

Quality Education Fund e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme

Overview

Background

QEF e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme

- Two-pronged approach
- Examples of Deliverables
- Facilitation measures for applicants
- Assessment and Monitoring
- How to apply and application cycle
- Support for Grantees

Quality Education Fund (QEF)

- Established in October 1997 with an allocation of \$5 billion to finance projects for the promotion of quality education in Hong Kong.
- Mainly caters for worthwhile **non-profit making initiatives** within the ambit of **school education**, i.e. kindergarten, primary, secondary and special education.
- Trustee of QEF: Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated

e-Learning initiatives in Policy Address 2020

- \$2 billion is set aside in QEF for a **three-year programme**.

Aims: Ensuring all students will have equal opportunities in accessing e-learning and supporting the provision of ancillary facilities for implementation of e-learning.

(a) \$ 1.5 billion:

Mobile computer
device
(loan to students)



Wi-Fi routers &
Mobile data card

Launched in
May 2021

(b) \$ 500 million:

Development of
e-learning ancillary facilities

Launched on
20 October
2021

The QEF e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme

Two pronged approach is proposed for this \$500 million pilot initiative:-

- A. **Support further development or dissemination of previously approved e-learning projects funded by QEF (Development & Dissemination Scheme)**
- B. **New projects / initiatives related to e-learning (New Project Scheme)**

Aim:

Develop and provide e-learning ancillary facilities that would have positive impact in enhancing e-learning in school sector through fostering in-depth collaboration between the school sector, tertiary institutions, educational and professional organisations as well as business sector.

