

**Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Moving Towards a Green Organization
Temple Smoke Reduction System**

Project Reference	ECF-TWGH-03
Project Title	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGH) – Moving Towards a Green Organization - Temple Smoke Reduction System
Applicant Organization	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Project summary	<p>This project is part of TWGH’s three-year programme for “Moving Towards a Green NGO”. Approval-in-principle was given at the ECF Committee Meeting on 30 December 2008 for TWGH to install temple smoke reduction systems at eight temples at an estimated budget of \$2,500,000 with a view to improving air quality through implementation of the mentioned technology. TWGH submitted an initial funding application for the smoke reduction systems for three temples (viz. Kwong Fuk Tsz in Sheung Wan, Hung Shing Temple in Wanchai and Hung Shing Temple in Tai Kwok Tsui) for consideration of the ECF Committee in June 2011. At the ECF Committee meeting on 9 June 2011, Members raised the following concerns and suggestions -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the average cost per set of the system as estimated in the proposal, the approved budget would not be sufficient to meet the total expenditure for the installation of smoke reduction systems in the eight temples. A full picture on the project implementation in all the temples involved as well as the corresponding budget was essential; • TWGH might have to consider matching part of the budget should the eventual overall budget be substantially higher than the original approved amount; and • Other than improving air quality through environmental technology of smoke reduction, it was more important that message be delivered to the public on the need for behavioural change. TWGH was suggested to implement educational and management measures in the temples to encourage worshippers to adopt green practices. <p>TWGH re-submitted its application in May 2012, taking into account Members’ views above. The revised application is at <u>Annex A</u>.</p> <p>Recognizing the importance of green education which is the most effective way to reduce smoke emissions at sources, TWGH has beefed up the management and educational</p>

elements in the revised proposal, a gist of which is as follows -

- For better control over the implementation of green measures at the temples, TWGH has a long-term plan to take over the management of these temples which have been contracted out at present. Hung Shing Temple in Tai Kok Tsui is identified as a trial;
- Pending TWGH's eventual resumption of management of these temples, more green elements would be incorporated in future temple management contracts, such as through the inclusion of conditions and regulations to temple keepers for provision of a certain amount of eco-incenses;
- To avoid overloading of temple smoke reduction systems, the management of the temples would be required to collect all joss papers and burn them on behalf of the worshippers during major Chinese festivals. Instructions on the correct use of furnace will be displayed;
- Eco-approach in ritualistic services (such as burning eco-incense, using flowers, fruits and lucky ribbons instead of burning joss paper) will be promoted through TWGH's website, mass media and publicity materials; and
- A video clip will be produced at TWGH's own resources and broadcast at temples to encourage worshippers to adopt green practices.

On hardware installations, the revised application covers the installation of smoke reduction systems in only seven temples [viz. Kwong Fuk Tsz in Sheung Wan, Hung Shing Temple in Wanchai, Hung Shing Temple in Tai Kok Tsui, and Tin Hau Temple Complex in Yau Mai Tei (i.e. Fook Tak Tsz, Shing Wong Temple, Tin Hau Temple and Shea Tan)] instead of eight under the original plan. As the School in Yau Mai Tei is now vacant, TWGH has decided not to include it in the present project scope.

Since the temples are graded historic buildings, TWGH has consulted the Antiquities and Monuments Office, which expressed no adverse comment on the proposed installations and replacement works at the temples concerned.

With the implementation of the project, the smoke reduction systems at the seven temples in question will act as role models for other temples. The public as well as students, service recipients and staff of TWGH who visit the temples would have the opportunity to appreciate the use of the state-of-the-art technology to minimize smoke emission while traditional activities rituals such as joss paper burning can be maintained.

Project Duration	12 months - Tendering stage: three months - Consultation stage: three months - Installation stage: six months
Proposed Budget	\$3,715,000 (Detailed breakdown is at <u>Annex B</u>)
Assessments/Remarks	Under the present revised proposal, TWGH will install smoke reduction system in the seven temples mentioned above at an estimated budget of \$3,715,000. The cost of each set of system ranges between \$469,000 and \$717,000. As the estimated budget exceeds the approval-in-principal amount, TWGH intends to redeploy the unspent balance arising from those completed projects (about \$4.8 million from initiatives on green roof and enhancement of energy efficiency) under its Green NGO programme to meet the estimated shortfall. In case the ECF Committee will only approve a budget less than the estimated funding requirement, TWGH is prepared to top up the difference with their own resources. TWGH will also absorb the estimated expenditure for implementing management and educational measures, and installation of external enclosures for the systems.
Advice Sought	Members are invited to advise whether - - the subject application for ECF should be approved; and - the proposed redeployment of unspent balance arising from those completed projects to cover the funding requirement exceeding the original earmarked amount should be supported.

**Secretariat, Environment and Conservation Fund Committee
July 2012**