department of Justice	Mediate First Pledge for Companies
168		Mediate First Pledge for Trade Organisations / Associations
169		Understudy Programme in Respect of Government Prosecution & Civil Work
170	Drainage Services Department	Application Form for Refund of Sewage Charge
171		Application Form for Visiting to DSD Facilities
172		Standard Request Form for Revision on Discharge Factor/COD Values
173		Application for Location Filming
174		Individual Visit - Visit to DSD Facilities Application Form
175		Group Visit - Visit to DSD Facilities Application Form
176	Education Bureau	Application Form for Implementing "Through-train" Mode
177		綜合運用共通能力網上課程「到校支援計劃」申請表^
178		Application for "Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission"
179		Application Form for Inclusion in the EDB Supplier Lists

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
180	Education Bureau	Nomination form for Chief Executive's Award for Teaching Excellence
181		Application form for "Passing on the Torch" National Education Programme Series Subvention Scheme
182		Application form for Exchange Programmes Organised by the Education Bureau (Applicable to Primary and Secondary Schools)
183		Application form for Students Exchange Programme Subvention Schemes
184		Nomination form for Student Exchange Programme
185		Application Form - Accreditation Grant and / or Start-up / Maintenance / Retainer / Annual Maintenance Grant to Recognition of Prior Learning Assessment Agencies[#]
186		Application Form - Accreditation Grant for Designated Schemes Subsidized by Government[#]
187		Application Form - Accreditation Grant for Self-financing Programmes under the Qualifications Framework Fund
188		Application Form - Accreditation Grant for the Pilot Project on Vocational Qualifications Pathway Programmes under the Qualifications Framework Fund[#]
189		Application Form - Accreditation Grant to Assessment Agencies for Issuing Professional Qualifications under Hong Kong Qualifications Framework[#]
190		Application Form - Development Grant for Courses based on Specification of Competence Standards/Specification of Generic (Foundation) Competencies
191		Application Form - Grant for Programme Area Accreditation under the Qualifications Framework Fund
192		Application Form - Subsidy to Assessment Agencies under Recognition of Prior Learning Support Scheme for Each New Application of RPL Cluster Processed[#]
193		Application for Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in HK[#]
194		Nomination form for Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme[#]
195		Educational Resources Online Platform Membership Registration
196		Information update (for Educational Resources Online Platform members)
197		Application Form – Exemption From The Language Proficiency Requirement (English Language)[#]
198		Application Form – Exemption From The Language Proficiency Requirement (Putonghua Language)^
199		Application Form for Supply Teacher (Student Guidance) in Education Bureau
200		Application for Employment as Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) under the NET Scheme in Primary Schools / the Enhanced NET Scheme in Secondary Schools for the 2022/23 School Year[#]

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
201	Education Bureau	Application for Extension of Service of Native-speaking English Teachers (NETs) Beyond the Retirement Age in Aided Schools in the 2022/23 School Year#
202		Attachment C – Reply Proforma of Teachers Employed under the Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Scheme in Primary Schools / the Enhanced NET Scheme in Secondary Schools#
203		Form A – Reply Proforma on Appointment of Native-speaking English Teachers (NET)s under the NET Scheme in Primary Schools / the Enhanced NET Scheme in Secondary Schools#
204		Form B – Application of Serving Native-speaking English Teachers (NET)s for New Appointment on Completion of Contract under the NET Scheme in Primary Schools / the Enhanced NET Scheme in Secondary Schools#
205	Environmental Protection Department/ Environment Bureau	Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation - Notification of Regulated Architectural Paints
206		Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation - Report of Annual Sales & Use of Regulated Products
207		Application for a new / renewal of Chemical Waste Collection Licence
208		Application for Approval to Use Chemical Waste Container(s) Exceeding 450 Litre
209		Application for Revision of Approved Operational Plan of Chemical Waste Collection Licence
210		Clinical Waste Producer Premises Code Request Form
211		Form 5 - Notification of Changes in Account Information (Waste Disposal (Charges for Disposal of Construction Waste) Regulation)
212		Notification under Section 17 for "Part A" Chemical Wastes
213		Form 1 - Notice of Appeal (Appeal under Water Pollution Control Ordinance)
214		Application for Permit to Import / Renewal of Permit to Import Scheduled Chemicals
215		Application for Permit to Export / Renewal of Permit to Export Scheduled Chemicals
216		Application for Permit to Transship and Transit / Renewal of Permit to Transship and Transit Scheduled Chemicals
217		Application for Permit to Manufacture / Renewal of Permit to Manufacture Scheduled Chemicals
218		Application for Permit To Use / Renewal of Permit to Use Scheduled Chemicals
219		Application for Variation of Permit Conditions (Hazardous Chemicals Control Ordinance)
220		Application for Variation of Directions for Disposal of Scheduled Chemicals (Applicable to Cancelled Permits)
221		Application for Issue of Duplicate Permit (Hazardous Chemicals Control Ordinance)

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
222	Environmental Protection Department/ Environment Bureau	Application for Registration as Registered Suppliers or Change of Address
223		Registered Supplier's Return
224		Registered Supplier's Submission of Audit Report
225		Request for Recycling Labels
226		Seller's Application for Endorsement of Removal Service Plan
227		Removal Service — Undertaking of a Collector
228		Removal Service — Undertaking of a Recycler
229		Seller's Application for Change to Endorsed Removal Service Plan
230		Discrepancy List
231		Information on the Brand Names of Regulated Electrical Equipment
232		Cancellation of Registration as a Registered Supplier
233		Seller's Distribution Avenues
234		Seller's RSP Service Records Template
235		Request for Recycling Labels (with Payment on Recycling Levy)
236		Request for Replacement of Recycling Labels
237		Record of Choice of Removal Service Template
238		Removal Service Terms and Conditions Template
239		Application of Exemption from Submission of Audit Report
240	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Treasury Branch)	Financial Consultant Profile Form
241	Fire Services Department	Dangerous Vehicle Inspection Booking Form
242		Certificate of Fire Service Installation and Equipment (FS251)
243	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Application for Green Burial Central Register
244		Application for Service for Keeping of Abortus
245		Application Form for Fixed-Pitch (Other Classes) Hawker Licence
246		Certificate of Food Business Premises Free of Unauthorised Building Works (UBWs) for Full Licence Application cum Notice of Inspection and Certification of Unauthorised Signboard(s) (Form UBW-2a)
247		Certification of Food Business Premises Free of Unauthorised Building Works (UBWs) for Provisional Licence Application cum Notice of Inspection and Certification of Unauthorised Signboard(s) (Form UBW-1a)
248		Application for Approval of Bactericidal Agent and Food Service Equipment for Use in Food Business
249		Application for Licence to Import Frozen/Chilled Meat and Poultry
250		Application for Permission to Import Game

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
251	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Application for Permission to Import Meat (Including Prohibited Meat) (Applicable to holding Export Declaration issued by eligible EU member state/United Kingdom)
252		Application for Permission to Import Prohibited Meat (Applicable to holding Health Certificate issued by eligible country/place)
253		Application for Import Permission for Milk and Milk Beverages/Cream/Frozen Confections (Applicable to New Application/Addition of Products to Existing Import Permission)
254		Application for Import Permission for Milk and Milk Beverages/Cream/Frozen Confections/Raw Milk (Applicable to Renewal of Existing Import Permission)
255		Application for Import Permission for Raw Milk (Applicable to New Application)
256		Application for Allocation of a Niche (Tsang Tsui Columbarium)
257		Certificate on Air Change / Installation of Air Purification Device in Catering Premises
258	Food and Health Bureau	重新啟動《基層醫療指南》賬戶 - 申請表格 （只適用於中醫）^
259		Request Form for Publicity and Health Education Materials on Primary Care
260		Application for Reactivation of Account in the Primary Care Directory Application Form (Applicable to dentists only)#
261	Government Flying Service	Annual open data plan feedback form
262	Government Property Agency	Application for Location Filming at Sites Controlled by the Government Property Agency
263		Application for Location Scouting at Sites/Premises Controlled by the Government Property Agency
264		Application Form for Inclusion in the GPA Invitation List for Revenue Contracts
265		Application Form for Inclusion in the GPA Invitation List under the Socially Caring Leasing Arrangement
266	Home Affairs Bureau	Advisory and Statutory Bodies - Curriculum Vitae Form
267		Application Form for Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme (ACDFS)
268	Home Affairs Department	Anti-epidemic Fund "Anti-epidemic Support Scheme for Property Management Sector" Application Form for Owners' Organisation
269		Anti-epidemic Fund "Anti-epidemic Support Scheme for Property Management Sector" Application Form for Property Management Company/Deed of Mutual Covenant Manager
270		Application Form for Exemption of Electronic Sports Venues from Licence Requirement under the Amusement Game Centres Ordinance (Cap. 435)