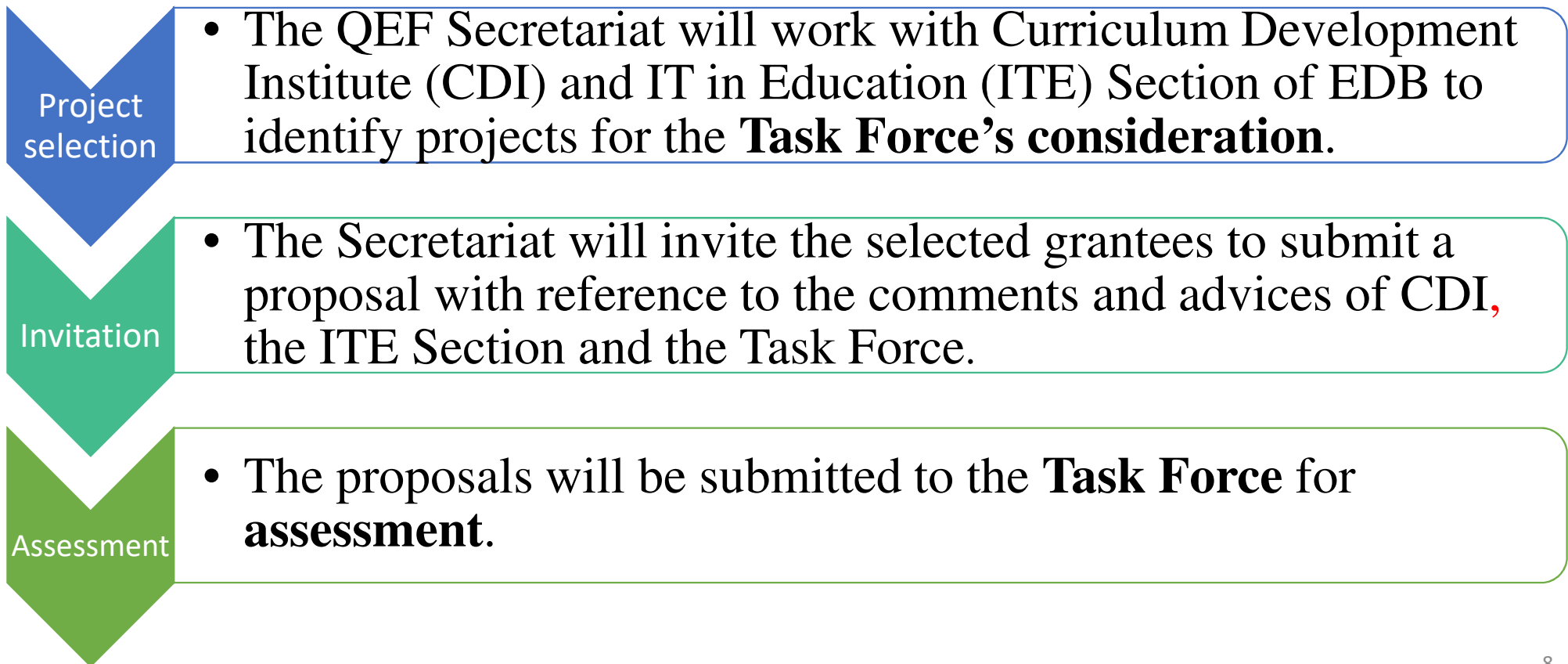
A. Development & Dissemination Scheme

Selection criteria of project

- Previously approved e-learning projects funded by QEF;
- Commenced or completed in recent **five school years (from 2016/17 to 2020/21 school year)**;
- Elements that may **fill a gap** in e-learning arena or **complement** existing e-learning platforms, apps, resources or services;
- **Technically feasible** and **cost-effective** to expand user pool or distribution channel of the deliverables ;
- **Good track record** of grantee (implementation, management, sustainability);
- **Tangible deliverables** in enhancing the quality of teaching and learning through e-learning or blended learning mode;
- **Demand** from education sector or **good potential** of building up a pool of ongoing collaborators.

A. Development and Dissemination Scheme

Shortlisting mechanism:



Timing for issuing invitations

- Selected grantees would be invited within November 2021
- The announcement period will be posted on the QEF's website
- Selected grantees would receive the invitation by email and by post

B. New Project Scheme

A pilot scheme for
tertiary institutions /
school sponsoring bodies

- Bring about **innovative pedagogical or assessment changes and encourage sharing of resources**;
- Enhance **education quality with positive impact in supporting blended mode of learning and teaching**;
- Support **in-depth collaboration among the school sector, tertiary institutions, academic, IT professional, and IT business sectors on e-learning**;
- Develop deliverables in e-learning conducive to **more teacher-student or peer interactions, or self-directed learning ; and**
- **Foster synergy** with existing teaching and learning platform and **leverage on or enriching existing resources** of the EDB (including the Hong Kong Education City Limited (HKECL)) and other government bureaux or departments

Priority will be given to those projects which could **support the implementation and enhance the quality of e-learning on an infrastructural level** which involves the development / enhancement of systems, platforms and/or tools.

