II	**Project Information**	
Project Title (in English) Online Advising Support and Interactive Study System 2.0 (OASISS 2.0)		Project Title (in Chinese) 網上輔導支援及互動學習系統 2.0（輔・學・網 2.0）

A. Project Summary

(please provide an executive summary of the project proposal in no more than 500 words).

More often than not, innovative ideas, new pedagogical approaches, and teaching tools, pop up quite randomly on a higher education campus. Some of these tools, electronic and otherwise, are instrumental to the learning of many students under different scenarios and contexts. These random acts of innovation benefit from institution-wide coordination so that they can become sustainable and well up-to-date. Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE) and Caritas Bianchi College of Careers (CBCC) have spawned a number of initiatives in the past several years and some of these quality enhancement projects were implemented before the debut of that wonderful scheme known as QEGS.

The project described below is known as OASISS 2.0 (Online Advising Support and Interactive Study System). The project is an extension of the original OASISS project and many common features are evident. Indeed all current hardware, software, and OASIS personnel will be utilized. This extension project is important because it brings together a range of "old" projects that need revamping, but because it transforms a range of disparate routines into a one-stop-shop that will unify all initiatives into one single platform with the hope that all resources can be utilized efficiently and effectively. It is expected that OASISS 2.0 will be sufficiently robust that it can be shared within our campuses and across the learning community as a whole.

OASISS was part of the first group of projects supported by QEGS and was completed in December 2010. All components of the project continue to gain support from Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE) and Caritas Bianchi College of Careers (CBCC). (That is OASISS continues as a boon to students on different campuses of the two colleges.) The achievement so far has not only received good reviews from our students, but it has also gained international recognition. The Committee of the Stockholm Challenge Award has recently declared OASISS as the winner of the Award in the Education Category (http://www.stockholmchallenge.org/challenge-2010/education).

There are three components in OASISS and all have well received by students resulting in a very positive and immediate impact on student learning. These components are (i) language enhancement, (ii) academic advising, and (iii) course selection. We now propose to expand and build on these components to cover (a) advising before enrolment; (b) a virtual language centre (VLC); (The VLC will be achieved through online conversion of current features offered in the physical Language Centres.) (c) an expert system to support the e-Assessment system; (This will be achieved through integration into OASISS, of the continuing e-Assessment project.) and (d) integration of e-learning systems of CIHE and CBCC (e-learning initiatives such as our home-grown e-learning platform WebTL) into OASISS 2.0 making OASISS 2.0 a portal for learning (including a mobile version) for the students in the two colleges as well as for students in the sector.

On completion, OASISS 2.0 will incorporate (a) a Web-based programme selection guide, (b) a virtual Language Centre, (c) an intelligent e-Assessment system for learning; and (d) a learning portal/App called OASISS 2.0 will be in operation.

B.   Project Objectives

(please identify the needs of the target recipients and explain how the project aims to address the needs).

OASISS 2.0 will address the shortcomings of OASISS, which is in its first academic year, after all features had been implemented and fully tested in 2010. Though the English and Putonghua Clinics have been proven to be well received and useful, the follow-up on each individual student has been problematic as a result of the size of the workload involved. To automate this part together with the soon-to-be completed project e-Assessment makes perfect sense pedagogically and economically.

The OASISS 2.0 project aims to:

- -build on the existing OASISS system;
- -provide pre-enrolment counseling with the intention to help student decide on subject area based on multiple criteria such as learning styles, multiple intelligence, and personality traits.
- -provide a ubiquitous teaching and learning environment starting from learning studies in English and Putonghua;
- -develop learning materials to support the Expert System;
- -foster a campus culture of support through the Internet, thus building a sharing and caring educational environment;
- -help instructors gauge the learning of students in an individualized manner; and
- -   provide a unified platform for both student support and student learning through the use of technology.

C.   Outcomes and Deliverables of Project

(please include the expected number of target beneficiaries and explain how they will benefit from the project).

By 2013, over 2,500 full-time sub-degree and degree students, as well as over 100 academic staff, will benefit from all the components of this project.   Besides existing features of the OASISS projects, the new deliverables, of OASISS 2.0 will include:

1. Cyber Language Centre consisting of

   -an intelligent e-Assessment tool for learning languages;
   -an interactive learning data-space;
   -a creative writing e-platform;

2. Academic Advising, including a web-based pre-enrolment guide;

3. A learning portal/ mobile App; and

4. A unified e-learning system that has all the features of OASISS and OASISS 2.0.

All students in the self-financed section will be allowed to use the asynchronous components of this project, however, no database will be used to track each individual student's progress.

D. Implementation Details

There are three major additions to OASISS to form OASISS 2.0. They are (a) the Cyber Language Centre; (b) a mobile App; and (c) an expert system behind e-Assessment.

Cyber Learning Centre

The CIHE LC was established in February 2000 and it offers diverse and flexible ways for students to increase their language proficiency. Learning materials in the LC include books and videos while services in the LC can be classified as (i) language enhancement courses; (ii) consultation services including Language clinics; and (iii) other information dispensing services such as newsletters, orientations, and international examination information. While the part relating to the English Clinic and the Putonghua Clinic has gone cyber in a major way in the original OASISS, some of the language enhancement features have been taken up by e-Assessment (another QEGS project). We intend to build a vibrant and borderless environment of language learning through a Cyber Language Centre. Besides turning all learning tools and materials into cyber format to be made accessible by portable devices such as iPad, we intend to:

1. develop a user-friendly mobile application that is accessible to all students;

2. convert all paper-based learning materials into web-based ones;

3. provide more diverse language learning modes, especially e-resources, by which students can gradually establish their interests towards language; and

4. encourage collaborative writing and peer learning.