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
271	Home Affairs Department	Application Form for Renewal of Amusement Game Centre Licence
272		Application Form for Renewal of Amusements With Prizes Licence
273		Application Forms for Amusements With Prizes Licence
274		Application Forms for Trade Promotion Competition Licence
275		Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance - Application for a Certificate of Compliance
276		Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance - Application for renewal of a Certificate of Compliance
277		Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance - Application for transfer of a Certificate of Compliance
278		Eastern District Community Halls / Community Centres - Application Form
279		Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership (ESR) Programme - Application for Reimbursement of Auditors' Remuneration
280		Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership (ESR) Programme - Application for Reimbursement of Capital Expenditure
281		Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership (ESR) Programme - Project Progress Report
282		Hotel & Guesthouse - Application for a licence
283		Hotel & Guesthouse - Application for renewal of a licence
284		Hotel & Guesthouse - Application for transfer of licence
285		Karaoke Establishments Ordinance (Cap. 573) - Application for new grant or renewal of permit/provisional permit
286		Karaoke Establishments Ordinance (Cap. 573) - Application for new issue or renewal of licence/provisional licence
287		Karaoke Establishments Ordinance (Cap. 573) - Application for transfer of permit/provisional permit/licence/provisional licence
288		Mahjong/Tin Kau Licence/Public Dance Hall Licence - Application Forms for Employment of Assistant
289		Report Form for Appointment of Agent as Manager of an Amusement Game Centre
290		Tuen Mun District Community Halls / Community Centres - Application Form
291		Yuen Long District Community Halls / Community Centres - Application Form
292	Hong Kong Police Force	Playing Musical Instrument Permit in Public Street or Road
293		Application for a Lion / Dragon / Unicorn Dance Permit
294	Information Services Department	Application for Access to Information
295	Inland Revenue Department	Application for 3-year Business Registration Certificate (IRBR184)

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
296	Inland Revenue Department	Application for Concessionary Refund of Business Registration Fee (Waiver Period from 1.4.2016 to 31.3.2017) (IRBR188)
297		Appointment Letter of an agent for the purpose of Business Registration Ordinance (IRBR177)
298		Authorization for change of payee's name on concessionary refund cheque (Waiver Period from 1.4.2019 to 31.3.2020) (IRBR188B)
299		BIRSP1 - Supplementary Form SP1 - Person electing for two-tiered profits tax rates
300		BIRSP2 - Supplementary Form SP2 - Expenditure on research & development (R&D)
301		BIRSP3 - Supplementary Form SP3 - Deduction for expenditure on energy efficient building installation (EEBI)
302		Claim for Exemption from Payment of Fee and Levy under Section 9 of the Business Registration Ordinance (IRBR61)
303		IR 1313A Application for Certificate of Resident Status (Company, Partnership, Trust or other Body of Persons)
304		IR 1313B Application for Certificate of Resident Status (Company, Partnership, Trust or other Body of Persons)
305		IR 1314B Application for Certificate of Resident Status (Individuals)
306		IR 1459 Notification of Details of Person Authorized to Register/Operate an AEOI Account
307		IR 1460 Application for Lead Operator Reference Number
308		IR 1474 Application for Preparation of IR56 Form(s) by Using Employer's Self-developed Software
309		IR 56B Employer's Return of Remuneration & Pensions
310		IR 6104 Application for Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and / or Access Code by existing eTAX user or person with tax file in IRD
311		IR 6173 - Claim for Deduction for qualifying premiums paid under the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme Policy
312		IR1121S Application for Holdover of Provisional Salaries Tax - deduction for: (a) qualifying premiums paid under the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme Policy; (b) qualifying annuity premiums paid under Qualifying Deferred Annuity Policy and/or (c) tax deductible MPF voluntary contributions
313		IR1314A Application for Certificate of Resident Status (Individuals)
314		IR1360 (2018/19 Tax Year) (APPLICATION FOR INSTALMENT SETTLEMENT OF 2018/19 TAX (Individuals / Sole Proprietorships))
315		IR1360A (2018/19 Tax Year) (APPLICATION FOR INSTALMENT SETTLEMENT OF 2018/19 TAX (Partnerships))
316		IR1360B (2018/19 Tax Year) (APPLICATION FOR INSTALMENT SETTLEMENT OF 2018/19 TAX (Corporations))

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
317	Inland Revenue Department	IR1454 Application to Initiate Mutual Agreement Procedure#
318		IRBR 199 Revocation of Election for 3-year Business Registration Certificate
319		IRSD 106 Changes in Particulars Registered with the Stamp Office
320		IRSD 115 Adjudication Request - Nomination of Immovable Property
321		IRSD 116 Adjudication Request - Supplemental Agreement of Immovable Property
322		IRSD 118 Application for Charging Ad Valorem Stamp Duty at Lower Rates (Scale 2)/ Exemption of Special Stamp Duty / Buyer's Stamp Duty
323		IRSD 121 Adjudication / Stamping Request - Intra-Group Agreement / Assignment (for application from 2 August 2004 onwards)
324		IRSD 125A Partial Refund of Ad Valorem Stamp Duty Paid under section 29DF of the Stamp Duty Ordinance (Cap. 117)
325		IRSD 125B Application for Refund of Buyer's Stamp Duty / Partial Refund of Ad Valorem Stamp Duty for properties acquired for Redevelopment under section 29DD / 29DE of the Stamp Duty Ordinance (Cap. 117) (For Applicant who is an Individual)
326		IRSD 125C Application for Refund of Buyer's Stamp Duty / Partial Refund of Ad Valorem Stamp Duty for properties acquired for Redevelopment under section 29DD / 29DE of the Stamp Duty Ordinance (Cap. 117) (For Applicant which is a Body Corporate)
327		IRSD 129 Request for Withdrawal of e-Stamping Application - Property
328		IRSD 131 Statutory Declaration - Application for Charging Ad Valorem Stamp Duty at Lower Rates (Scale 2) / Exemption of Buyer's Stamp Duty
329		IRSD 131A Statutory Declaration - Application for Charging Ad Valorem Stamp Duty at Lower Rates (Scale 2) / Exemption of Buyer's Stamp Duty
330		IRSD 131B Statutory Declaration - Application for Charging Ad Valorem Stamp Duty at Lower Rates (Scale 2)
331		IRSD 131C Statutory Declaration - Claiming for Partial Refund of Stamp Duty Paid for change of residential property cases
332		IRSD 140 Request for Cancellation of Stamp Certificate containing error(s) - Share Transfer IRSD 140(E)
333		IRSD 141 Request for Withdrawal of e-Stamping Application - Share Transfer
334		SBUL 3 Stock Borrowing Ledger
335		U3/SOA/F04 Application for Exemption of Stamp Duty under Section 29C(5A) of the Stamp Duty Ordinance (CAP.117)