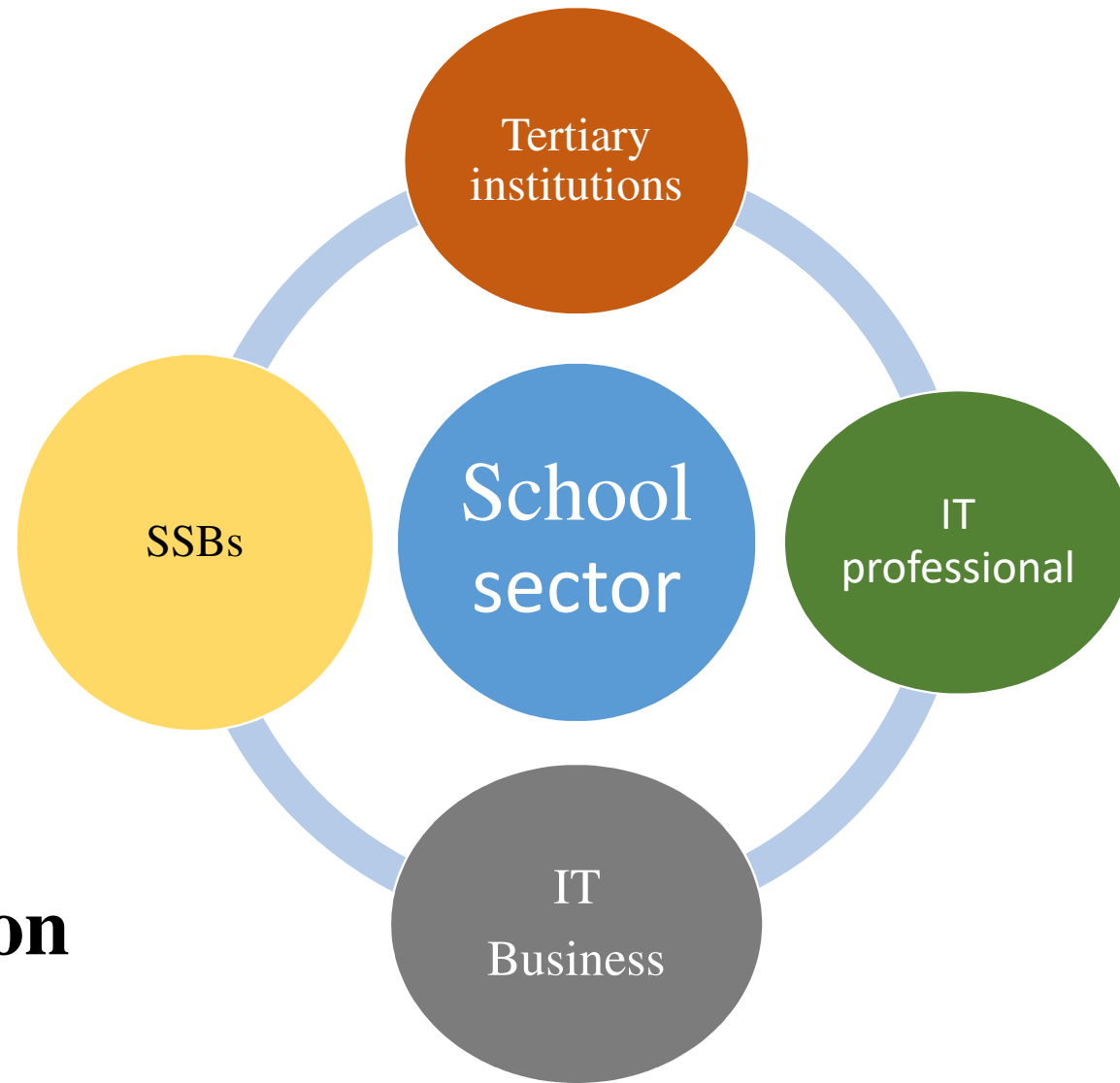
- Applicants are encouraged to visit the QEF Cyber Resource Centre (QCRC) to identify and leverage on suitable QEF funded projects for developing new concepts for the New Project Scheme
- QCRC: <https://qcrc.qef.org.hk/en/index.html>

Examples of Deliverables

- e-Platforms for supporting learning, teaching and assessment for individuals
- Database / e-Platforms providing learning analytics
- Education-related software applications (including mobile applications)
- e-Tools (e.g. teaching software) for promoting interactive learning
- Educational games
- Online self-directed learning programmes
-

