

# COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Education and Publicity Sub-Committee

Paper 01/06

### **Sustainable Development Fund Fourth Round of Applications**

#### **Purpose**

This paper invites Members' views on various issues related to the invitation of the fourth round of applications to the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

#### **Proposal**

2. Members are invited to –
  - (a) note the results of the third round of SDF applications as set out in paragraphs 3 to 4 below;
  - (b) consider the priority areas for the fourth round of SDF applications, as well as the tips for prospective applicants on producing quality SDF proposals, as suggested in paragraphs 7 to 11 below; and
  - (c) note and comment on the proposed arrangements for the launch of the fourth round of SDF applications as outlined in paragraphs 12 to 14 below.

#### **Results of the Third Round of SDF Applications**

3. At the special EPSC meeting on 12 January 2006, Members agreed to recommend the following four projects submitted under the third round of applications for approval -

- (a) SDF180 - A Musical Drama "Seven Days in the Mountain" by *James Y. C. Cheung* - \$250,000 over a period of 14 months;
- (b) SDF212 – Sustainable Development Community Building and Youth Education in Tai Kok Tsui by *Life Workshop* - \$173,040 over a period of 12 months;

- (c) SDF208 – Community Sustainable Development Workshop by the *Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres* - \$777,035 over a period of 36 months; and
- (d) SDF193 – Reporting Sustainability in Hong Kong: A First Attempt by *Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management (CUPEM), the University of Hong Kong* - \$495,000 over a period of 12 months.

4. As the amount of grant sought by the applicant of SDF208 is over \$500,000, approval from the Council for Sustainable Development (SD) is required. In February 2006, the Council for SD was consulted on, and eventually endorsed, the EPSC recommendation of approving the project. As the Controlling Officer, the Director of Administration subsequently authorized the award of grants under the SDF to the four approved projects. Agreements for the four projects are being prepared and will be executed according to schedule.

5. A total of 14 projects have been approved under the first three rounds of applications. Three of them have been completed, viz. (i) “Education for Sustainable Development in Primary Schools” by the *Centre for University and School Partnership, Faculty of Education, the Chinese University Hong Kong* (completed in March 2006); (ii) “Build an Environmentally Sustainable Society: From a Green Network to a Sustainable Community” by the *Baptist Wing Lung Secondary School* (completed in August 2005); and (iii) “Project S+E+E” by the *SEE Network* (completed in August 2005).

6. The total sum earmarked for the 14 SDF projects approved so far is around **\$12.55 million**, leaving a balance of \$87.45 million for the future rounds of applications to the Fund.

#### **Fourth Round of Applications**

##### *Priority Areas*

7. Members may recall that, for the third round of SDF applications, projects that focused on the following four priority areas had been particularly encouraged -

- (a) Publicity that is consistent with the SDF objectives and that includes a strong element of community involvement;
- (b) Making a measurable impact on SD in Hong Kong and creating a legacy for sustainable practices within the community;

- (c) Capacity building and collaboration across various sectors; and
- (d) Sustainability Reporting (SR) projects.

8. We recommend that the EPSC should continue to encourage applications in respect of projects that focus on the first three areas above, with special emphasis on capacity building and cross-sectoral collaboration in raising public awareness on SD (viz. paragraph 7(c)). As the EPSC has already approved an SR project in the third round of applications, we propose that this priority area be dropped in the coming round.

9. Notwithstanding the above, applications in respect of any type of project that is consistent with the SDF objectives, particularly community outreach and participation, should continue to be welcomed.

#### *Tips on producing quality SDF proposals*

10. Apart from the priority areas, it is also considered that some tips concerning the preparation of project proposals, including a list of “DOs” and DON’Ts” should be drawn up and disseminated to prospective applicants in the coming round of applications. For example, applicants should be strongly encouraged to secure, and demonstrate in their applications, the support from the relevant parties, sectors or communities, which is crucial to the successful delivery of the proposed project. On the other hand, applicants should avoid using a different set of costing standards other than that promulgated by the Council for SD.

11. Members are invited to offer views on the proposed priority areas and tips for prospective applicants on producing quality SDF proposals. Subject to Members’ views, the SDU will proceed to compile the information which will be suitably publicized through press release, the SDF website, as well as the sharing session mentioned in paragraph 13 below.

#### *Proposed Arrangements for the Launch*

12. We propose that the fourth round of applications to the SD Fund be launched in May 2006. As part of the preparatory work for the launch, the SDU has proceeded to update the SDF project booklet to include the four newly approved projects, as well as the updated progress with regard to the ongoing ones. The proposed budget involved in printing the new booklet is at Annex A.

13. At the last EPSC meeting, Members discussed and exchanged preliminary views on ways to enhance the quality of future SDF applications. Among other things, it was proposed that a sharing session involving SDF recipients, as well as unsuccessful or prospective applicants (with higher potential to submit quality applications) be organized, with a view to facilitating fruitful “matching” and cross-sectoral collaboration. The tentative plan of the sharing session is as follows -

- (a) The first part of the session would cover the sharing of experience by SDF recipients in project planning and network building.
- (b) The second part of the session would allow participants to freely meet and interact with one another with a view to encouraging and facilitating fruitful collaboration, partnership and/or mentorship. The actual format and implementation of this part would depend on the size and setting of the venue chosen and available for this event.
- (c) The third part would cover a short briefing by the SDU on tips for prospective applicants on producing quality SDF proposals.
- (d) The event should be organized soon after the launch of the fourth round of SDF applications so as to allow sufficient time for the applicants to prepare their project proposals.

14. Members may wish to provide their views on the proposed sharing session. Members are also encouraged to participate in the event, and to refer any potential applicants to the SDU as soon as possible such that we could follow up to invite them to join the sharing session. The proposed work schedule and budget for the event are at Annex B.

### **Way Forward**

15. Subject to Members’ advice, we shall proceed to make suitable preparatory work for the launch of the fourth round SDF applications.