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
336	Inland Revenue Department	Return of Stock Borrowing Transactions (SBUL 1)
337		Adjudication Request – Deed of Gift or Agreement/Assignment with no valuable consideration (IRSD 117(E))
338		Application for Advance Ruling (IR 1297)
339	Innovation and Technology Commission	Innovation and Technology Fund Application Form for Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme
340		Partnership Research Programme Application Form
341		Researcher Programme (formerly known as Internship Programme) – Innovation and Technology Fund Application Form
342		Technology Talent Scheme - Postdoctoral Hub Programme for Innovation and Technology Fund
343		Technology Talent Admission Scheme - Quota Application Form (For Applicants which are NOT tenants / incubatees / grantees / occupants of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation or the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited)
344		Technology Talent Admission Scheme - Quota Application Form (For Applicants which are NOT tenants / incubatees / grantees / occupants of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation or the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited) - Quota Application Form – Declaration
345		Application Form for Designation as Designated Local Research Institution (Form A)
346		Re-Industrialisation Funding Scheme Application Form
347		Innovation and Technology Fund Research Talent Hub Application Form for applicant organisation / company undertaking Innovation and Technology Fund Projects
348		Innovation and Technology Fund Research Talent Hub for Incubatees and Innovation and Technology Tenants of the Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks Corporation and Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (Cyberport) Application Form
349		Innovation and Technology Fund Research Talent Hub for Technology Companies Conducting Research and Development Activities in Hong Kong
350		Technology Talent Admission Scheme - Quota Application Form (for Applicants which are not tenants / incubatees / grantees / occupants of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation or the Cyberport)
351	Intellectual Property Department	D10 - Application for Certified Copies or Extracts / Application for Copies or Extracts / Request for Information / Request for Inspection of Document or Register / Request for Certificate Signed by the Registrar of Designs
352		OP1 - Request for Grant of a Standard Patent (O)
353		OP1A - Statement of Inventorship in respect of a Standard Patent (O)

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
354	Intellectual Property Department	OP2 - Request for Substantive Examination of a Standard Patent (O) Application
355		OP3 - Request to Review
356		OP4 - Request for Substantive Examination of a Short-term Patent
357		OP5 - Addition of Priority Claim / Restoration of Priority Right
358		OP6 - Request for Hearing
359		OP7 - Application to Amend Specification after Grant
360		OP8 - Notice of Intention to Appear at Hearing
361		P11 - Request for Certified Copies or Extracts / Request for Information / Request for Request for Certificate Signed by the Registrar of Patents
362		P2 - Filing of Notice of Opposition or Counter-statement
363		T12 - Notice of Attendance at Hearing / Request for Statement of Reasons
364		T14 - Request for Copy / Request for Certified Copy
365		T6 - Notice of Opposition / Objection / Application for Revocation, Declaration of Invalidity, Variation of a Trademark Registration or Rectification of an Error or Omission in the Register / Application for Intervention in Proceedings for Revocation, Declaration of Invalidity, Variation or Rectification
366		T7 - Counter-Statement
367	Labour and Welfare Bureau	Application Form for the Elder Academy Scheme (Primary / Secondary School)
368		Application Form for the Elder Academy Scheme (Post-Secondary Institution / Other Categories)
369	Labour Department	Application for Occupational Safety and Health Training Course
370		Application Form for Submission of Equipment for Approval under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and its subsidiary regulations
371		Designation of Main and Branch Office(s) of Employment Agency
372		Employment Agency - Application for a Certificate of Exemption
373		Employment Agency - Application for a Certificate of Exemption (supplementary sheet)
374		Employment Agency - Application for a Licence
375		Employment Agency - Application for a Licence (supplementary sheet)
376		Employment Agency - Application for Renewal of a Licence
377		Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Asbestos) Regulation - Notification of (i) Asbestos Work (ii) Change in Notified Asbestos Work
378		Particulars of Associate of Employment Agency
379		Vacancy Order Form (Applicable to posts from Employers in Personal Capacity)

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
380	Labour Department	Vacancy Order Form (Applicable to posts from private educational institutes/tutor posts/promoter post)
381		Work Trial Scheme Application Form for Claim of Allowance
382		Work Trial Scheme Application Form for Participating Organisation's Request for Refund of Allowance
383		Work Trial Scheme Vacancy Order Form
384		Racial Diversity Employment Programme (RDEP) Enrolment Form[#]
385	Land Registry	Application for Owner's Properties Information Check
386		Application for refund of Search Ticket
387	Lands Department	Application form for temporary occupation of Government land for setting up street counters to hold non-profit making and non-fund raising activities
388	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Application for Alteration to Licensed Premises (LCS 1028)
389		Application for an E-Account
390		Application for Extension of Business Hours (LCS 907)
391		Application for Nomination of Manager (LCS 596)
392		Application for Permission for Person(s) under the Age of 16 Years to Enter a Licensed Billiard Establishment after 8:00 p.m. (LCS 908a)
393		Application for Permission for Students in School Uniform to Enter a Licensed Billiard Establishment (LCS 909a)
394		Application for Places of Amusement Licence (LCS 31)
395		Application for Renewal of Places of Amusement Licence and Extension of Business Hours (LCS 785)
396		Application for Transfer of Places of Amusement Licence (LCS 294)
397		Application For Use of Lit Candle(s) / Incense(s) / Real Flame Torch(es) in a Stage Performance
398		Application for Use of Places of Amusement for Events/Activities not Specified in the Licence (LCS 862a)
399		Application Form for Free Mailing Service of Composite Monthly Event Calendar of Tuen Mun Town Hall and Yuen Long Theatre
400		Application of Intention to Discharge of Pyrotechnics On Stage
401		Application of Intention to Display of Sand / Water Effect / Snow Effect / Huge amount of Paper / Hay / Plank / Confetti On Stage
402		Application of Intention to Exhibit Animal(s) / Bird(s) On Stage
403		Application of Intention to Use of Modified Firearms or Blank Ammunition On Stage
404		Application of Performer(s) Flying / Aerial Silk On Stage
405		Application of using laser effect On Stage
406		Application of Using Temporary Electrical Appliance On Stage
407		Application to Smoke in a Live Performance

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
408	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum – Application for Free Loan and Delivery Service of Exhibition Panels
409		Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum – School Talk Application Form
410		Entry Form of Hong Kong Flower Show 2020 - Plant Exhibit Competition
411		Entry Form of Hong Kong Flower Show 2020 - Student Drawing Competition
412		Hong Kong Film Archive – Application Form for Group Docent Service
413		Hong Kong Film Archive – Application Form for Resource Centre's Audiovisual Materials Viewing Card
414		Hong Kong Film Archive – Application Form for Special Film Show Group Tickets
415		Hong Kong Film Archive – Cinema / Exhibition Hall Booking Application Form
416		Hong Kong Railway Museum – Application Form for Group Visit and Guided Tour Services
417		Hong Kong Science Museum – School Visit Application Form
418		Hong Kong Science Museum –Children Programme Application Form
419		Hong Kong Science Museum –Museum Pass Application Form
420		Hong Kong Space Museum – "Young Astronaut Training Camp" Nomination Form
421		Hong Kong Space Museum – Family Programmes Application Form
422		Hong Kong Space Museum – Fun Astronomy Classes Application Form
423		Hong Kong Space Museum – Sky Shows / Omnimax Shows Ticket Order Form for Group Visit at Concessionary Rate
424		Hong Kong Space Museum – Ticket Order Form for School Show
425		Hong Kong Space Museum –Application for Ordinary Booking/ Late Booking of Lecture Hall
426		Hong Kong Space Museum –Application for School / Group Visit to the Hong Kong Space Museum Exhibition Halls with Free Admission
427		Hong Kong Space Museum –Application for Special Booking of Lecture Hall
428		Hong Kong Space Museum –Astronomy Course Application Form
429		Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre – Application for Booking of Art Studios/Lecture Theatre/Multi-purpose Studio & Room
430		Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre – Application for Booking of Exhibition Hall
431		Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre – Workshop Application Form

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
432	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Intangible Cultural Heritage Office - ICH Funding Scheme-Application Form for Community-driven Projects
433		Intangible Cultural Heritage Office –ICH Funding Scheme Application Form for Partnership Project Projects
434		Sheung Yiu Folk Museum – Application Form for Group Visit and Guided Tour Services
435		Undertaking (LCS 574)
436		Hong Kong Science Museum - Children Programme (Includes: Laboratory Programmes / Fun Science Experiments / Science Day Camps / Family Programmes / Children Computer Programmes / Robotic Workshops)
437		Application Form for Hong Kong Youth Music Interflows
438		Application Form for School Care Subsidy Scheme
439		School Music Workshop Series Enrollment Form
440		Application Form for Joint School Concerts
441		"Application Form for Free Mailing Service of Composite Monthly Event Calendar of Tuen Mun Town Hall and Yuen Long Theatre
442		"Sha Tin Town Hall - Application Form for Ordinary / Late / Special Booking (Minor Facilities) (LCS 915f)
443		"Sha Tin Town Hall - Application Form for Ordinary / Late / Special Booking (Minor Facilities: Practice Room) (LCS 1058)
444		"North District Town Hall - Application Form for Ordinary / Late / Special Booking (Minor Facilities) (LCS 915f)
445		"Tai Po Civic Centre - Application Form for Ordinary / Late / Special Booking (Minor Facilities) (LCS 915f)
446		Customer Appreciation Card
447	Marine Department	Application Form for Appointment as a Government Dockyard Maintenance Services Provider
448		Agreement and Lists of Crew
449		Lists of Crew
450		Draught of Water and Freeboard Notice
451		Account of Seafarer's Wages
452		Final Account of Seafarer's Wages
453		Seafarer's Allotment Note
454		Account of Property of a Deceased Seafarer[#]
455		Return of Births[#]
456		Return of Deaths/Missing Persons[#]
457		Application for a Permit to Maintain a Company Roster
458		Application for Employment Registration Book
459		Information Required in Connection with an Application for a Permit to Maintain a Company Roster
460		Post available to Hong Kong Seafarers
461		Permitted Crew Department Staff Particulars
462		Protection & Indemnity Clubs
463		Application for Subsidy for the Provision of Lifejackets on Local Passenger Carrying Vessels for Commercial Use