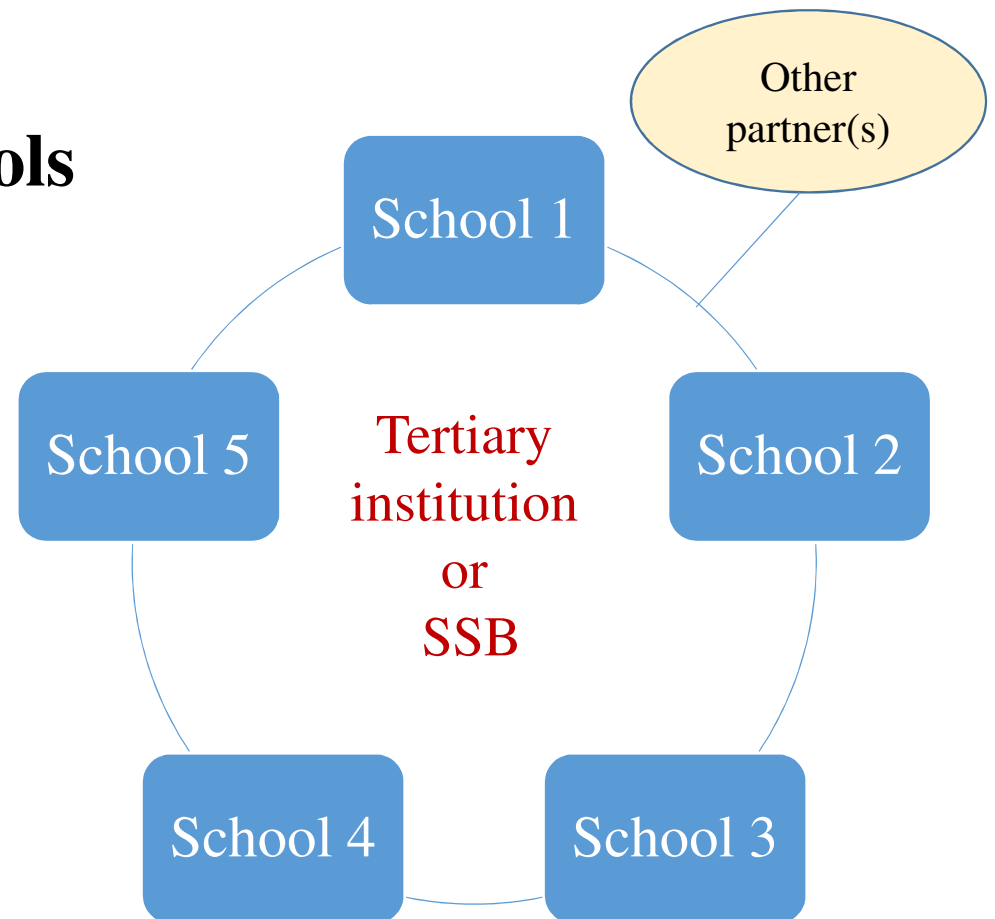
- Projects that involve production of learning and teaching materials, such materials should be in electronic mode (preferably **interactive**), align with the curriculum and be organised in a manner that could be hosted on, interfaced with or connected to the platform of Hong Kong Education City Limited (HKECL)

**Foster
in-depth
collaboration**



Creating impact

- Should benefit **at least five schools**
- Potential collaboration partners:
 - IT companies,
 - NGOs,
 - Business associations,
 - Educational or Professional associations.



For tertiary institutions/SSBs...

- Work out the project ideas
- Identify 5 local schools to work together
- Identify one more collaborative party, e.g. IT company, educational, professional or business organisation, NGO...
- Prepare and submit the application...



Try HKECL's
matching
platform!

Note: Each department of a tertiary institution and each SSB may submit one application under the New Project Scheme in each application cycle.

For a school with a project idea...

- Inform the SSB or work with tertiary institution [Lead applicant]
- Identify four other local schools to work together [Total five schools!]
- Identify one more collaborative party, e.g. IT company, educational, professional or business organisation, NGO...
- Prepare and submit the application through SSB or tertiary institution...



Try HKECL's
matching
platform!

For a school that wants to participate in others' project...

- Proactively submit a post at HKECL's matching platform!
- Browse the post of project proponents and initiate to join!

There is no quota on the number of projects which a school can participate in.

However, schools need to take their development needs, their own administrative and management capacity into consideration.

Facilitation measures for applicants

Relaxation of Policy and Requirement

Relaxation of Intellectual Property (IP) rights

- **Grantees** shall **own** the IP rights of the projects and deliverable(s).
- The **publicly-funded schools** should be allowed to use part of or all deliverables at a rate sponsored by the QEF **for a designated period of three years** (begin only after the launch of the deliverable(s)).

Relaxation of “Non-profit-making” requirement

- Grantees will be allowed to **generate income** from their projects during and after the project period to ensure project sustainability.
- The income generated during the project period shall be **spent on the project** where applicable.
- The Task Force will consider the benefit-sharing proposal on a case by case basis (if applicable).

