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
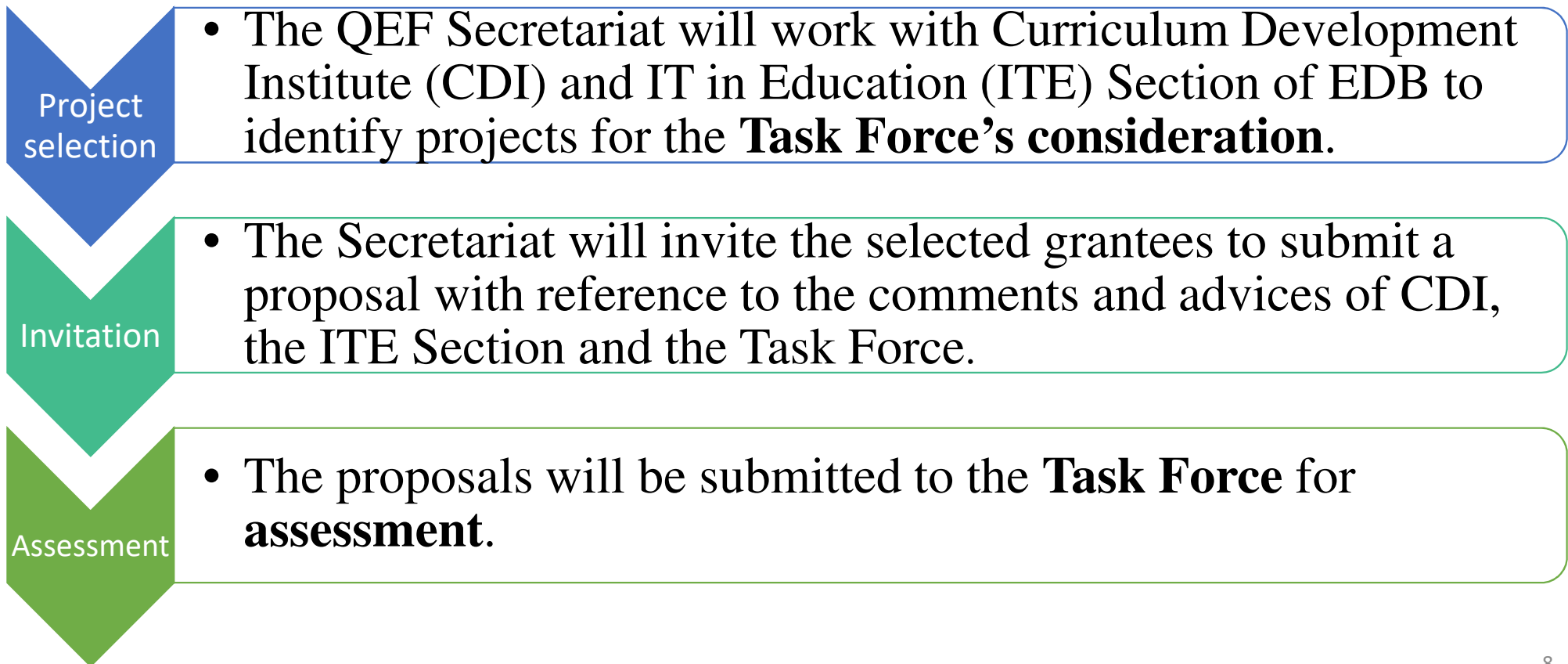
as well as business sector.

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:

Project selection
- The QEF Secretariat will work with Curriculum Development Institute (CDI) and IT in Education (ITE) Section of EDB to identify projects for the **Task Force's consideration**.

Invitation
- The Secretariat will invite the selected grantees to submit a proposal with reference to the comments and advices of CDI, the ITE Section and the Task Force.

Assessment
- The proposals will be submitted to the **Task Force** for **assessment**.