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
464	Office of the Communications Authority	Application for Assignment of Shared Spectrum in the 26 GHz and 28 GHz Bands and Grant of Localised Wireless Broadband Service Licence
465		Registration for Class Licence for Offer of Telecommunications Services
466		Application for Temporary Permit for Amateur Radio Station
467		Application for Allocation / Assignment of Telecommunications Numbers and Codes for Fixed, Mobile, Paging and Machine-to-Machine Services
468		Application Form for Registration onto the Do-not-call Registers
469		Application Form for Bulk Registration onto the Do-not-call Registers
470		Application for Recognised Testing/Certification Agency (RTA) for Provision of Testing Services
471		Application for Recognition of Foreign Testing Laboratory / Certification Body by OFCA
472		Application for Designation of Testing Laboratory or Certification Body for Recognition as Conformity Assessment Body by APEC Economies
473	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Application for Local Placement Scheme
474		e-Procurement System - Alteration Request Form
475		e-Procurement System - Application Form for Reissuing Activation ID and PIN
476		Smart Government Innovation Lab - Propose Solutions
477		Smart Government Innovation Lab - Raise Service Needs
478		Submission of Supporting Documents for the Application for Computer Operator II
479		IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Application Form
480		Application for Post-Secondary Student Summer Internship Programme (For Online Submission by Local Institutions Only)
481		Application for Post-Secondary Student Summer Internship Programme (For Online Submission by Students from Non-local Institutions Only)
482	Planning Department	Form No. S16-I
483		Form No. S16-II
484		Form No. S16-III
485	Radio Television Hong Kong	Application Form for Screening of RTHK TV Programmes
486		Application for Visit to Radio Television Hong Kong
487	Security Bureau	Application for Variation of Conditions of Security Company Licence under the Security and Guarding Services Ordinance (Cap 460) (Form No. SGS 10)
488		Application for Variation of Conditions of Security Personnel Permit under the Security and Guarding Services Ordinance (Chapter 460) (Form No. SGS 11)
489	Social Welfare Department	Application for Access to Information
490		Data Access Request Form

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
491	Trade and Industry Department	Application for Authorisation for Delivery of Rice
492		Application for E-Services User Account of Rice
493		Application for Increasing the Total Import Quantity of Rice
494		Application for Inspection of the Register of Registered Rice Stockholders
495		Application for New Registration (Transhipment Cargo Exemption Scheme)
496		Application for Registration as a Rough Diamond Trader (including Registration for Rough Diamonds Transhipment Exemption)
497		Application for Registration as a Stockholder of Rice
498		Application for Approval as a Rice Storage Place
499		Application Form for Amendment of Textiles Trader Registration (TTR) Particulars
500		Application Form for Amendment or Cancellation to Certificate of Origin Form A
501		Application Form for Cancellation of Textiles Trader Registration (TTR)
502		Application Form for Hong Kong Service Supplier (HKSS) Certificate (TID 102)
503		Application Form for Registration as Local Importers of Mainland Cereals and Grain Flour
504		Application Form for Renewal of Textiles Trader Registration
505		Application Form for Textiles Trader Registration
506		ASEAN - Hong Kong, China Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA) Proforma Cost Statement for Factory Registration For Goods Subject to the Regional Value Content Requirements
507		Customs Facilitation Measures for Wine Entering the Mainland through Hong Kong: Application Form for Registration as Hong Kong Registered Wine Exporters
508		Customs Facilitation Measures for Wine Entering the Mainland through Hong Kong: Fee Demand Note of Application for Registration as Hong Kong Registered Wine Exporters
509		Customs Facilitation Measures for Wine Entering the Mainland through Hong Kong: Fee Demand Note of Renewal Application for Registration as Hong Kong Registered Wine Exporters
510		Customs Facilitation Measures for Wine Entering the Mainland through Hong Kong: Renewal Application Form for Registration as Hong Kong Registered Wine Exporters
511		Form for Undertaking of Import Quantity of Rice
512		Hong Kong, China - Georgia Free Trade Agreement (HKCGFTA) Proforma Cost Statement for Factory Registration For Goods subject to Regional Value Content Requirements

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
513	Trade and Industry Department	Manufacturers/Sub-contractors Seeking to Apply for Certificate of Hong Kong Origin - New Zealand (CO(NZ)) for Goods falling within Chapter 61 or 62 of the Harmonised System - Written Commitment
514		Registration as Local Importers of Mainland Cereals and Grain Flour - Application Form for Amendment of Registration Particulars
515		Report Form of Monthly Import Quantities of Mainland Cereals and Grain Flour
516		Request for Amendment on Combined Forms for Outward Processing Arrangement
517		Request for Retrieval of E-services User Name/Re-setting of Password of Rice
518		Request for Revising the Undertaking Import Quantity of Rice
519		SME Export Marketing Fund - Application for Funding Support (to be launched by the end of Q1 2020)
520		Textiles Trader Registration (TTR)/Factory Registration (FR) User Login Account (ULA) : Request for Re-setting of Password
521		The Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) Agreement on Trade in Goods (the Agreement) Proforma Cost Statement for CO(CEPA) Application with Mainland Origin Goods and/or Materials (including the Raw Materials and Component Parts) Included in the Regional Value Content using Build-Down Method
522		Application for Renewal of Registration (Kimberley Process Certification Scheme)
523		Application for Amendment of Registration Particulars (Kimberley Process Certification Scheme)
524		Application for Renewal of Registration (Transhipment Cargo Exemption Scheme)
525		E-Account Subscription for Registered Rough Diamond Trader
526		Application Form for Renewal of Hong Kong Service Supplier (HKSS) Certificate
527	Transport and Housing Bureau (Transport Branch)	Application for Access to Information
528	Transport Department	Application Form for Lantau Closed Road Permit & Tung Chung Road Prohibited Zone Permit (TD348)
529		Application for Lantau Closed Road Permit (For Tour Service of Non-franchised Bus Only) (TD348B)
530		Application Form for Subsidy to Taxi or Red Minibus Drivers (The "Public Light Bus and Taxi" fuel subsidy program provided by the "Anti-epidemic Fund" was ended in October 2020, this form is no longer valid)

No.	Name of B/D	Name of the Form
531	Water Supplies Department	Application for Visit of "Excursion with Water Save Dave"
532		Water Safety Plan Subsidy Scheme Application Form
533	Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency	Extended Non-means-tested Loan Scheme (ENLS) (via SFO E-link)
534		Household Application Form For Student Financial Assistance Schemes SFO7B(E)
535		Individual-based Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme Application Form
536		Working Family Allowance Scheme Application Form
537		Continuing Education Fund Application Form

#: Only English version is available

^: Only Chinese version is available

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0724)

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 (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention this year that the Government will continue to oversee the enhancement of public Wi-Fi service. What is the existing coverage rate of public Wi-Fi service? How many Wi-Fi hotspots are covered and what is the average connection speed? Besides, what are the specific measures of the Government in developing Hong Kong into a Wi-Fi connected city? What are the total estimated expenditure, the target coverage rate and the expected completion date?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 71)

Reply:

As at end-February 2021, the number of hotspots under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand was about 40 000, with an average connection speed reaching 20 Mbps or above.