Grantees should comply with relevant rules and regulations governing their operation related to handling external resources / incomes

Objectives...

- Deliverables with impact
- Shared use of resources
- Ensuring sustainability of deliverables (without compromising accessibility due to pricing)

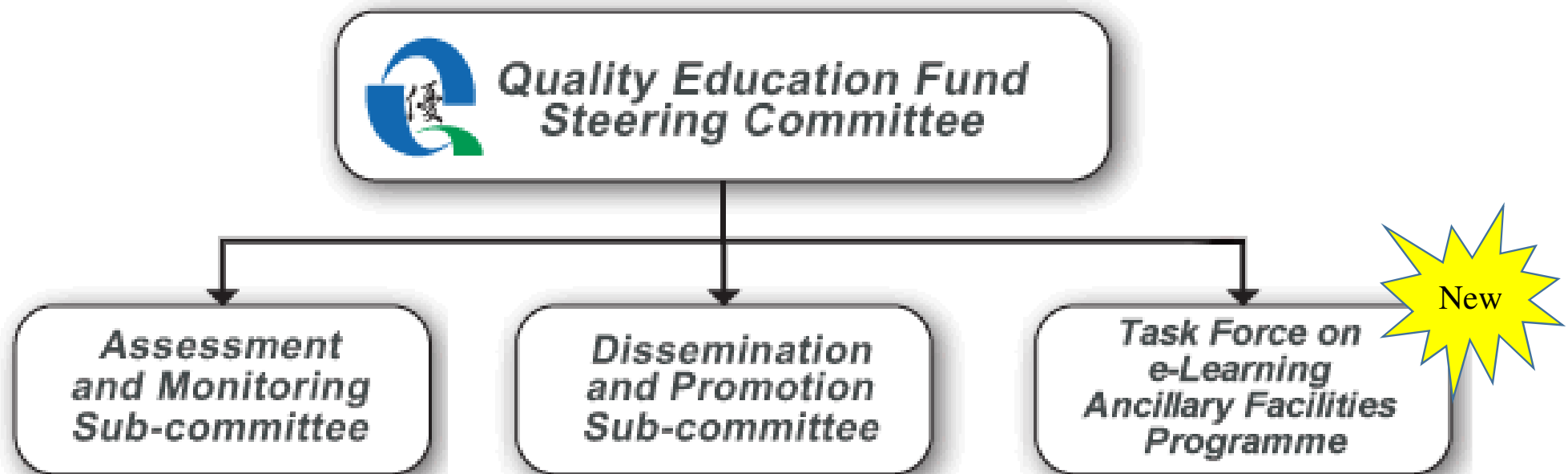
Assessment and Monitoring

Assessment Criteria

| Criteria | Proposed key descriptions | Mark |
|---------------------|---|------|
| Project needs | Demand, complementary effect, fill a gap | 20 |
| Project feasibility | Technical feasibility, capacity of project team | 20 |
| Sustainability | Recurrent funding source, refinement | 10 |
| Project outcome | Impact or benefit to the sector | 20 |
| Budget | Commensurate with outcome, justifications | 15 |
| Dissemination | Scalability, feasible channels | 15 |

For projects which could support the implementation and enhance the quality of e-learning on an infrastructural level which involves the development/ enhancement of systems, platforms and/ or tools, a maximum of 20 extra bonus marks will be granted.

Task Force on QEF e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme



Task Force on QEF e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme

Composition (15 Members and 8 Ex-officio Members):

- IT experts
- Representatives from secondary and primary school sectors
- Academia
- Representatives from business/professional sector

Ex-officio members

- Representative(s) of EDB
- Hong Kong Education City
- Innovation and Technology Bureau
- Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited

Task Force on QEF e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme

Terms of Reference

- To **assess applications** for Development and Dissemination Scheme and the New Project Scheme of the QEF e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme
- To recommend to the QEF Steering Committee / QEF Trustee, in order of priority, where appropriate, applications that are worthy of support, the appropriate **funding levels, refinements** of applications and any **special conditions** attached to the disbursement of funding
- To **monitor** the progress and effectiveness of the funded projects

