

Results announced for allocation of four greenfield sites for international school development

The Secretary for Education, Mr Michael Suen, was pleased to announce today (6 August 09) that four greenfield sites in Kowloon and the New Territories had been successfully allocated to four quality operators for international school development. These new schools would provide a total of about 3 500 primary and secondary school places to address the demand for international school places among overseas families coming to Hong Kong for work or investment.

“The Government supports the development of a vibrant international school sector in Hong Kong to underpin our aspiration to be an Asian world city. I am encouraged by the keen interest from the community in the expansion of Hong Kong’s international school sector and I believe it has been a step forward for Hong Kong to develop a vibrant international school community attracting students from different parts of the increasingly interconnected world as well as to help develop education as an economic area in Hong Kong,” said Mr Suen.

Applications from 14 organizations were received in this allocation exercise for greenfield sites. Details of the allocation results are:

<u>Site locations</u>	<u>Successful applicants</u>
(1) Kai Cheung Road / Wang Kwong Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon	Kellett School Association Limited
(2) Former Lai Chi Kok Cottage Area at King Lam Street, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon	The Trustees of the Kowloon Tong Church of the Chinese Christian and Missionary Alliance
(3) Junction of Wai Man Road and Mei Yuen Street, Area 4, Sai Kung Town, New Territories	The Hong Kong Academy Educational Foundation Limited
(4) Ex-military site at Area 48, Castle Peak Road, So Kwun Wat, Tuen Mun, New Territories	Harrow International School (Hong Kong) Limited

The first three sites i.e. Kowloon Bay, Lai Chi Kok and Sai Kung Town would each be allocated for development into a primary cum secondary school for expansion / relocation of the existing international schools of the successful bidders. The Tuen Mun site was allocated for the establishment and operation of a new international boarding school on a pilot basis operating both primary and secondary sections. It would provide boarding places for students of the secondary section.

Based on the initial plans of the successful applicants, the Education Bureau expected an additional provision of about 3 500 school places (comprising about 1 300 primary and 2 200 secondary school places) on a progressive basis starting from the 2012/13 school year.

All applications received were considered by the Education Bureau on the advice of the School Allocation Committee comprising official and non-official members. The Committee underwent a thorough and detailed scrutiny process taking into account a basket of factors including, inter alia, the quality of the school proposals, track record of operation, expansion/development needs of individual school operators, clarity of admission policies and target local/non-local students' percentage, curriculum and accreditation, support for students, school governance, financial plan, as well as the certainty and capacity of the applicants to deliver their proposals in good time.

The Government has been taking measures, including the provision of greenfield sites at nominal premium and vacant school premises for the development or expansion of international schools, to support the development of a vibrant international school sector, and to strengthen Hong Kong's position as a global metropolis and a regional education hub. There are 51 international schools in Hong Kong currently offering about 34 600 primary and secondary school places and serving about 30 900 students spanning across over 30 nationalities.

As a follow-up of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Policy Addresses, the Education Bureau allocated two vacant school premises on Hong Kong Island and in the New Territories respectively to two existing international schools last October for their expansion projects. The allocation is expected to bring

about a total of around 300 primary and 430 secondary additional school places respectively on Hong Kong Island and in the New Territories on a progressive basis starting from the 2009/10 school year.

The Education Bureau will continue to monitor the provision of international school places and take necessary measures to meet the needs of the community.

Ends/6 August 2009

NNNN