

Project 11/2004 - Pilot project to increase awareness of the importance of product design technology for sustainable development

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' approval to fund the captioned application for ECF made by the Hong Kong University (HKU).

Background

2. The funding requested by this project is \$150,000 and the project is expected to last for 12 months. Among the total funds requested, \$106,560 would be used for the salaries of a research assistant; \$15,940 for the products, \$5,000 for the training courses and \$22,500 for the overheads administrative cost..

3. This project is aimed to develop a smart product design technology for sustainability that promotes waste reduction, resource saving, and reusing and recycling of products and to encourage the enterprises in Hong Kong with the effective design technology developed to put the concept of sustainable development into practice. To achieve the purpose, the project will investigate the principles and methodology of smart design for sustainability, develop the design guidelines and evaluation method or score of smart design for sustainability, carry out case studies based on the method, and provide training courses to the enterprises in Hong Kong to enhance Hong Kong people's understanding of sustainable development methods and encourage product developer and manager of the enterprises in Hong Kong to put the sustainable design methods into practice.

4. EPD, TID and SDU have assisted to examine the proposal. EPD supported the proposal in principle but considered it more appropriately be funded by the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), the Innovation & Technology Fund (ITF), or sponsorship from the private sector. TID replied that they cannot comment on the implication of the project on the development of the small and medium enterprises in Hong Kong given that the proposal has a strong focus on its social benefits and

the limited elaboration on the product deliverables SDU remarked that the principal investigator (PI) submitted a similar application for the SDF in December 2003 as part of a package of multiple submissions from the HKU. The proposal was turned down by the SDF Vetting Committee as the proposal was not considered as top priority by the applicant.

5. In respect of the budget breakdown for the proposal, the “Guide to Application for ECF/WWGF” stipulated that funding for general administrative costs incurred by the recipient organization in undertaking the project will not normally be given.

Advice sought

6. Members are invited to advise whether the application for ECF as detailed in paragraphs 2 and 3 above should be supported and if support, the exact amount of approved grant.

Secretariat, ECF Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee
November 2004