Key Financial Principles

One-off

Non-recurrent

Time-limited for
three years

Key Monitoring Principles

Grantees should submit

- **reports** for project monitoring purpose on a **regular basis** during the project period
- **a final report and an end of-project financial report** upon completion
- **interim financial reports(if applicable)** in accordance with the latest financial monitoring mechanism
- **an audited report** upon completion of the project
- the EDB/ Task Force/ QEFSC/ authorised agent(s) of the QEF may arrange **on-site visits** to understand the actual implementation of the projects

Role of Grantee

- Responsible for the **recurrent cost** (e.g. use of Cloud services) after the end of the project
- Specify **funding source** with estimated **cash flow**
- Set out elements that require payment to **test the sector's response**
- **Designated bank account** for financial contribution & project income
- **Return all unspent funding** provided by the QEF

How to apply?

- For the 2021/22 cohort, application for the Programme is **open in October 2021 and will be closed by the end of February 2022**
- The PDF files of the application form and project proposal should be submitted through the EPMS on the QEF website (https://www.qef.org.hk/en/e_index.html)
- All applications will be submitted to the **Task Force for assessment**

For the New Project Scheme, each department of a tertiary institution and each SSB may submit **one application in each application cycle only**.

For the present purpose, a “**department**” includes a department of a tertiary institution and its centre, division, unit and laboratory, which shall collectively count as one “department”.

Nevertheless, if a faculty of a tertiary institution does not have a department, its centre, division, unit, laboratory, etc. are also eligible to apply for the New Project Scheme provided that they are directly under the charge of the faculty concerned and are of a role / function equivalent to a department.

Application Cycle

Open for application once a year

| Development & Dissemination Scheme | New Project Scheme |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By invitation only.• 3 months will be given for grantees to prepare their application.• QEF Secretariat would invite the selected grantees within November 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application is open from October 2021 to February 2022. |
| Aim to process all applications and release the funding by August 2022. | |

At the end of the 2021/22 cohort, the QEF will **review** the need to implement the **second and/ or the third call**, taking into account the response and implementation of the schemes.

Support for Grantees

Support for Grantees

Support provided by HKEdCity:

- Provide **an information web page(matching web page)** to facilitate applicants to identify collaborative partners for the proposals
- Provide **online facilities for displaying the deliverables** for promotion and dissemination purposes
- Provide **a platform for hosting** the deliverables (if applicable) during and beyond the project period
- **Provide subscription functions** for Grantee to test the sector's response and manage income of the project
- Provide a list of the common industry standards to facilitate hosting and interconnection of the e-Deliverables to platforms (e.g. HKECL)

Matching Platform

Matching Platform
Quality Education Fund (QEF) e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme

The matching platform of the [QEF e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme](#) is an initiative developed in collaboration between the QEF and Hong Kong Education City Limited, which aims to facilitate:

1. the project proponents (tertiary institutions / school sponsoring bodies) for the QEF e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme to identify partner schools and/or other collaborating partners; and
2. interested local schools in seeking partnership with project proponents for e-learning related projects.

If you are interested in using the platform, please fill out the respective online form below. The information provided will be displayed on the matching platform within around 3 working days after submission and checking provided that the submitted information is complete. [Project proponents](#) and [local schools](#) are encouraged to visit the platform, browse the posts of other users, and approach each other to initiate discussion on collaboration.

The EDB is going to organise two identical online briefing sessions regarding the QEF e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme for tertiary institutions and school sponsoring bodies on 3 November and 9 November 2021. Invitation emails to the contact persons of tertiary institutions and school sponsoring bodies have already been issued on 27 October 2021.

Please input information to the respective online form by clicking the following buttons:

[Project Proponents¹](#) [Local Schools²](#)

¹Project proponents refer to all UGC-funded universities, self-financing tertiary institutions and school sponsoring bodies.