Apart from over 3 000 mobile Wi-Fi hotspots installed in buses, taxis and the Airport Express, the distribution of about 36 700 Wi-Fi hotspots in 18 districts of Hong Kong is as below:

District	Number of hotspots	Coverage (percentage against total number of hotspots)
Hong Kong Island		
Central and Western District	3 603	9.8%
Eastern District	1 676	4.6%
Southern District	2 372	6.5%
Wan Chai	2 306	6.3%
Kowloon		
Kowloon City	4 598	12.5%

District	Number of hotspots	Coverage (percentage against total number of hotspots)
Yau Tsim Mong	2 876	7.8%
Sham Shui Po	1 238	3.4%
Wong Tai Sin	1 154	3.1%
Kwun Tong	1 710	4.7%
New Territories		
Tai Po	673	1.8%
Yuen Long	1 279	3.5%
Tuen Mun	2 300	6.3%
North District	714	1.9%
Sai Kung	1 608	4.4%
Sha Tin	4 407	12.0%
Kwai Tsing	1 301	3.5%
Tsuen Wan	908	2.5%
Islands	1 975	5.4%
Total:	**36 698**	**100%**

The hotspots under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand are distributed at major facilities in various districts, including tourist attractions, shopping malls and stores, restaurants, public libraries, study rooms, youth services centres, community halls, public markets and cooked food centres, sports, cultural and recreational venues, district parks and promenades, sitting-out areas in public rental housing estates, public hospitals, etc. Apart from providing free Wi-Fi service at government venues, we also encourage the industry as well as public and private organisations to join the programme and provide free Wi-Fi service at more venues under the public-private collaboration arrangement. In addition, with a funding allocation of about $205 million from the Lotteries Fund, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched a 4-year pilot scheme to progressively provide Wi-Fi service at around 1 350 service units operated by subvented organisations under SWD from January 2020. SWD also completed the implementation of Wi-Fi service at around 180 welfare facilities which it operates in November 2020.

To develop Hong Kong into a Wi-Fi connected city to provide convenient and free public Wi-Fi service to the public and visitors, we announced in 2016 that we aimed to progressively expand the free Wi-Fi coverage to 34 000 hotspots within 3 years, and the target was achieved in end-2019. The number of hotspots under the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand has currently reached 40 000. We will continue to increase free Wi-Fi hotspots at suitable locations, and will also step up promotional efforts through social media and collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board with an aim to enhance the awareness of the "Wi-Fi.HK" brand among residents and visitors, enabling them to use free Wi-Fi service across the territory more conveniently. Moreover, we will work with the Heung Yee Kuk to implement the Smart Village Pilots by installing free Wi-Fi facilities at rural and village offices, facilitating citizens to access the Internet and various electronic services through Wi-Fi. The estimated expenditure related to implementing free public Wi-Fi service under "Wi-Fi.HK" for 2021-22 is about $70.17 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2017)

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 (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

What is the number of schools benefitted and the average amount of subsidies offered since the launch of the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme?   What specific new equipment has been procured for the schools?   Regarding the "Knowing More About IT" Programme, what is the estimated number of schools that will be benefitted and how will the fund be utilised?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 102)

Reply:

The IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme was open for application in December 2020.   As at early March 2021, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has received applications submitted by 103 secondary schools, of which about 50 applications have been approved.   The average funding for each school is about $400,000 and the total funding involved is about $20 million.   The funding is mainly used to cover the instructors' fees for organising information technology (IT)-related extra-curricular activities as well as the procurement cost of IT equipment required for organising such activities, including personal computers and tablets, artificial intelligence kits, drones, robotic kits, Internet of Things kits and support services related to the activities.

Under the "Knowing More About IT" Programme, OGCIO will provide each of the 536 publicly-funded primary schools in Hong Kong with a funding of up to $400,000 in 3 school years from 2021/22 to 2023/24.   Schools can make use of the funding to organise IT-related extra-curricular activities for their students as well as procure IT equipment and professional services such as cloud services required for organising the activities to stimulate primary school students' interest in IT and strengthen their basic IT knowledge.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0444)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Programme: ()

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 under Programme (2), it is mentioned that the Bureau will continue to oversee the implementation of "iAM Smart" Platform and Multi-functional Smart Lampposts pilot project. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. the estimated administrative cost and manpower involved in achieving this policy initiative;

2. the latest progress and timetable to carry out the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts pilot project;

3. given that grave concern has been expressed over the issue of data collection and use, whether the Government will take public privacy as a consideration when implementing the Smart Lampposts pilot project.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. The estimated expenditure for the implementation of the "iAM Smart" platform in 2021-22 is $63.78 million. The related work will be carried out by the 14 time-limited civil service posts already created.

    The estimated expenditure for the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts Pilot Scheme (Pilot Scheme) is $272 million, including design and manufacture of smart lampposts, smart devices such as sensors, smart device management and data transmission systems as well as installation of lampposts, smart devices, network equipment and telecommunications cabling, electrical and additional road works such as minor utility diversion works, etc. Under the Pilot Scheme,

a total of 13 time-limited civil service posts are created in the Environmental Protection Department, Highways Department and Transport Department, whereas the manpower required by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) is met by internal deployment.

2. & 3. In light of the concerns over privacy expressed by some members of the public, OGCIO established the Smart Lampposts Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc Committee) in August 2019 to review the privacy protection technologies and measures in respect of smart lamppost applications. The Ad Hoc Committee submitted a report to the Government in March 2020, which agreed that smart lampposts are important infrastructure for promoting smart city development and facilitating 5G mobile network development, and recommended that the Government should continue to take forward the Pilot Scheme.

OGCIO briefed the Kwun Tong District Council on the implementation of the Pilot Scheme in Kwun Tong in mid-2020, and has, on the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations, actively explored more privacy-friendly technology solutions and stepped up publicity and public engagement in order to enhance public confidence in the Pilot Scheme. OGCIO is testing the use of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to replace cameras in detection of vehicle speeds and identification of different types of vehicles, and the road test has already started in the first quarter of 2021. If the testing results are satisfactory and subject to the development of the epidemic situation, the pilot installation of the new solution is expected to take place on existing smart lampposts in mid-2021. In addition, OGCIO also launched an online public exhibition in March 2021 to facilitate the public's understanding of the smart devices and their applications on the smart lampposts.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1742)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

As mentioned in the Budget Speech Paragraph 39, the Financial Secretary has mentioned that "the use of online shopping services, video streaming platforms and online conference software has become their new mode of working, studying and entertainment". Under this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:
Whether it will review existing regulations in monitoring online conference service providers in order to enhance online security and privacy; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

During the epidemic, video-conferencing services provide a convenient way for members of the public to communicate and connect with their families and friends, and for staff members of organisations to conduct remote conferencing with customers on business matters. Since most existing commonly used video-conferencing services are conducted on public cloud platforms, the public and organisations should review the terms of service and privacy policy before using these services and choose the appropriate one according to their requirements. Video-conferencing service providers must abide by the relevant legislation of Hong Kong such as the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance.

The Government and the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre (HKCERT) have been closely monitoring the potential risks of video-conferencing services, and disseminating information of relevant security vulnerabilities and solutions, such as recommending users to use video-conferencing software with end-to-end encryption feature and install the latest software updates and patches. HKCERT has also published a cyber security animation video on "Security of Remote Work and Video-Conferencing" through social media to promote relevant security advice to the public. In addition, the

Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data has published practical guidance notes relating to work-from-home arrangements to provide advice to users of video-conferencing service in order to enhance information security and protection of personal data privacy.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

ITB125

(Question Serial No. 0514)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

For the effective prevention of the epidemic, the Government has developed the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app.   The app will store the visit records and such records will be automatically erased after 31 days.   Please inform this Committee of the expenditure on developing the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app and the information on the mobile app developers who have rendered assistance.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

In accordance with the Government's prevailing procurement procedures, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) sought quotations in August 2020 from the standing IT service providers to support the development of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app and the system for proof of concept as well as small scale testing.   The contract was awarded to Cherrypicks Limited based on the assessment results of the procurement exercise.   Since the launch of the app in November 2020, we have been continually enhancing its functions to align with the anti-epidemic measures and improving its effectiveness and user experience.   In 2020-21, the cumulative expenditure on the system development and enhancement of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app is about $3 million, including about $1.1 million for the mobile app and about $1.9 million for the back-end system.

