

Grants approved for flood victims in Kerala, India

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has accepted the advice of the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee and approved from the Disaster Relief Fund three grants totalling \$8.265 million to three agencies for providing relief to flood victims in Kerala, India.

Announcing the grants today (October 18), a spokesman for the Government said that endured heavy rain has increased the number of flood victims in Kerala to more than 5.4 million. The three grants – one of HK\$1.786 million to Save the Children Hong Kong, one of HK\$2.555 million to Plan International Hong Kong and one of HK\$3.924 million to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong, will be used to provide hygiene, household and kitchen items as well as shelter kits and education kits, to benefit around 61 890 flood victims. As the targeted localities of the three relief agencies are different, there will be no overlapping of resources. The Committee hopes the grants will facilitate the provision of timely relief to the victims and help them restore their normal living. The grant, together with those approved earlier for this flooding in Kerala of India, will take the accumulative value of grants and number of beneficiaries to \$23.986 million and 170 390 respectively.

"To ensure that the money is used for the designated purposes, the relief agencies will be asked to submit evaluation reports and audited accounts on the use of the grants after the relief projects have been completed," the spokesman said.