

## **Proposed variations to details of ECF Funded Research Projects**

### **Purpose**

This paper aims to seek Members' endorsement on the proposed variations of project details for the on-going research projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) as set out in para. 4.

### **Background**

2. As a condition of project approval, the amount to be reimbursed for an individual budget subhead of a project should not exceed the approved limit for that subhead. In case the actual expenditure for an individual budget subhead exceeds the relevant limit, the Secretariat can have the discretion to reimburse the actual expenditure for that subhead, provided that (i) the actual expenditure only exceeds the approved budget subhead limit by less than 20%; and (ii) the overall approved budget for the project will not be exceeded consequentially. Any other changes to the project must be referred back to the Vetting Subcommittee for deliberation. Such changes may include :-

- (a) revision to the objectives and/or content; or
- (b) change of the team leader/principal investigator (PI); or
- (c) transfer of a project to another organization; or
- (d) deferral of progress/completion reports/statement of accounts submission date.

### **Proposal**

4. The Principal Investigators of the following projects proposed variations of project details as follows.

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Proposed Variation</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1/2003	Oily Wastewater Treatment and Reuse System – a Demonstration Project	Deferral of the project completion date from Jan 2005 to Mar 2005. No additional fund was requested.	Details in Appendix 1

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Proposed Variation</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
14/2003	Conservation of House Swifts ( <i>Apus nipalensis</i> ) in Hong Kong: Preliminary Field Trial of Artificial Nest Box for Breeding House Swifts	Deferral of the project completion date by one year from Nov 2004 to Nov 2005. No additional fund was required.	Details in Appendix 2
25/2003	The impact of air pollution on public health – a regional analysis	Deferral of the project commencement date from Sep 2004 to Dec 2004 and virement of funds from staff cost to data for research.	Details in Appendix 3
3/2002	The Ecology and Aspect of Biology of Amphioxus in Hong Kong	Deferral of the project completion date from May 2005 to Feb 2006. No additional fund was required.	Details in Appendix 4
2/2004	Development of a simple graphical approach based on daylight coefficient concept and the CIE 15 standard skies for indoor daylight luminance predication	Virement of funds from material cost to research staff cost.	Details in Appendix 5

### **Advice Sought**

5. Members are invited to consider the progress of the projects as detailed in the Appendices 1 to 5 and endorse the proposed variations of the project details stipulated in para. 4 above.

Appendix 1

Project Number	1/2003
Project Title	Oily Wastewater Treatment and Reuse System – a Demonstration Project
Principal Investigator	Dr CHEN Guohua of HKUST
Project summary	To develop a prototype treatment and reuse system for oily wastewaters generated from various sectors such as garages, car washing centres, gas stations, bus depots and marine operation.
Commencement Date	1 Dec 2003
Project Duration	14 months
Target Completion Date	31 Jan 2005
Total Approved Amount (A)	\$331,000
Funds disbursed up to 20.11.2004 (B)	\$165,500 (initial disbursement)
Balance as at 20.11.2004 (A) – (B)	\$165,500
Latest Progress Report Received	First half-yearly progress report for the period 1 Dec 2003 to 31 May 2004 was received in July 2004.
Implementation Problem	The PI had difficulty in collecting samples from different wastewater generators and was advised to try seeking assistance from relevant trade associations.
Proposed variation to project details	The PI projected the completion date for the project would be revised to 31 Mar 2005 but no additional fund would be required.
Assessments/Remarks	EPD supported the PI's request. As the justifications given are considered reasonable and no extra funding would be required, approval to defer the project completion date is recommended.

Appendix 2

Project Number	14/2003
Project Title	Conservation of House Swifts ( <i>Apus nipalensis</i> ) in Hong Kong: Preliminary Field Trial of Artificial Nest Box for Breeding House Swifts
Principal Investigator	Dr Yau Wing-kwong of Tai Po Environmental Association
Project summary	To study the utilization of artificial nest box for House Swifts in Hong Kong and to compare the breeding progress and success of House Swifts in natural and artificial nests.
Commencement Date	2 Feb 2004
Project Duration	10 months
Target Completion Date	30 Nov 2004
Total Approved Amount (A)	\$143,440
Funds disbursed up to 20.11.2004 (B)	\$71,720 – initial disbursement in Feb 2004 \$35,860 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> disbursement in Oct 2004
Balance as at 20.11.2004 (A) – (B)	\$35,860
Latest Progress Report Received	First half-yearly progress report for the period 2 Feb to 1 Aug 2004 received in October 2004.
Progress Slippage or Implementation Problem	Monitoring of breeding progress and success of swift in artificial nest box could not be started because no utilization of artificial nest box was observed in the report period from April to July 2004. The PI suggested monitor the utilization of all the installed nest boxes in the second year (i.e. March to August 2005) of installation.
Proposed variation to project details	The PI expected to complete the project by 30 Nov 2005, i.e. extending the project by one year to observe the acceptance of nest box by swifts in second year. No additional fund would be applied from ECF.