In addition, OGCIO is working in collaboration with several universities on developing new functions, including working with a team from the University of Hong Kong on studying the provision of an automatic visit recording function on the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app through the use of Bluetooth technology, involving a funding support of about $630,000 from the Public Sector Trial Scheme under the Innovation and Technology Commission; collaborating with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) on adopting the batteryless Bluetooth low energy beacon namely LuxBeacon developed by a

research and development team of HKUST for installation on public transport vehicles such as minibuses, involving an expenditure of about $220,000; and working with the Baptist University on developing an auto taxi check-out function using artificial intelligence with no additional expenditure involved.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

ITB126

(Question Serial No. 1787)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

What are the specific plans of the Government to promote the implementation of big data analytics and blockchain applications by bureaux and departments in the coming 3 years? If there are such plans, which bureaux or departments will be responsible for the implementation?   What are the specific expenditures on the plans?   How will these plans enhance the administrative efficiency of the Government?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

In consultation with the relevant bureaux/departments (B/Ds), the required information is consolidated and replied as follows:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) launched the Big Data Analytics Platform in September 2020 to support the implementation of more big data analytics projects.   In the coming 3 years, OGCIO will not only continue to encourage other B/Ds to implement big data analytics, but will also assist them in developing new big data analytics projects as well as provide data analytics advisory and support service.   In addition, OGCIO will continue to follow up on projects which are currently using this platform, including the Transport Department's "Traffic Data Analytics System" that enhances traffic management and efficiency ; assisting the Architectural Services Department, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in performing data analytics to optimise the management and maintenance of public toilets; and assisting the Hongkong Post in analysing historical data of airmail to optimise postal management and improve efficiency. In addition, OGCIO is also analysing the usage and search history of GovHK to better understand users' needs for enhancing the portal and user experience.

OGCIO obtained a funding of $533 million in 2018 for developing the "Next Generation Government Cloud and Big Data Analytics Platform", and the operation and maintenance of the platform is met by existing resources and manpower. We do not maintain the information regarding other B/Ds' expenditures on their applications of big data analytics.

On the application of blockchain, OGCIO completed, in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Department, the Environmental Protection Department and the Department of Health (DH), 3 pilot projects in end-2020 to explore the applicability and benefits of adopting blockchain technology in different e-Government services. The results of the pilot application have been shared with all B/Ds for reference in planning their e-Government services.

In 2020, OGCIO also assisted DH in developing the "Health Code" conversion system with Guangdong Province and Macao to enable recognised medical testing institutions in Hong Kong to upload valid nucleic acid testing results of persons eligible for exemption from compulsory quarantine to DH's "Hong Kong Health Code" system, and using blockchain technology to store records of health code conversion request. The code conversion function from Guangdong's "Yue Kang Code" and Macao's "Macao Health Code" to the electronic Health Declaration Form platform of Hong Kong has been used in the "Return2HK" Scheme launched in November 2020.   In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure for the operation and support of the "Health Code" conversion system is approximately $9.1 million.

Besides, OGCIO is also planning to implement a blockchain platform to facilitate B/Ds to develop blockchain application systems more conveniently.   The platform is expected to be launched in 2022 with an estimated expenditure of about $6 million.

We do not maintain the information regarding other B/Ds' expenditures on their applications of blockchain technology.

- End -

(Question Serial No. 1788)

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 (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Please list out in details the types of data opened up by various bureaux and departments according to the open data policy in the past 3 years, and the types of data to be opened up by the Government in the coming 3 years. Moreover, does the Government have any policies to encourage other public and private organisations as well as enterprises to open up their data so as to promote the development of information technology application in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

According to the Government's new open data policy and implementation measures, unless there are justifiable reasons (e.g. involving personal privacy), bureaux/departments (B/Ds) should in principle endeavour to release their data for free public use via the Public Sector Information (PSI) Portal (data.gov.hk).

Since the implementation of that new policy in 2018, as of end-2020, B/Ds have opened up a total of 1 023 new datasets via the data.gov.hk which involve many different areas including meteorology, traffic, market statistics, price information, registries of accredited/ professional institutions/ persons, etc. According to the third annual open data plans published by B/Ds in December 2020, B/Ds will continue to open up over 190 new datasets involving different areas in the coming 3 years.

Besides, according to the policy, relevant B/Ds are also required to explore feasible solutions in collaboration with relevant public and private organisations, with a view to disseminating more data related to public facilities or with high public interest to the public. Currently, there are 31 public and private organisations releasing their data on the PSI Portal (data.gov.hk), including the real-time arrival data of all the franchised bus operators and the

MTR Corporation Limited (Airport Express, Tung Chung Line, Tseung Kwan O Line and West Rail Line), etc. The Government will continue to encourage public and private organisations to open up their data.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2250)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Government rolled out a host of anti-epidemic IT initiatives in 2020-21, such as facilitating the implementation of the mandatory home quarantine arrangement, various community testing programmes, the vaccination programme, the health code system for cross boundary travel with Guangdong Province and Macao, the information sharing portal to support contact tracing; enhancement of the exposure notification mobile app system; and other anti-epidemic related initiatives.   What are the specific expenditures involved for rolling out these initiatives?   What are the specific expenditures for relevant initiatives in 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

Having regard to the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has launched a series of IT initiatives to support the anti-epidemic, including electronic wristbands and the "StayHomeSafe" system to facilitate the implementation of compulsory quarantine arrangement; the booking, registration and logistics security management systems for the Universal Community Testing Programme; the "Health Code" conversion system to facilitate cross boundary travel with Guangdong Province and Macao; the booking system for the Return2hk Scheme; the online booking system for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and the Electronic Vaccination and Testing Record System; the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app, etc.   Various initiatives were funded by the Anti-epidemic Fund and internal resources of the department. The total expenditure for 2020-21 is about $243.3 million and the estimated expenditure for 2021-22 is about $196.6 million.   The detailed expenditures are as follows:

	Item	2020-21 Revised Estimate ($ million)	2021-22 Estimate ($ million)
1	Facilitate the implementation of compulsory quarantine arrangement (including expenditure for provision of electronic wristbands and related equipment, IT system support, hotline, technical support and the staff for data processing centre, etc.)	171.5	156
2	The Universal Community Testing Programme system and supporting services such as logistics safety management	66.4	N/A^
3	Supporting "Health Code" conversion, cross boundary travel with Guangdong Province and Macao, and the booking system for Return2hk Scheme	N/A^	27.5
4	COVID-19 Electronic Vaccination and Testing Record System	0.1	N/A^
5	"LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app	5.3	1.5
6	Registration System for the Electronic Consumption Vouchers	N/A^	11.6
	Total	**243.3**	**196.6**

^ Funded by the Food and Health Bureau/the Department of Health

- End -

Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2255)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Government plans to work in collaboration with the Transport Department to launch a
traffic data analytics system in 2021-22 for the enhancement of traffic management and
transport efficiency.   What are the specific details of this plan?   What is the amount of
expenditure involved?   How far, as expected by the Government, will this plan be able to
help improve Hong Kong's current traffic condition?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

To promote the "Smart Mobility" development, the Office of the Government Chief
Information Officer (OGCIO) and the Transport Department (TD) are jointly developing a
"Traffic Data Analytics System", by making use of big data analytics, to analyse various
traffic and transport data for achieving more accurate analysis and assessment of traffic
conditions, optimising traffic management and improving efficiency.   System
implementation is underway and expected to be completed in end-2021.   Relevant data
analytics results will be disseminated through TD's "HKeMobility" mobile application and
the "data.gov.hk" portal in machine-readable formats starting from the second half of 2022.
The implementation of the "Traffic Data Analytics System" is met by existing manpower of
OGCIO and TD, and the expenditure is around $6.3 million.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22   Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

ITB130

(Question Serial No. 2257)

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 (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

What are the specific plans of the Government in promoting the "iAM Smart" in the coming 3 years?   What are the expenditures incurred?   Has the Government set any promotion target?   How many Hong Kong people and the public and private organisations are expected to use the "iAM Smart" in the coming 3 years?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

To promote the "iAM Smart" platform, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) takes a number of measures to step up publicity, including publishing promotional videos and latest information on "iAM Smart" through the thematic website and different media platforms such as television, radio, MTR stations and bus stops. Moreover, by leveraging on the launch of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, OGCIO deploys mobile registration teams in the Community Vaccination Centres to assist the public in registering "iAM Smart" on-the-spot so as to facilitate them to download the electronic vaccination record through the "iAM Smart" app.   Depending on the development of the epidemic, OGCIO will further deploy mobile registration teams at shopping malls and government premises, and set up self-registration kiosks at different locations such as MTR stations, shopping malls, sports centres to promote "iAM Smart" and facilitate registration for "iAM Smart" by members of the public.   The estimated expenditures for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are about $63.78 million and $65.26 million respectively, which include the expenditure of the promotion programme.   The estimated expenditure for 2023-24 and onwards will be evaluated after 2 years subject to the actual operational needs of the "iAM Smart" platform.

