

Quality Education Fund announces 2019/20 funding priorities

The following is issued on behalf of the Quality Education Fund Steering Committee:

The Chairman of the Quality Education Fund (QEF) Steering Committee, Dr Gordon Tsui, today (July 4) announced the direction of the QEF, including the seven priority themes for 2019/20 and the "My Pledge to Act" (2019) funding programme.

Dr Tsui said, "Since its establishment in 1998, the QEF, in line with the education development and policies of Hong Kong, has been striving to enhance the quality of school education and promote quality education by introducing new priority themes to address the needs of school education. The QEF will on August 1 introduce seven priority themes, which are more concise and focused, for QEF applications. The new priority themes are 'STEM Education', 'IT in Education', 'Assessment Literacy', 'Life-wide Learning', 'Positive Values', 'Students' Balanced Development' and 'Effective Leadership and School Management'."

Dr Tsui added that apart from the above priority themes, applicants could apply to undertake other innovative projects that meet the needs of schools to enhance the quality of school education.

Dr Tsui continued, "The QEF has also formulated theme-based funding programmes in the past. In the 2019/20 school year, the QEF will introduce a new funding programme – 'My Pledge to Act' (2019), to rally concerted efforts of schools, families and other stakeholders in society to enhance our commitment to nurturing talent as well as cultivating a positive school atmosphere."

This funding programme will be applicable to all publicly funded schools and the kindergartens joining the kindergarten education scheme. The programme will be implemented for three consecutive school years starting from 2019/20. The call for submission of applications will start in September 2019. The QEF has devised a simplified application form and provided relevant reference materials for schools' reference. Details of the application and relevant reference materials will soon be uploaded to the QEF website and the Education Bureau website of "My Pledge to Act" respectively.

To provide further details on the priority themes and the "My Pledge to Act" (2019) funding programme, two briefing sessions will be held on August 20 and August 21 respectively. Interested parties may refer to the details on the QEF website (gef.org.hk).

In future, the QEF will continue to enhance communication and partnership with various stakeholders to create and share successful QEF project experiences. More than 40 QEF Thematic Networks will be launched in

the coming year to encourage knowledge transfer and sustainable professional development of teachers and benefit more schools. The QEF also regularly uploads the proposals of QEF funded projects to the QEF Cyber Resource Centre (qcrc.qef.org.hk) for applicants' reference.

QEF deliverables (such as learning and teaching resources) can be purchased by completing the order form at the QEF Cyber Resource Centre website or via Hong Kong Education City (edmall.hkedcity.net/store). In addition, the QEF deliverables are available at ShopThruPost (shopthrupost.hongkongpost.hk) administered by Hongkong Post. The QEF has also identified good projects for developing electronic deliverables with interactive functions to facilitate students' self-directed learning. So far, over 100 sets of electronic deliverables have been developed. The public can access these deliverables via the QEF Cyber Resource Centre and Hong Kong Education City.