²Local schools refer to government schools, aided schools (including special schools), caput schools, schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme and kindergartens joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Disclaimer](#)

Project Proponents

Local Schools

Display project ideas and development interests through the platform, to initiate discussion and collaboration

Project Proponent List

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Project Proponent List' page. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'https://qefepm.edb.city.hk/proponent.php'. The page header includes the 'Matching Platform' logo and a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'Project Proponent List', 'School List', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area features a large banner image of two hands shaking over a background of colorful puzzle pieces. Below the banner, the title 'Project Proponent List' is followed by a paragraph explaining that the information is provided by project proponents and that interested schools or other collaborating partners may approach them for collaboration. A search bar is located below the text, with fields for 'Key Stage(s) of Learning', 'Key Learning Area(s) / Subject(s) / Area(s)', and 'Anticipated Project Deliverables'. A 'Keyword Search' button is also present. At the bottom of the search bar, there are 'Search' and 'Reset' buttons. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen, showing the time as 12:34 on 31/10/2021.

Project Proponent List

The following information is provided by project proponents. Interested schools and/or other collaborating partners may approach project proponents to initiate discussion on collaboration through the contact methods as provided in the post.

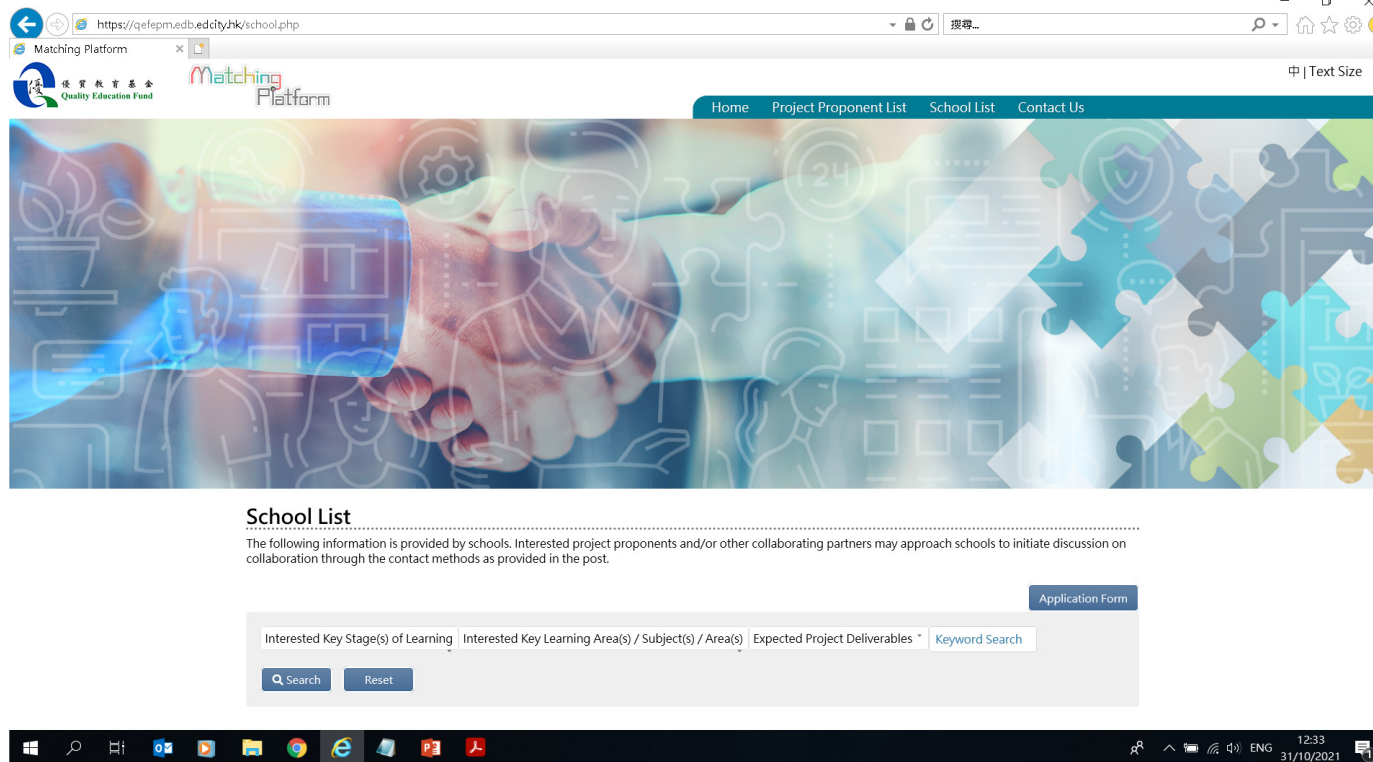
Application Form

Key Stage(s) of Learning Key Learning Area(s) / Subject(s) / Area(s) Anticipated Project Deliverables Keyword Search

Search Reset

Display according to Key Stages of Learning, Key Learning Areas / Subjects / Areas and Anticipated Project Deliverables

Interested School List



The screenshot displays the 'Matching Platform' website at the URL <https://qefepm.edb.city.hk/school.php>. The page features a header with navigation links: Home, Project Proponent List, School List, and Contact Us. Below the header is a large banner image showing two hands shaking, symbolizing collaboration. The main content area is titled 'School List' and includes a sub-header stating: 'The following information is provided by schools. Interested project proponents and/or other collaborating partners may approach schools to initiate discussion on collaboration through the contact methods as provided in the post.' Below this text is a search form with the following fields: 'Interested Key Stage(s) of Learning', 'Interested Key Learning Area(s) / Subject(s) / Area(s)', 'Expected Project Deliverables *', and 'Keyword Search'. There are also 'Search' and 'Reset' buttons. An 'Application Form' button is located to the right of the search fields. The website is displayed in a browser window with a Windows taskbar at the bottom showing the date as 31/10/2021 and time as 12:33.