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

could be hosted on, interfaced with or connected to the platform of Hong Kong Education City Limited (HKECL)

Foster in-depth collaboration
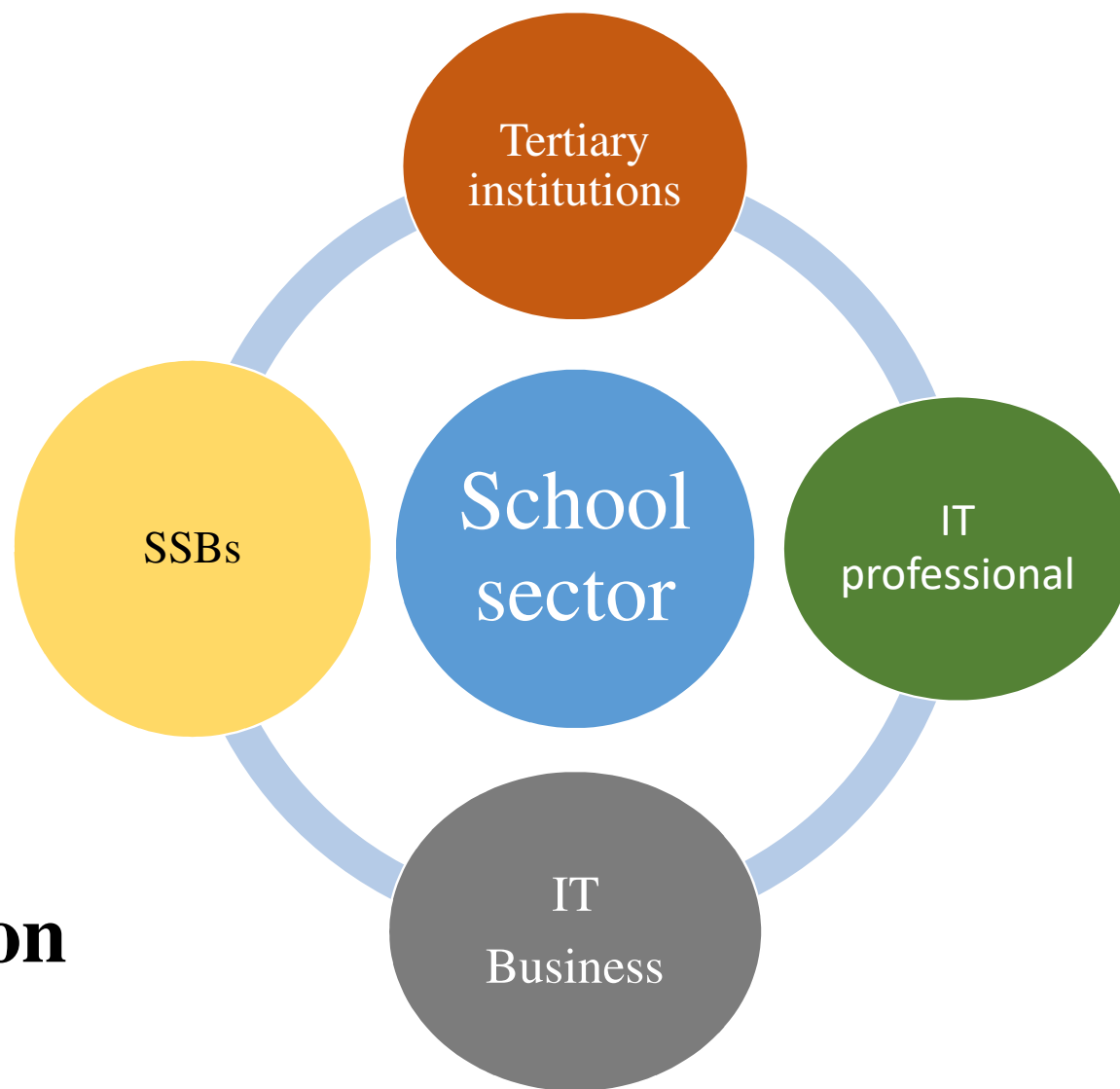
Creating impact