A Mobile App

The use of computers is unarguably ubiquitous and it is most pervasive among students from ages 17 to 22 (the age group in our sector). To be able to learn and teach anywhere anytime, we propose to incrementally introduce an App for all tools and materials developed thus far in OASISS. The App will allow end users to download and access OASISS learning materials anywhere and anytime, so that language learning is no longer constrained by limited time and space. The App is not limited to iPhone users but is open to all iTunes (downloadable free-of-charge) users, and some text materials are also accessible without the Internet, which also encourages users to adjust and design a tailor-made learning plan at their own pace. There are three different types of learning tools to be provided through the App:

a. Teaching materials in the format of PowerPoint with the commentary of a lecturer, allowing students to pick the topics at their interest; for example, if a student wants to revise the usage of sentence conjunctions, he/she may visit the App and seek lectures on related topics;

b. Video archive of seminars and lectures given by visiting scholars and guest speakers, so that students are able to view/review the live recorded presentations even if they have missed the event;

c. Animated short films to introduce practical oral skills and interesting cultural facts, to broaden student horizons on language learning and nurture their cultural awareness.

An Expert System behind e-Assessment

The proposed Expert System is to classify and identify the species of domain knowledge to be learned by students. It is used to assist students in the process of learning the domain. The Expert System can choose a suitable level and learning materials of the subject based on a student's learning abilities. These materials can be recommended to students based on the results of the e-Assessment or the online Clinic.

This expert system will not only keep a log of the progress of each individual student within a learning domain, it should also provide instantaneous diagnostic results and select different instructional strategies and learning materials to support students.

Implementation Schedule

The project will take 24 months to complete following the schedule below:

No	Item	Duration (months)	2012				2013			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	Acquisition of hardware and software	6								
2	Building an expert system	6								
3	Building a learning data-space	3								
4	Create a platform for e-writing	3								
5	Mobile app	12								
6	Pre-enrolment guide	9								
7	Integrate with OASISS	9								
8	Testing	9								
9	Debut of OASISS 2.0	3								

E. **Implementation Schedule** *(Please extend this table if necessary.)*

Estimated start date of project: 1 January 2012

Action *(please indicate key milestones)*	Timeframe	Cashflow Requirement
• Acquisition of hardware and software • Building an expert system • Building a learning data-space • Create an e-writing platform • Development of mobile apps • Develop the pre-enrolment guide	January 2012 to June 2012	672,000
• Complete the prototype of the expert system • Complete the prototype of the development of mobile apps	July 2012 to December 2012	451,100
• Test the prototype of mobile apps • Start the integration with OASISS • Start the testing of the system	January 2013 to June 2013	312,400
• Fine tune the system • Debut of the OASISS 2.0	July 2013 to December 2013	159,500

Estimated completion date of project: 31 December 2013

F.　　Project Budget

Projected Expenditure *(Please provide detailed breakdown under each item)*	Amount in HK$					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
a.　Manpower	1,452,000	726,000				2,178,000 *(Amount to be borne by the College: $1,242,000)*
b.　Equipment / Facilities	608,800	800				609,600 *(Amount to be borne by the College: $236,000)*
c.　Services	538,400	38,400				576,800 *(Amount to be borne by the College: $326,800)*
d.　General Expenses	23,700	13,700				37,400 *(Amount to be borne by the College: $10,000)*
e.　Others (e.g. auditor's fee)	-	8,000				8,000
Total Expenditure :	**2,622,900**	**786,900**				**3,409,800**

Projected Income	Amount in HK$					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
a.　(e.g. fees received)						
b.						
c.						
Total Income :						

Sources of Funding

a.　Amount of grant sought under this application:　　**HK$1,595,000**

b.　Other sources of funding *(this may include donations, contributions from the applicant/its parent organization, etc.　Please give the name(s) of the sponsor(s), the amount of funding, and indicate whether the funding has been secured.)*:

(i)　　The two Colleges will furnish HK$1,814,800 for the project.

(ii)

(iii)

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G. Monitoring and Self-evaluation Mechanism

This project will be monitored by regular check-ups and acceptance tests throughout the two years as stated in Section D Implementation Details. The technical check-up will be conducted by senior management of the two colleges while the effectiveness of the whole project will be measured after the launching of OASISS 2.0. The project team plans to use both qualitative and quantitative analysis to gauge the effectiveness of the project before any further developments or adjustments are considered.

H. Management Support and Key Personnel Involved

The key personnel include:

a. the President of the two Colleges;

b. the Vice President (Academic and Research) of the two Colleges;

c. the Director of the Centre for Excellence;

d. the Director of the Language Centre;

e. Head of Department of General Education and Language Studies;

f. Head of Information Technology Services Centre; and

g. the Deans of the two Colleges.

I. Special Justifications if the Grant Sought Exceeds $2 million

Nil

III Other information

1 Project Sustainability *(If applicable, please describe how the recurrent expenditure involved will be met after completion of the proposed project)*

The College is committed to absorb the recurrent expenditure including manpower needs, service charges, and all software maintenance charges.

2 Preparatory work done *(If any)*

Caritas Institute of Higher Education has successfully completed the original OASISS project which was well received by students and faculty members.   The Language Centre has been running for 10 years in the face-to-face mode and the language clinics went cyber in 2010.

3 Past experience in organizing projects of similar or relevant nature and achievements *(If any)*

The person in charge of the project, Professor Reggie Kwan, has extensive experience in leading e-learning projects in the two universities he served before joining Caritas. He has published over 55 papers and 8 books in e-learning and he is well respected in this area.

The original OASISS project won the Stockholm Challenge Award in the education category (http://www.stockholmchallenge.org/challenge-2010/education). In other words, the project OASISS received outside affirmation in the most gratifying way.   The project OASISS 2.0 will take this quality enhancement project to another level – comprehensive and cutting edge.