Matching Platform

Home Project Proponent List School List Contact Us

School List

The following information is provided by schools. Interested project proponents and/or other collaborating partners may approach schools to initiate discussion on collaboration through the contact methods as provided in the post.

Application Form

Interested Key Stage(s) of Learning Interested Key Learning Area(s) / Subject(s) / Area(s) Expected Project Deliverables * Keyword Search

Search Reset

Display according to Key Stages of Learning, Key Learning Areas / Subjects / Areas and Project Deliverables for Trial Use that individual schools interested in.

Support for Grantees

Support by the Secretariat/ITE Section

- Relay Grantee's questions on **technical and strategic issues** to Task Force members for **advice**
- **Sponsoring** publicly-funded schools to trial use the deliverables at a cost approved by the QEF Secretariat. The sponsorship period will **last for three years** and begin only after the launch of the deliverable(s)
- QEF will **pay for the subscription fee (sponsorship)** based on the actual subscription of the deliverables.

Illustration of the development and testing period of the New Project Scheme

| | Application period | Project period | | | Post-project period | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 |
| Funding period | Application processing ⁹ | D/T | D/T | L&TU* | TU** | - |
| QEF's sponsorship for publicly-funded schools to use the deliverables | | | | 1 st year ¹⁰ | 2 nd year | 3 rd year |

D/T: Development and Testing L : Launch of deliverable(s) TU: Trial use

*: Deliverable(s) fully tested by participating schools could be launched for trial use by other publicly-funded schools with sponsorship provided by QEF. Applicants should limit the development and testing period to 24 months maximum and reserve a full year for the launch and trial use of the deliverable(s).

**: Extended trial use period would only be allowed under exceptional circumstances.

- The information on the Programme and application details are available on the QEF webpage (<https://www.qef.org.hk>).
- For enquiries, please contact the following colleagues of the IT in Education Section of the EDB and HKEdCity.
 - Enquiry on matters related to schools' participation in the Programme:
Mr Jimmy WAN (Tel. No.: 3698 3603) or
Ms Connie YONG (Tel. No.: 3698 3667)
Email: ite@edb.gov.hk
 - Enquiry on the technical support for the “matching” platform of HKEdCity, common standards for hosting deliverables on HKEdCity and collaboration with HKEdCity:
Service hotline of HKEdCity (Tel. No.: 2624 1000)

*Questions
&
Feedback*