- Should benefit **at least five schools**

- Potential collaboration partners:
- IT companies,
- NGOs,
- Business associations,
- Educational or Professional associations.
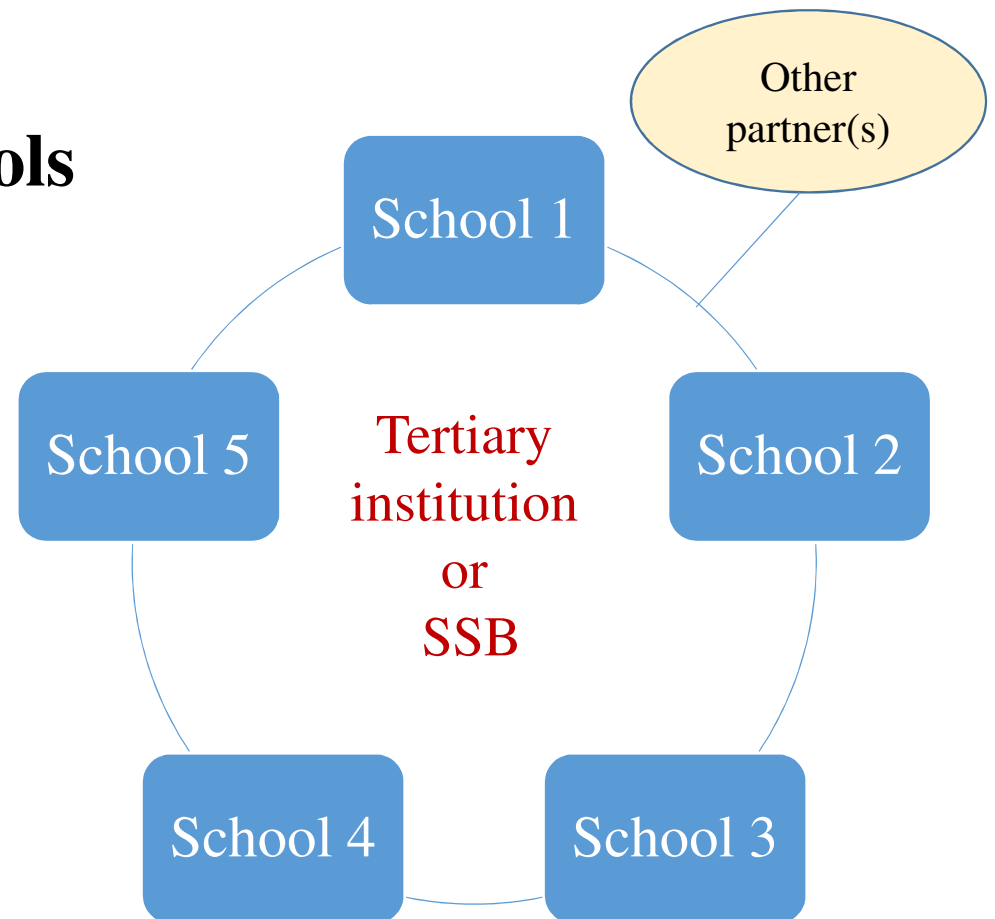
For IT companies

- Collaborative partners of the applicants, i.e. tertiary institution / SSB.

    ➢ To assist in formulating proposals and providing technical advice

    ➢ To assist in development, implementation and maintenance the frontend and backend infrastructure.

How tertiary institutions & SSBs engage companies

- Applicant needs to engage companies as partners in accordance with the applicant organisation's own rules.

- Tertiary institutions and SSBs would need to follow their tendering/quotation procedures.

- All the procurement of goods and services are to be carried out in an open, fair, transparent and competitive basis.

How schools engage companies

Financial limits	Procurement arrangements	Approving authorities
$5,000 or below	Competitive bidding not required for procurement of any stores or services provided that a member of school staff at an appropriate level certifies that such procurement is essential and the prices are fair and reasonable	Principal/Deputy Head [Note: For schools without Deputy Head, the approving authority rests with the Principal.]
Above $5,000 to $50,000	By oral quotations (at least two)	
Above $50,000 to $200,000	By written quotations (at least five)	Principal
Above $200,000	By tenders (at least five)	Tender Approving Committee comprising the School Supervisor/Manager, the Principal, a teacher and a representative of the Parent-Teacher Association or a parent manager

For details

- EDB Circular No. 4/2013 – Procurement Procedures in Aided Schools

- Guidelines on Procurement Procedures in Aided Schools

- EDB Circular No. 17/2012 – Use of Government and Non-government Funds in Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) Schools

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) or jointly own / share the IP rights with collaborative partners.

- Grantees can commercialise the IP rights.

- It is a matter between grantees and collaborative partners to agree on the terms to use / reproduce the co-created materials.