In addition to arranging government services to adopt the "iAM Smart" platform, OGCIO also actively promotes and supports public organisations (such as the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority and Hospital Authority) and private organisations to adopt "iAM

Smart" in their online services. OGCIO, in collaboration with Cyberport, launched the "iAM Smart" Sandbox Programme (Sandbox) in March 2020, enabling financial institutions as well as companies engaging in FinTech-related business at Cyberport and Hong Kong Science and Technology Park to conduct testing. The Sandbox was progressively extended to the information and communications technology sector to facilitate different industries' development of more application solutions adopting "iAM Smart". As at mid-March 2021, around 240 organisations have registered to participate in the Sandbox. In particular, an insurance company has successfully adopted "iAM Smart" to verify identities of the customers purchasing its medical insurance. According to the current testing progress, we anticipate that starting from the second quarter of 2021, more financial institutions will progressively launch their services that adopt "iAM Smart". We believe that when organisations from different sectors progressively start testing and become familiar with the application of "iAM Smart" in their business, more and more public and private organisations will participate in the "iAM Smart" platform, and the public will more readily register and use "iAM Smart" to experience the convenience brought by the platform.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2259)

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 (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

What is the specific plan for the implementation of the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts pilot scheme in the coming three years? What is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

In light of the concerns over privacy expressed by some members of the public, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) established the Smart Lampposts Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc Committee) in August 2019 to review the privacy protection technologies and measures in respect of smart lamppost applications. The Ad Hoc Committee submitted a report to the Government in March 2020, which agreed that smart lampposts are important infrastructure for promoting smart city development and facilitating 5G mobile network development, and recommended that the Government should continue to take forward the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts Pilot Scheme (Pilot Scheme).

OGCIO briefed the Kwun Tong District Council on the implementation of the Pilot Scheme in Kwun Tong in mid-2020, and has, on the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations, actively explored more privacy-friendly technology solutions and stepped up publicity and public engagement in order to enhance public confidence in the Pilot Scheme. OGCIO is testing the use of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to replace cameras in detection of vehicle speeds and identification of different types of vehicles, and the road test has already started in the first quarter of 2021. If the testing results are satisfactory and subject to the development of the epidemic situation, the pilot installation of the new solution is expected to take place on existing smart lampposts in mid-2021. In addition, OGCIO also launched an online public exhibition in March 2021 to facilitate the public's understanding of the smart devices and their applications on the smart lampposts.

The estimated expenditure for the Pilot Scheme is $272 million, including the design and manufacture of smart lampposts, smart devices such as sensors, smart device management and data transmission systems, as well as installation of lampposts, smart devices, network equipment and telecommunications cabling, electrical and additional road works such as minor utility diversion works, etc.   We will continue to, in accordance with the Government's prevailing funding mechanism, seek funding from the Capital Works Reserve Fund (CWRF) block allocation Subhead 6100TX under Head 706 (Highways) and Subhead A007GX under Head 710 (Computerisation) to cover the costs having regard to the implementation timetable and resources required for the phased installation.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ITB132

(Question Serial No. 2615)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The expenditure on the Use of Information Technology in Government for 2021-22 is $820 million, which exceeds the expenditure of $647 million for 2020-21 by $173 million and represents an increase of as high as 26.7%. What are the specific details of the additional expenditure?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

Under the Programme "Use of Information Technology in Government", the estimated total expenditure for 2021-22 is $820.2 million, which is $172.8 million higher than the revised estimate for the previous year. This is mainly due to an increase of about $167.6 million in expenditure for the combat against the COVID-19 epidemic and about $8.5 million mainly in departmental expenses. This increase is partly offset by the reduced requirement for scheduled replacement of minor plant and equipment of about $2.7 million and the decreased provision for personal emoluments of about $600,000.

Out of the increased expenditure of $172.8 million in 2021-22, the estimated expenditure for tackling the COVID-19 epidemic is about $167.6 million. The details of the expenditure breakdown are as follows:

	Item	2021-22 Estimate ($ million)
1	Support the mandatory quarantine arrangement (including electronic wristbands and related equipment, IT system support and staff cost for the hotline, technical support and information processing centre, etc.)	127
2	Support the "Health Code" data conversion, booking systems for cross boundary travel to and from Guangdong Province and Macao and the "Return2hk" Scheme	27.5
3	"LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app	1.5
4	Electronic consumption voucher registration system	11.6
	Total	**167.6**

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1000)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

In November 2020, the Government launched the "LeaveHomeSafe" COVID-19 exposure notification mobile app (the App).   Tapping technology to combat the pandemic, the App aims to encourage the public to keep a more precise record of their whereabouts, minimising the risk of further transmission of the virus.   Please advise on the following:

1.   How many people have downloaded the App?
2.   How many confirmed patients or their close contacts have provided their visit records to the Centre for Health Protection via the App?
3.   How many public and private venues have displayed the venue QR code?
4.   What are the designated premises which have to require entrants to scan the venue QR code?   Will the scope of designated premises be expanded so that the public can have a more detailed record of their whereabouts?
5.   Will the functions of the App be expanded in order to notify persons who have to undergo compulsory testing via the App?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1.   As at 7 April 2021, the number of downloads of the LeaveHomeSafe mobile app exceeds 3.73 million.

2.   As at 7 April 2021, about 240 confirmed or preliminarily confirmed patients have provided their visit records to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) through the mobile app.

3.   As at 7 April 2021, over 82 000 public and private venues have participated in the scheme to display "LeaveHomeSafe" venue Quick Response (QR) code for members

of the public to scan and record their visits, of which about 19 000 are public venues and over 63 000 are private venues.

4. The fourth wave of the epidemic has been gradually subsiding since early February. Having regard to the overall epidemic situation, the Government has conditionally relaxed social distancing measures since 18 February in a gradual manner to resume social and economic activities. According to the directions and specifications issued under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) and effective from 1 to 14 April 2021, catering businesses may extend their dine-in service hours to 10 p.m. and up to 4 persons can be arranged to be seated at a table. 8 types of scheduled premises, i.e. amusement game centres, fitness centres, places of amusement, places of public entertainment, beauty parlours, massage establishments sports premises and swimming pools may be reopened as well. Moreover, some specified outdoor sports premises may be reopened from 4 February 2021.

As announced by the Government in early February, the relaxation of social distancing measures can be taken on the premise that the catering businesses and 8 types of scheduled premises under Cap. 599F must adopt 2 new infection control measures in order to reduce the transmission risks at these premises. One of the new measures is related to the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app, which requires users to scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" venue QR code with their mobile phones or register their names, contact numbers and the date and time of their visits before they are allowed to enter the premises. Such records will be kept for 31 days. If the catering businesses under Cap. 599F opt to maintain their dine-in service hours to end at 6 p.m. and up to 2 persons are arranged to be seated at a table, then they are not required to adopt the aforesaid 2 new infection control measures, including the requirement related to scanning the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app.

Depending on the latest development of the epidemic situation, the Government will also require the scheduled premises that are to be reopened to adopt the aforesaid 2 new infection control measures when social distancing measures are further relaxed.