Assessments/Remarks	AFCD supported PI's recommendation to extend the project period by one year. As the justifications given are considered reasonable and no extra fund would be required, approval for the project extension is recommended.
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Appendix 3

Project Number	25/2003
Project Title	The impact of air pollution on public health – a regional analysis
Principal Investigator	Dr. WONG Heung of HK PolyU
Project summary	To provide an in-depth statistical analysis of the impact of air pollution to the public health of Hong Kong, with emphasis on the delineation of factors of pollution
Commencement Date	1 Sep 2004
Project Duration	18 months
Target Completion Date	28 Feb 2006
Total Approved Amount (A)	\$110,000
Funds disbursed up to 20.11.2004 (B)	\$55,000
Balance as at 20.11.2004 (A) – (B)	\$55,000
Latest Progress Report Received	-
Proposed variation to project details	The PI applied for virement of \$14,000 from the subhead of "Research Staff" to "Data and Research Books" and deferral of the project start date from 1 Sep to 1 Dec 2004. The PI explained that the quotation from Hospital Authority on the request for data was different from his estimates. In order to cover the shortfall in staff cost, the PI prepared to employ a senior research assistant for a shorter period of time and the investigators would do the preliminary analysis work. The duration of the project would remain 18 months starting from 1 Dec 2004.
Assessments/Remarks	EPD supported PI's request for virement of funds and deferring the project schedule. As the justifications given are considered reasonable and no extra fund would be required, approval for the virement of funds and amendment of the project schedule is recommended.

Assessments/Remarks	<p>The budget breakdown would be revised as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="695 280 1431 579"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="695 354 806 399"><u>Item</u></th><th data-bbox="806 354 1128 399">Original <u>Approved</u> <u>Amount (\$)</u></th><th data-bbox="1128 354 1431 399">Revised <u>Amount (\$)</u></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="695 399 806 444">Research Staff</td><td data-bbox="806 399 1128 444">104,000.00</td><td data-bbox="1128 399 1431 444">90,000.00</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="695 444 806 489">Data &amp; Research Books</td><td data-bbox="806 444 1128 489">6,000.00</td><td data-bbox="1128 444 1431 489">20,000.00</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="695 489 806 534"><i>Total</i></td><td data-bbox="806 489 1128 534"><i>110,000.00</i></td><td data-bbox="1128 489 1431 534"><i>110,000.00</i></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Item</u>	Original <u>Approved</u> <u>Amount (\$)</u>	Revised <u>Amount (\$)</u>	Research Staff	104,000.00	90,000.00	Data & Research Books	6,000.00	20,000.00	<i>Total</i>	<i>110,000.00</i>	<i>110,000.00</i>
<u>Item</u>	Original <u>Approved</u> <u>Amount (\$)</u>	Revised <u>Amount (\$)</u>											
Research Staff	104,000.00	90,000.00											
Data & Research Books	6,000.00	20,000.00											
<i>Total</i>	<i>110,000.00</i>	<i>110,000.00</i>											

Appendix 4

Project Number	3/2002
Project Title	The Ecology and Aspect of Biology of Amphioxus in Hong Kong
Principal Investigator	Dr CHEUNG Siu-gin and Dr Paul SHIN of CityU
Project summary	To estimate the area extent of <i>B. belcheri</i> off Sai Kung Peninsula, study its ecology and biology, determine the genomic fingerprint of amphioxus population and formulate a conservation plan for protection of amphioxus.
Commencement Date	15 Jun 2003
Project Duration	2 years
Target Completion Date	14 Jun 2005
Total Approved Amount (A)	\$647,410
Funds disbursed up to 20.11.2004 (B)	\$323,705 (initial disbursement)
Balance as at 20.11.2004 (A) – (B)	\$323,705
Latest Progress Report Received	The first half-yearly progress report received in May 2004. The second half-yearly progress report received in September 2004
Implementation Problem	Recruitment of a postgraduate student to be Research Assistant was delayed from June 2003 to February 2004 owing to the limited postgraduate student quota set by the UGC.
Proposed variation to project details	As the recruitment of the Research Assistant has been delayed to February 2004, the PI thus requested to defer the estimated project completion date from May 2005 to February 2006.
Assessments/Remarks	Both EPD and AFCD had no objection to the proposed deferment of the completion date. As the justification is considered reasonable, approval for the deferment is recommended.

Appendix 5

Project Number	2/2004												
Project Title	Development of a simple graphical approach based on daylight coefficient concept and the CIE 15 standard skies for indoor daylight luminance predication												
Principal Investigator	Dr. Danny LI of CityU												
Project summary	To provide an in-depth statistical analysis of the impact of air pollution to the public health of Hong Kong, with emphasis on the delineation of factors of pollution												
Commencement Date	1 Sep 2004												
Project Duration	12 months												
Target Completion Date	31 Aug 2005												
Total Approved Amount (A)	\$128,000												
Funds disbursed up to 20.11.2004 (B)	\$64,000												
Balance as at 20.11.2004 (A) – (B)	\$64,000												
Proposed variation to project details	The PI applied for virement of \$1,827 from the subhead of "Materials for the Scale Model Fabricating and Consumables" to "Research Staff" so as to meet the salary pay-scale of Research Assistant of the University. The PI undertook to keep the approved budget within the sum of \$128,000.												
Assessments/Remarks	<p>EPD supported PI's request for virement of funds. As the justification given is considered reasonable and no extra fund would be required, approval for the virement of funds is recommended.</p> <p>The budget breakdown would be revised as follows:</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Original Approved Item</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount (\$)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Revised Amount (\$)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Research Staff</td> <td style="text-align: center;">126,000.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">127,827.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Materials &amp; Consumables</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,000.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">173.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Total</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>128,000.00</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>128,000.00</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Original Approved Item	Amount (\$)	Revised Amount (\$)	Research Staff	126,000.00	127,827.00	Materials & Consumables	2,000.00	173.00	<i>Total</i>	<i>128,000.00</i>	<i>128,000.00</i>
Original Approved Item	Amount (\$)	Revised Amount (\$)											
Research Staff	126,000.00	127,827.00											
Materials & Consumables	2,000.00	173.00											
<i>Total</i>	<i>128,000.00</i>	<i>128,000.00</i>											