- 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
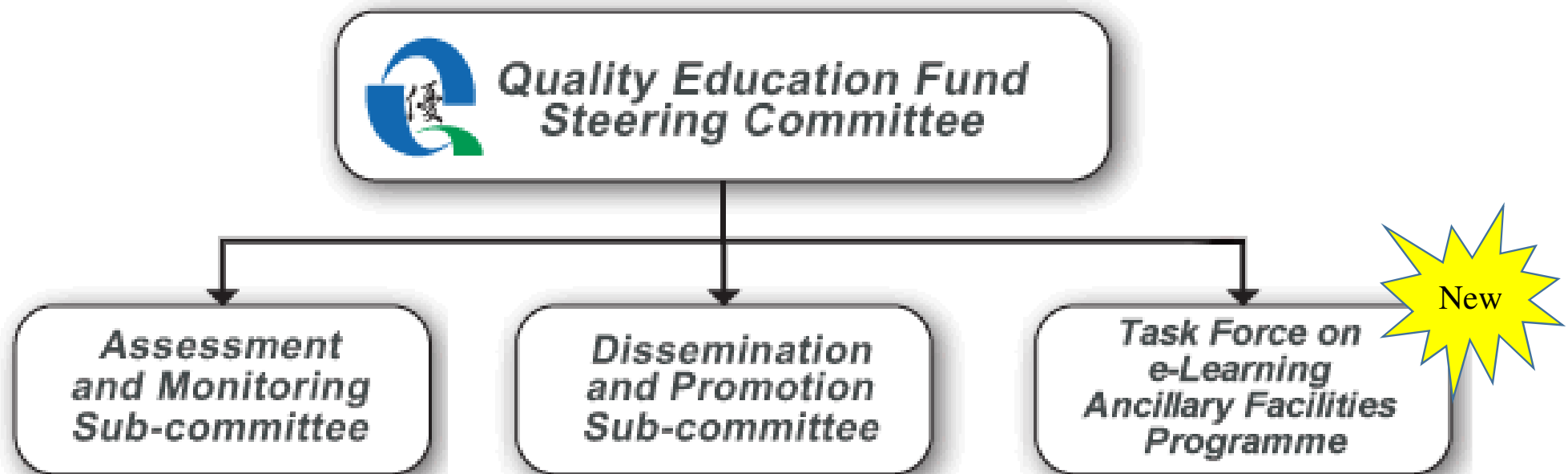
Task Force on QEF e-Learning Ancillary Facilities Programme