5. We will enhance the notification function of "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app in April. Apart from issuing notifications to users who have visited the same venues that a COVID-19 confirmed case has also visited at about the same time, compulsory testing notifications and exposure notifications will also be, where necessary, issued to users who have visited high-risk venues and users who have visited places in the vicinity of high-risk venues respectively to further support the anti-epidemic work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1459)

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

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

In 2020-21, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer assisted which government departments in sourcing innovative information technology (IT) solutions to meet their business needs through the Smart Government Innovation Lab (Smart Lab)? What types of solutions are involved and what are the specific details of each solution? Which government departments will be expected to source innovative IT solutions through the Smart Lab in 2021-22 and what are the major types of solutions involved? Has the Bureau assessed the operation and effectiveness of the Smart Lab? If yes, what are the results and response measures, including whether the use of the Smart Lab will be further strengthened?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

In 2020-21, the Smart Government Innovation Lab (Smart Lab) matched the business needs of 14 government departments including the Social Welfare Department, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency, with solutions for the provision of services such as psychological treatment, security management and enquiry handling through the use of Internet of Things, innovative virtual reality and chatbot, etc.

Since its establishment in April 2019, the Smart Lab has matched the business needs of 44 departments with solutions, and in the process, 56 thematic workshops have been arranged for relevant departments, involving technologies such as Internet of Things, blockchain, data analytics, natural language processing, artificial intelligence and robotics technology, etc. The Smart Lab has arranged proof-of-concept for more than 20 solutions with potential in collaboration with relevant departments, covering various departments and business needs, including assisting the departments in optimising manpower, speeding up the workflow and reducing processing time through the use of innovative technologies and

equipment such as robotics technology and data analytics.   The Smart Lab has also set up a thematic website setting out some 100 problems faced by various public services and invited the industry to submit over 320 technology solutions and product suggestions for addressing such problems.

In the future, the Smart Lab will continue to arrange activities to enhance government departments' understanding of innovative technology, as well as to arrange testing and proof-of-concept for solutions that meet the needs of relevant departments.

- End -

(Question Serial No. 1460)

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 (Victor LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Regarding the adoption of "iAM Smart" by the public and private organisations in 2020-21, how many private organisations have adopted "iAM Smart" and what are the nature of their major lines of business involved?   Is the Government satisfied with the adoption of "iAM Smart" and whether the original objectives are achieved?   What are the numbers of new public and private organisations expected to adopt "iAM Smart" in 2021-22 and what is the percentage of private organisations?   What are the measures to attract and encourage more public and private organisations to adopt "iAM Smart"?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

The one-stop personalised digital services platform "iAM Smart" was launched in end-December 2020.   As at mid-March 2021, around 30 commonly used government online services and 4 public utilities and private organisations have adopted "iAM Smart", including the 2 power companies, the gas company and an insurance company.   It is expected that by mid-2021, more than 110 online services of the Government, public and private organisations will be accessible through "iAM Smart".   We believe that with more and more online services of the Government, public and commercial organisations participating in the "iAM Smart" platform, the public will more readily register and use "iAM Smart" to experience the convenience brought by the platform.

In addition to arranging government services to adopt the "iAM Smart" platform, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) also actively promotes and supports public organisations (such as the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority and Hospital Authority) and private organisations to adopt "iAM Smart" in their online services. OGCIO, in collaboration with Cyberport, launched the "iAM Smart" Sandbox Programme (Sandbox) in March 2020, enabling financial institutions as well as companies engaging in FinTech-related business at Cyberport and Hong Kong Science and Technology Park to

conduct testing. The Sandbox was progressively extended to the information and communications technology sector to facilitate different industries' development of more application solutions using "iAM Smart". As at mid-March 2021, around 240 organisations have registered to participate in the Sandbox. In particular, an insurance company has successfully adopted "iAM Smart" to verify identities of the customers purchasing its medical insurance. According to the current testing progress, we anticipate that starting from the second quarter of 2021, more financial institutions will progressively launch their services that adopt "iAM Smart". We believe that when organisations from different sectors progressively start testing and become familiar with the application of "iAM Smart" in their business, more and more public and private organisations will participate in the "iAM Smart" platform.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3089)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Victor Lam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

In 2021-22, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer will work in collaboration with the Transport Department to launch a traffic data analytics system for the enhancement of traffic management and transport efficiency. In this regard, what is the latest progress of related work? What is the anticipated earliest implementation date of the system? What is the estimated annual expenditure for the operation and maintenance of the system as well as the manpower required respectively?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) awarded the contract for implementing the "Traffic Data Analytics System" in October 2020. The system implementation is underway and expected to be completed in end-2021. Relevant data analytics results will be disseminated through the "HKeMobility" mobile application of the Transport Department (TD) and the "data.gov.hk" portal in machine-readable formats starting from the second half of 2022. The operation and maintenance of the system will be met by existing manpower of OGCIO and TD, and the estimated annual expenditure is around $0.93M.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0060)

Head: (26) Census and Statistics Department

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: (5) Price/Industry/Service Statistics

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Census and Statistics (Marion CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

Amendments were made to the Inland Revenue Ordinance in late 2018 to provide for enhanced tax reduction for qualifying R&D expenditure so as to encourage enterprises to devote resources to local research and development (R&D).   Will the Government inform this Committee of the total expenditure on local R&D in 2019 and 2020, its respective ratios to the Gross Domestic Product and the amount of investment capital from public and private sectors?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

In 2019, the gross domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) of Hong Kong (i.e. total expenditure on in-house R&D activities performed locally) amounted to $26.3 billion, representing 0.92% as a ratio to Gross Domestic Product.   The expenditure on in-house R&D activities performed in the higher education, business and government sectors was $13.4 billion, $11.6 billion and $1.3 billion respectively.   Relevant figures for 2020 will be released by the end of 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING   OFFICER'S   REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3223)

Head: (111) Innovation and Technology Fund: Innovation and Technology

Subhead (No. & title):   ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Ms Rebecca PUN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Question:

The Innovation and Technology Venture Fund has invested more than $100 million in 19 local start-ups over the past 2 years. Please provide the details of the said local start-ups invested, their industrial sectors and returns, as well as the investment criteria.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The Government set up the $2 billion Innovation and Technology Venture Fund (ITVF) with an aim to encourage venture capital investment in local innovation and technology (I&T) start-ups and create a more vibrant I&T ecosystem in Hong Kong. The ITVF co-invests with co-investment partners (CP) at a matching ratio of approximately 1 (Government): 2 (CP).

As at March 2021, the ITVF has invested more than $100 million in 19 local I&T start-ups, attracting private investment of over $500 million. For details of the start-ups and their business sectors, please refer to Annex. The ITVF may receive investment returns through the receipt of dividends from the start-ups or the sale of equity stakes. While there is no plan for the ITVF to sell its equity holding, it has received dividend of approximately $1.3 million, accounting for about 1.3% of the total investment. Regarding the investment criteria, CPs will put forth investment proposals to us, having considered factors such as the start-ups' business, financial position, growth potential etc. We will consider whether the investment project contains any I&T elements, whether the investee company has sufficient business operation in Hong Kong, and whether its business is inconsistent with government policies or legislation, etc., and consult the ITVF Advisory Committee before making investment decisions.

	Investee Company	**Investment Amount of the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund (HK$)**	**Business Sector**
1	International Compliance Workshop (BVI) Limited	9.36 million	Supply chain management
2	Yoho Group Holding Limited	13 million	Electronic commerce
3	Salvio Holdings Limited	18 million	Software
4	FP International Limited	3.9 million	Financial technology
5	Genvida Technology Company Limited	2.89 million	Biotechnology
6	Maphive Technology Investment Limited	7.8 million	Indoor mapping
7	CW Capital Holdings	2.58 million	Financial technology
8	enabot	3.9 million	Consumer electronics
9	WBD101 Holdings (BVI) Limited	5.85 million	Hardware
10	CYC Motor Holding Limited	3.6 million	Consumer electronics
11	Stayplease Limited	5.07 million	Software
12	Robotics Cats Limited	1.56 million	Wildfire detection
13	JSAB Holding Limited	3.28 million	Hardware
14	Zhimadi Technology Inc.	4.68 million	Software
15	Aigniter Holdings Limited	1.56 million	Software
16	Atalon International Limited	4.68 million	Software
17	freeD Group Inc.	2.58 million	Electronic commerce
18	RaSpect Group Holding Limited	1.95 million	Building inspection
19	Kin Shun Information Technology Holdings Limited	5.31 million	Logistics

- End -