Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 190/2018

From: Secretary for Education
Ref.: EDB(SLPD)/PNSL/GEN/1
Date: 26 November 2018

To: Supervisors / Heads / Teachers of
Government, Aided (including Special Schools), Caput and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) Secondary schools

Summary

This circular memorandum invites teachers of secondary schools to participate in the third programme of ‘i – Journey’ Paid Non-local Study Leave Scheme for Secondary School Teachers (2018/19) (the Scheme) to be held from mid March to early May 2019. This circular memorandum should be circulated for information of teachers and read in conjunction with EDB Circular Memorandum No. 179/2018 issued on 26 October 2018.

Background

2. The first two customised programmes under the three-year pilot Scheme, namely Interdisciplinary Learning & Entrepreneurship Education and Assessment Literacy, have been rolled out via EDBCM No. 179/2018. A new programme on STEM Education has been developed to provide more opportunities for serving secondary school teachers to broaden their perspectives and enrich their experience.

Details

3. Details of the third customised programme on STEM Education are as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Programme Dates (tentative)</th>
<th>No. of Places</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A(6) STEM Education</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Mid March – early May 2019 (8 weeks)</td>
<td>20</td>
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1 The Scheme aims to create a learning journey for participants with unique learning experience, where participants will start with an inquiry, get inspired in the process, and most importantly, bring an impact on their teaching/ student learning/ school development upon returning to school. “i” refers to the 3 crucial elements of this Scheme – inquire, inspire and impact, and together they make a fruitful learning journey for participants.
4. Similar to the first two programmes, the new programme will also include the following major components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase One</th>
<th>2018/19 s.y.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. <strong>Pre-trip preparation</strong>: a one-week period in Hong Kong for research and development of a school-based initiative/research proposal</td>
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<td>ii. <strong>Overseas experience</strong>: five weeks of structured learning and school attachment/visits abroad, during which participants further develop and finalise their proposals with the knowledge and experience gained</td>
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<td>iii. <strong>Post-trip consolidation</strong>: a two-week period upon returning to Hong Kong for consolidation and write-up of a detailed implementation plan for the school-based initiative/research</td>
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<th>Phase Two</th>
<th>2019/20 s.y.</th>
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<td>iv. <strong>Implementation of finalised proposal</strong>: implement the school-based initiative/education research in participants’ schools with a view to bringing positive changes. Good practices of any school-based initiative/research will be shared with a larger professional community.</td>
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For more detailed information of the customised programme, please refer to the Programme Brief at Appendix A(6) and Information Notes to Applicants at Appendix B.

5. Participating teachers will be granted full-pay study leave for the whole period i.e. pre-trip, overseas experience and post-trip. Course fees and transportation between Hong Kong and the location for overseas experience will also be fully sponsored by the EDB. Funding for employment of supply teachers covering participants’ whole study leave period will be provided for their schools. Participating teachers have to undertake to teach full-time in public-sector secondary schools in Hong Kong for two years upon completion of the Programme.

6. Application is open to regular full-time teachers serving in government, aided (including Special Schools), caput and DSS secondary schools. Teachers who are interested should apply on or before **27 December 2018**. Applications should be supported by the principal of the applicant’s school, with the Principal’s Recommendation Forms at Appendix D, duly completed and submitted separately by the above closing date. For details on eligibility, application procedures, teaching obligation and undertaking, etc., please refer to the Information Notes to Applicants at Appendix B and the Application Form at Appendix C. The

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2 Schools with surplus teachers arising from Voluntary Optimisation of Class Structure Scheme or Extended Retention Period for Surplus Teachers are also eligible for funding for employment of supply teachers.

3 Including government, aided, special schools, caput and DSS schools.
above information, relevant appendices as well as the claim form for reimbursement of the salaries of supply teachers have also been uploaded onto Education Bureau website (http://www.edb.gov.hk/i-journey) and the Training Calendar System (TCS) (Course ID: PDT020180344 for Secondary Schools and Special Schools).

8. Each applicant should apply for one programme only. Vetting committee(s) will be formed for selection purposes. The selection criteria include applicants’ experience, relevance of their proposal to the programme and principal’s recommendation, etc. Interviews may be arranged, if necessary.

**Enquiries**

9. For further information about the Scheme, please contact Ms Venus TSANG (Tel: 3509 8742) or Mr Ivan LOE (Tel: 3509 8774) of the School Leadership & Professional Development Section, Education Bureau.

Benjamin YUNG
For Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections --- for information