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
- By **invitation** only. **3 months** will be given for grantees to prepare their application. - QEF Secretariat would invite the selected grantees within **November 2021**	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.
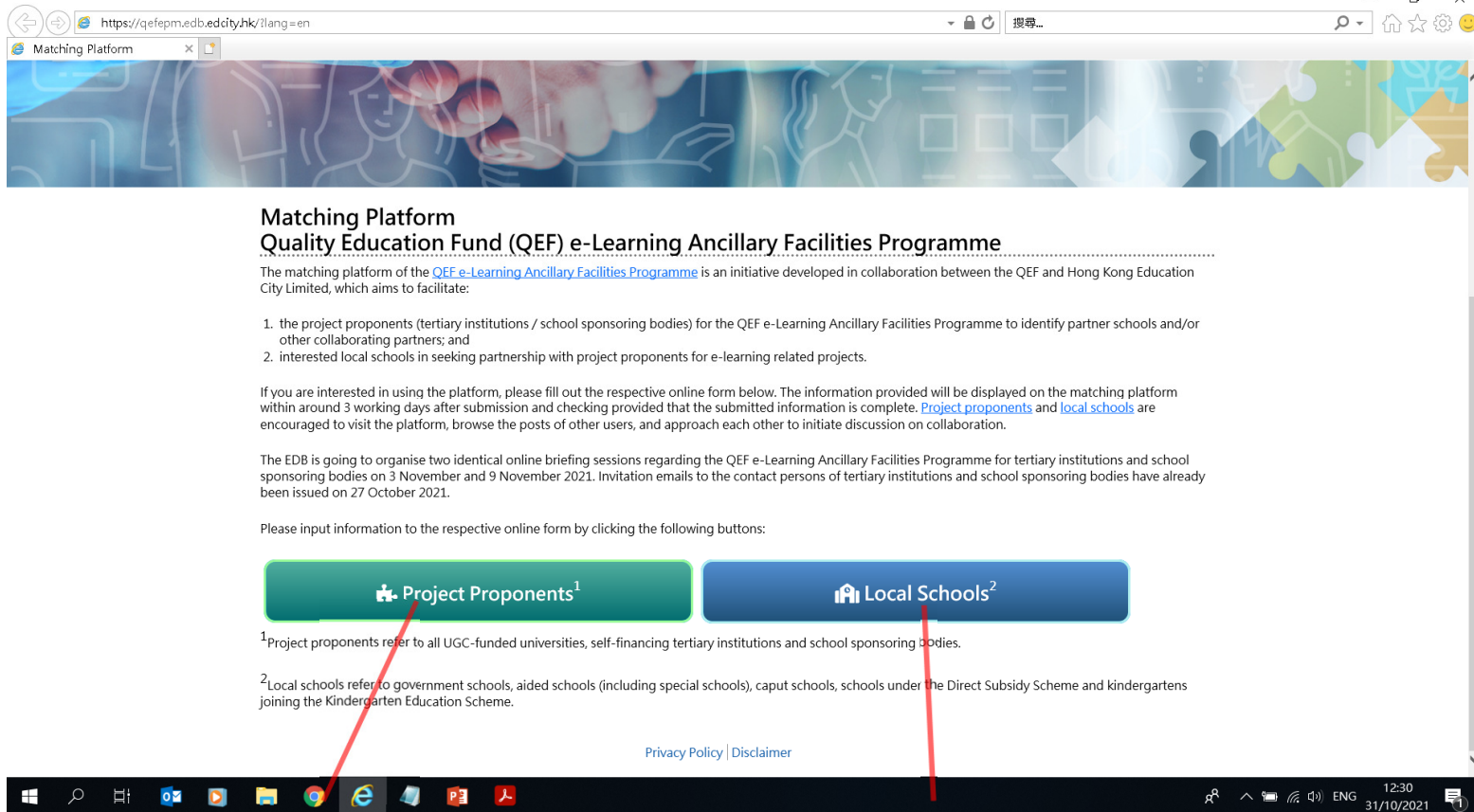
Support for Grantees

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

Project Proponents   Local Schools

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

https://qefepm.edb.edcity.hk/school.php

東華三院吳祥川紀念中學

第三學習階段, 第四學習階段

中華基督教會基全小學

1. 本校於2020-21年度開始使用電子學習平台系統(Teams)進行網上視像教學及發放電子教材，進行混合教學模式。 2. 本校在中文、英文、數學及常識四個學科組中已發展適合的資訊科技教材，並在課程規劃上以電子...

第二學習階段

樂善堂梁銶琚學校（分校）

本校由本年開始，以混合式教學為三年發展項目，我們希望是次透過計劃，建構一個AI平台，提升學生自主學習的能力。

第二學習階段

獅子會何德心小學

第一學習階段, 第二學習階段

大埔浸信會幼稚園天澤邨分校

本園會利用ZOOM網上平台與幼兒進行早會，內容包括唱詩歌、說聖經故事和讀金句。由於疫情關係全日班幼兒不能留校進行與教育有關的活動，因為本園安排於下午時段為留在家中的全日班幼兒提供ZOOM網...

幼稚園

高雷中學

本校在2020-2021年度在中四級推行自攜裝置計劃 (BYOD)，並以電子筆記摘錄為主要發展項目。學生以平板電腦摘錄課堂筆記及完成電子工作紙，再利用雲端硬碟整理學習材料。期望透過科技讓學生更有系統、更有...

第四學習階段

聖保祿學校

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.

Subscription Fee and Sponsorship

- No limitation on the subscription fee
- Applicants to propose a formula for consideration
- The sponsorship is for trial use of the deliverables only
- After the project period, the Government has the right to access, use and disseminate the product (including any reports, records and compilation of data or information generated from the project) for non-commercial purposes.
- The products must be hosted or connected to HKECL.

Tracking actual uses of deliverables

- HKECL will provide subscription functions for Grantee to test the sector's response and manage income of the project.

- The grantees to keep clear record on the count of the usage of deliverables.

- Unused sponsorship will be clawed back by the QEF.

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				1st year[10]	2nd year	3rd 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