Summary

This circular memorandum invites teachers of secondary schools to participate in the ‘i – Journey’ Paid Non-local Study Leave Scheme for Secondary School Teachers (2018/19) (the Scheme) to be held from late February to June 2019. This circular memorandum should be circulated for information of teachers.

Background

2. As announced in Policy Address 2017, the Scheme was introduced on a three-year pilot basis for serving secondary school teachers to broaden their perspectives and enrich their experience. Through providing overseas professional development activities of a longer duration, with study leave for teachers and funding support for employment of supply teachers for schools, the Scheme aims to –

   - enhance teachers’ professional capacity and inspire them with the latest global education developments;
   - promote a culture of research and inquiry in schools that brings positive changes and impact on learning and teaching; and
   - create space for teachers to undertake professional development activities on a full-time basis.

3. Three customised programmes, which allowed teachers to take part in structured learning courses and school attachment overseas, have been successfully conducted in the 2017/18 school year (s.y.). Relevant details can be found on Education Bureau website (http://www.edb.gov.hk/i-journey).

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.
Details

4. The first batch of customised programmes in the 2018/19 s.y. under the Scheme covers the following two different themes to cater for teachers’ needs. Details 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(4) Interdisciplinary Learning &amp; Entrepreneurship Education</td>
<td>Turku, Finland</td>
<td>25 Feb – 18 April 2019 (8 weeks)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>A(5) Assessment Literacy</td>
<td>Southampton, United Kingdom</td>
<td>29 April – 21 June 2019 (8 weeks)</td>
<td>15</td>
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Each of these two customised programmes will include the following major components:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Phase One (2018/19 s.y.)</th>
<th>i. Pre-trip preparation: a one-week period in Hong Kong for research and development of a school-based initiative/ research proposal</th>
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<td>ii. Overseas experience: 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. Post-trip consolidation: 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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| Phase Two (2019/20 s.y.) | iv. Implementation of finalised proposal: 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. |

For more detailed information of each customised programme, please refer to the respective Programme Briefs at Appendix A(4) & A(5) and the Information Notes to Applicants at Appendix B.

6. 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.

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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.
7. 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 **26 November 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 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: PDT020180296 (Programme A(4)) & Course ID: PDT020180297 (Programme A(5)) for Secondary and Special Schools).

8. Applicants 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 applied for and principals’ 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