

By post and by fax at 2804 6499

17 April 2015

Higher Education Division
Education Bureau
7/F, East Wing
Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenu
Tamer, Hong Kong

[Attn: Mr Kevin CHAN]

Dear Mr CHAN

Additional views on Theme-based Research Scheme -Introduction of a New Theme

Regarding your email dated 21 November 2014 to the Institution inviting us for comments on the captioned subject, the Institution submitted our views on 10 December 2014. A copy of the submission is enclosed for your reference. In addition to that, the Institution would like to provide our further views for your consideration as follows.

Under the theme of “Developing a Sustainable Environment”, it is proposed adding another topic “*Green Transportation*”. In today’s developed or developing cities, transport is one of the most essential infrastructures to support and sustain the economic development, and yet closely affects the living environment and quality due to the direct and indirect impacts of its emissions such as noise and exhaust gas in the environment. Research and development of techniques and measures contributing to green transportation should be included as one of the top priorities.

Research proposals should be focused on research and/or development of techniques and methods in improving traffic flow and congestion, or transport systems or innovative technologies to improve the efficiency of transport and travel, and to reduce pollution and environmental impacts.

Also, under the theme of “Enhancing Hong Kong’s Strategic Position as a Regional and International Business Centre”, it is proposed adding another topic “*Promoting Hong Kong as an International Logistics and Transportation Hub*”, which is in line with the 12th 5-year Plan of the People's Republic of China.

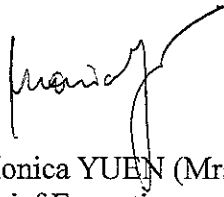
Research proposals should advance analytical, empirical and institutional knowledge that is relevant to enhance Hong Kong’s role as the major international logistics and transportation hub in the region. Topics of interests may include, but are not limited to, ports and airport, development of logistics and e-commerce, operations and processes, regulations and regimes, cross-border transportation etc. that could improve the facilitation of the flow of goods and people between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta.

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Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely



Monica YUEN (Mrs)
Chief Executive and Secretary

Enc

MY/WC

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Dear Mr CHAN

Views on Theme-based Research Scheme – Introduction of a New Theme

Thank you for your email of 21 November 2014 inviting the Institution to put forth our views on the captioned subject.

The Institution supports in general the proposed introduction of a new theme “Driving Frontier Technologies and Research” for implementation in the 6th round of Theme-based Research Scheme applications in addition to the three other current themes.

From the engineering perspective, we welcome “Frontier Technologies” of the proposed new theme for steering more research activities and funding towards tangible research outcomes and products that can be applied for use in near term. However, the scope of the theme may seem too wide and covers a variety of topics. It is therefore suggested narrowing the theme to the areas that could contribute and would be most relevant to the situation in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, in respect of the “Frontier Research” of the proposed new theme, it appears that the meaning may seem too general or possibly vague. Hence, we would suggest that this proposed new theme could be phrased in more precise terms and further details and objectives could be set in order to facilitate better understanding for the prospective fund applicants.

Given the cosmopolitan nature of Hong Kong as a world class city with high human resources but limited industrial bases, the following topics of the “Frontier Technologies” are suggested for your consideration:

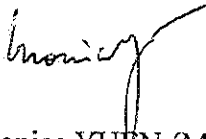
- a. Safe, efficient and reliable horizontal and vertical transportation technology and infrastructure;
- b. Technologies on healthy food and clean water; and
- c. Technologies on clean fuel and innovative clean energy conservation

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Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely



Monica YUEN (Mrs)
Chief Executive and Secretary

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