

Progress Report of the 2nd Meeting of the
Finance, General and Economic Affairs Committee of the
Wong Tai Sin District Council held on 29.1.2008

Allocation of DC Funds to Committees of WTSDC in the Financial Year
2008-2009

(WTSDC FG&EAC Paper 1/2008)

Members noted the paper, including:.

(a) Allocation of DC funds to six committees and one organizing committee in the financial year 2008-2009 was as follows:

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Allocation (\$)</u>
Community Building and Social Services Committee	2,469,000
District Facilities Management Committee	3,088,000
Food and Environmental Hygiene Committee	200,000
Housing Committee	200,000
Traffic and Transport Committee	265,000
Finance, General and Economic Affairs Committee	7,527,000
Wong Tai Sin Olympics Organising Committee	4,801,000
	18,550,000

(b) To strengthen the linkage between WTSDC and different sectors, all Committees could cooperate with residents in the district and district organizations after obtaining the funds, to ensure that all projects could fulfill the needs and aspirations of local personalities and incorporate the innovative ideas and recommendations from the public. In implementing the community involvement projects, WTSDC should encourage cross-disciplinary partnership featuring district characteristics and attaining

individual social goals, and implementation of projects that could bring in long term and sustainable social development.

(c) As regards over-budget, all Committees could allow suitable over-budget in view of the nature of activities and past experience so that the best outcome could be obtained with the use of DC funds. However, the total expenditure could not exceed the approved sum of funds and

(d) The applying organizations were only required to apply to the Finance, General and Economic Affairs Committee (FG&EAC) for substantial alteration or changes of activities, and FG&EAC continued to authorize Wong Tai Sin District Office (WTSDO) to approve the application (please see paragraph 3 (f)).

2. All the Committees under WTSDC had noted the funding allocation and arrangement in the financial year 2008-2009.

Rules and Procedures of Application for WTSDC Funds to Implement Community Involvement Projects in 2008-2009
(WTSDC FG&EAC Paper 2/2008)

3. FG&EAC endorsed the recommendations of the said paper, including:

- (a) To amend the guidelines governing the sale of tickets by the organizations granted the allocations to ensure that the sale arrangement was fair and reasonable;
- (b) To increase the highest amount of allocations to Mutual Aid Committees/Owners' Corporations/Owners' Committees for 5 %, and the categories of households as "100 households or below" and "101-200 households";
- (c) In consideration of the nature and scale of projects, WTSDC generally would not accept applications submitted by Mutual Aid Committees/Owners' Corporations/Owners' Committees or district organizations (the highest amount of allocation was \$20,000) relating to 25 % of staff expenses or 10 % of

administrative costs according to paragraphs 5.1.4 and 5.1.5 of “Rules of the Use of District Council Funds”;

- (d) To relax the requirement imposed on the applying organizations to pay at least one fifth of the total expenditure for the projects applied, only those applying organizations which submitted applications for projects related to catering or entertainment (for example dining party or picnic) were required to pay at least one fifth of the total expenditure for the projects applied;
- (e) To fix the yearly themes as “Olympic Year” and “Harmonious Family” and would grant allocations to projects that were theme-related on a priority basis;
- (f) To simplify the procedures and enhance the flexibility of applying organizations in organizing activities, applying organizations were only required to submit applications for alteration of projects to FG&EAC when making the following substantial alteration or changes:
 - (i) altering the nature of activities and the demand for cash flow;
 - (ii) for projects granted funding allocation of \$20,000 or below, there was an upward adjustment of the estimated expenditure breakdown subsidized by DC for more than 30%;
 - (iii) for projects granted funding allocation of more than \$20,000, there was an upward adjustment of the estimated expenditure breakdown subsidized by DC for more than 20%;
 - (iv) Adding expenditure items not included when the related projects were approved; and/or
 - (v) Additional expenditure amounting to more than 5 % of the contingency cost.

As regards other changes/ alteration of projects, the applying organizations were also required to send written notifications to FG&EAC. On the other hand, FG&EAC would continue to authorize WTSDO to approve the said applications for project

alteration.

- (g) In response to “Rules of the Use of District Council Funds” just issued by the Home Affairs Department (HAD), the expenditure limit imposed on drinks, snacks, meals, souvenirs, prizes and sports wear would be updated.

4. The Secretariat had sent written invitations to district organizations on 30.1.2008 for the application of District Council funds.

Any Other Business

Arrangement for the Activity Working Group of the Finance, General and Economic Affairs Committee

5. To alleviate the workload of all Committees, simplify the model of operation and enhance efficiency, FG&EAC endorsed that there was no need to establish activity working group. The Secretariat could directly submit funding applications to FG&EAC for consideration. The bank account of the activity working group would also be cancelled.

Wong Tai Sin District Council Secretariat
March 2008

Ref: WTSDC 13-20/5/4 Pt.2