

Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme approved 10 projects

The Secretariat of the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) said today (September 9) that a total of 10 projects involving a total amount of more than \$60 million has been approved under the CCFS since its launch in October 2019.

The CCFS supports non-profit making organisations to carry out remote countryside conservation and revitalisation projects across a wide spectrum of areas on different levels ranging from natural environment/habitats, non-graded built heritage to cultural and historic assets, etc. In the two rounds of applications called in October 2019 and May 2020 respectively, a total of 10 projects were approved. A wide range of topics were covered, including the enhancement of ecological and nature conservation through habitat management and farming activities in the remote countryside, feasibility studies on the revitalisation of built heritage in villages for new uses, a demonstration of Hakka-style craftsmanship techniques in village houses, cultural activities showcasing the culture and lives of remote villages, and research activities to identify challenges in relation to the establishment of licensed food businesses and conservation/ revitalisation in the remote countryside.

These projects are expected to enhance the management of areas with high ecological value and revitalise local villages. They will also increase public appreciation of village culture and identify novel solutions to tackle the challenges of countryside conservation/revitalisation. Details of the approved projects are available on the CCFS webpage (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/conservation/ccfs/ccfs_approved_projects.html).

All CCFS applications are considered and examined by the Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation (ACCC). Established in July 2019, the ACCC is chaired by the Secretary for the Environment and comprises 10 non-official members from various professions with different expertise. In addition to considering the CCFS applications and monitoring the implementation of the funded projects, the ACCC also advises on minor improvement works proposals for improving the local infrastructure of remote countryside areas.

Applications for the CCFS are accepted all year round and the upcoming cut-off date of submissions for the next round of application assessments will be on October 15, 2020. The Countryside Conservation Office will conduct an online briefing session on September 21, 2020. Interested parties are welcome to join this briefing session for a better understanding of the CCFS's objectives and important points to note in drawing up application proposals. Details of the CCFS and the online briefing session are available on the CCFS webpage (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/conservation/ccfs/ccfs_main.html)

