

Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund

Annual Report in the 2012/13 Academic Year

Further Injection to the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund

The Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund (SPEF) with a commitment of \$2.5 billion was established in August 2011 to support worthwhile initiatives and schemes that aim to enhance the quality of self-financing post-secondary education.

2. An additional \$1 billion was injected into SPEF in 2012 to support more scholarships and awards in recognition of post-secondary students with not only outstanding academic performance but also achievements and talents in non-academic fields. Two scholarship and award, namely the Talent Development Scholarship (TDS) and the Reaching Out Award (ROA) were introduced in the 2012/13 academic year.

3. SPEF was set up as a trust with the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated acts as its trustee. The investment income from SPEF was used to support the following two main schemes –

(a) Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme

4. For the 2012/13 academic year, there were four types of scholarships/awards under the Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme (SPSS), namely the Outstanding Performance Scholarship (OPS), the Best Progress Award (BPA), and the new TDS and ROA:

OPS

5. OPS was offered to students with –

- (a) a high standard of academic performance;
- (b) demonstration of leadership and good communication skills;

- (c) valuable contribution to the institution/community; and/or
- (d) a strong commitment to the Hong Kong community.

For undergraduate and top-up degree students, the amounts of scholarship for each local and non-local awardee were \$40,000 and \$80,000 per year respectively. For sub-degree students, the amount of scholarship for each local or non-local student was \$30,000 per year.

BPA

6. BPA was established to encourage and recognise students with significant progress and improvement in their studies. Each undergraduate or sub-degree awardee would be granted \$10,000, irrespective of whether he/she was a local or non-local student.

TDS

7. TDS gave recognition to students who had demonstrated achievements or talent in non-academic areas and provided support to these students to further develop their talent and potential. Each undergraduate and sub-degree recipient would be granted \$10,000, irrespective of whether he/she was a local or non-local student.

ROA

8. ROA supported meritorious students who were nominated by institutions to participate in learning, internship or service programmes, as well as national, regional and international events and competitions that were to be conducted outside Hong Kong and organised/endorsed by institutions. Each undergraduate or sub-degree awardee would be granted \$10,000, irrespective of whether he/she was a local or non-local student.

Distribution of Award/Scholarship

9. In the 2012/13 academic year, a total of 2 599 awardees, including 1 744 students studying sub-degree programmes and 855 pursuing undergraduate programmes from 35 participating institutions, received about \$56 million under SPSS. Among them, 1 247 students were granted OPS, 333 students were awarded BPA, 466 students

received TDS and 553 students were selected for ROA.

(b) Quality Enhancement Support Scheme

10. The Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS) supported two types of projects, namely theme-based projects and open-ended projects. Theme-based projects should normally be joint initiatives developed by multiple institutions to foster closer collaboration among institutions and benefit the sector as widely as possible. With reference to the development and needs of the sector, the themes for the 2012/13 round of applications were set to be –

- (a) Joint institutions' platform for sharing of resources (e.g. e-library, common curriculum on general education and language courses to facilitate recognition and transfer of credits, etc.);
- (b) Joint institutions' information technology platform for improving teaching and learning, enhancing student support and career guidance services; and
- (c) Joint institutions' project in preparing students for further studies or employment.

Approved Projects in the 2012/13 Round of Applications

11. In the 2012/13 round of applications, a total of 11 projects were approved including two theme-based projects and nine open-ended projects. The total grant committed amounted to more than \$73 million. Details of the approved projects are at **Annex**.

12. One of the approved theme-based projects was the proposal by five degree-awarding institutions to establish a joint e-library and inter-library loan system. The project aimed to build a next generation library system and to enrich the e-book collections. The new library system could facilitate resources-sharing, searching and information discovery. It was envisaged that over 30 000 students and teachers would benefit from this project upon system delivery.

13. The second theme-based project was a joint initiative by two institutions to develop interactive e-learning modules on science subjects mainly for secondary school leavers articulating to related post-secondary programmes. An online platform and an interactive outcome-based learning and teaching package would be designed.

14. As for the nine open-ended projects, they focused on the development of teaching and learning tools, the enhancement of career guidance services and employability of post-secondary graduates and the upgrading of an information system.

Secretariat, Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund

Annex

Approved QESS Projects in the 2012/13 Round of Applications

Theme-based Projects

Principal Applicant	Project Title	Grant Amount
The Open University of Hong Kong	Collection Sharing and Information Discovery System with Enriched Digital Content	\$50,772,660
Vocational Training Council	Development of Transitional Modules Towards Post-secondary Science Education via Interactive E-learning Platform	\$4,113,820
Total		\$54,886,480

Open-ended Projects

Applicant	Project Title	Grant Amount
Caritas Bianchi College of Careers	Comprehensive Career Development Programme	\$1,849,080
Career Institute of Higher Education	Laboratory for Self Understanding and Growth through Awareness and Reflection Project (SUGAR)	\$1,209,000
Chu Hai College of Higher Education	Enhancement of Learning Good Practices in Business Social Responsibility	\$1,823,062
Hong Kong Art School (a division of Hong Kong Arts Centre)	Art Span - Online Research Platform	\$1,757,000

Hong Kong Shue Yan University	Enhancement of Career Guidance Services	\$1,894,098
Tung Wah College	Developing Effective and Interactive Clinical Simulation Learning and Teaching Kits	\$1,844,000
Vocational Training Council	Enhancing Outcome-Based Learning and Teaching with Contextual Learning Approach and e-Learning Support	\$1,618,875
Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education	Teacher Competency Framework and Related Outcome-Based Professional Development Programme for Teachers of Self-Financing Post-Secondary Education Sector	\$2,863,000
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications	HKCAAVQ IT Infrastructure Development Project	\$4,000,000
Total		\$18,858,115