

**RPVSC Paper 21/2013-14  
For Discussion**

Project Number	33/2010
Project Title	Integrated warning system for monitoring and prediction of dust storm events in Hong Kong
Principal Investigator (PI)	Prof. Janet NICHOL, Department of Land Surveying and Geo-informatics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Project summary	<p>The PI plans to conduct a study comprising two phases, namely, Phase I – prototype stage; and Phase II – operational stage, with the objective of setting up an integrated and real time data collection system to give advance prediction and warning of dust storms arriving in Hong Kong for environmental authorities and the public. The data collected along the identified dust storm forward trajectory will also permit diagnosis of microphysical and chemical characteristics of the dust, e.g. mineral, bacterial, industrial, and toxins, etc., in terms of likely health impacts.</p> <p>The present project, which constitutes phase I (i.e. prototype stage) of the planned study, was approved by RPVSC on 1 November 2011.</p> <p>[Note: For the phase II study, the PI needs to submit a separate application after completion of the present project for RPVSC's consideration.]</p>
Commencement Date	1 February 2011
Project Duration	18 months
Completion Date	31 July 2013
Total Approved Amount (A)	\$873,780
Funds disbursed up to 31.07.2013 (B)	\$436,890
Funds Balance as at 31.07.2013 (A) – (B)	\$436,890
Project's Progress	<p>Members' views were sought on 5 July 2013 vide RPVSC paper 10/2013-14 (<u>Attachment 1</u>) on the requested budget reallocation and project extension for ECF Project 33/2010. As Members had expressed different views on the variation requests, and since a decision on the requests would have implications on the way forward for the project, the case was brought up at the RPVSC meeting on 31 July 2013 for further discussion. Relevant extracts of the minutes are at <u>Attachment 2</u> for Members' reference.</p>

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	<p>The RPVSC, after reviewing the progress of the project expressed doubts as to whether the project could eventually deliver the planned objectives and pledged deliverables, and provide some useful results eventually. To facilitate its consideration of whether continued funding support should be provided for the project, and if any suitable actions should be taken, the RPVSC requested that the PI be invited to provide a comprehensive scientific report on the project, which should set out the objectives and planned deliverables of the study as well as the methodology adopted, details of work done in taking forth the project including data obtained, tests and validation conducted, the scientific findings, etc., and an evaluation on how far the planned deliverables were achieved so far. In addition, the RPVSC would like to invite the relevant government departments and an external assessor to critically review the report and advise how far the project had achieved its objectives to facilitate the meeting in drawing a conclusion on whether it is meaningful or effective for the ECF to continue its funding support for the project.</p>
Assessment/ Remark	<p>The Secretariat has since followed up with RPVSC's decision and obtained the required information. For details, please refer to <u>Appendix</u>.</p> <p>Members are invited to consider whether the project is worth continued funding support from the ECF.</p>

Secretariat ECF Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee  
November 2013