

**Briefing Session on
Information Technology (IT) Strategy for the Social Welfare Sector
(31 July 2013)**

Questions and Answers

Q.1 Will there be one-off funding exercise for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to replace / upgrade the IT hardware?

A.1 There were several one-off funding exercises for NGOs to purchase or replace the IT facilities in the past years. Upon the endorsement of the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee (LFAC), the Block Grant has been increased for each subvented NGO since 2009 from 1% to 1.5% of its subventions allocation in the current year or \$15,000, whichever is higher, to facilitate the coverage of replacing / upgrading their personal computers and peripherals at any time when the NGO has such business needs.

Q.2 Will there be additional resources from Social Welfare Department (SWD) to facilitate the NGOs' enhancement of their IT capacity as proposed in the Review of the IT Strategy for the Social Welfare Sector (the Review)?

A.2 The Joint Committee on Information Technology for the Social Welfare Sector (the JCIT) has adopted the recommendations of the Review on the proposed resources for the IT development of NGOs (namely Recommendations 2 and 8) and the timing for the implementation of these recommendations with financial implications in the second phase of the two-phased approach, considering the lead time required to go through the consultative and approving processes.

Q.3 What will be the services and assistance offered to NGOs participating in the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme (WARS)?

A.3 The WARS aims to encourage enterprises and organisations to adopt accessibility design in their websites by commending their achievements in making them accessible to all people. Under the Scheme, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will provide free assessment and advisory services on web accessibility to all participating organisations. OGCIO will provide an initial assessment report with recommendations for rectification work to all participants shortly after their enrolment. Technical

advisory service is also available to help the participants on their rectification works. The participants should complete their website improvement work with their own resources before the final assessment period in order to obtain the accreditation. For details of the Scheme, please visit the website: www.webforall.gov.hk/scheme.

Q.4 As an interim measure, can the ambit of the Block Grant (BG) be expanded so as to cover the recurrent costs after the completion of IT projects?

A.4 Any change to the funding ambit of the BG under the Lotteries Fund (LF) is subject to the endorsement of LFAC. Time is required to go through the consultation and approving processing for any proposed change.

Q.5 Is it necessary for NGOs to employ IT project manager for the IT development?

A.5 It is the corporate plan of an individual NGO on the resources for its IT development and the ways to acquire such resources for its IT projects with respect to the business needs and the economy of scales of the IT projects. For project development, NGOs may consider employing their own IT staff, hiring the services of IT vendors or the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, or soliciting the volunteer service of the IT professionals. Irrespective of the ways to engage the project managers for IT projects, it is advisable for the NGOs to assign designated staff, IT or non-IT ones, to keep all the relevant IT documents and conduct regularly the housekeeping activities for the IT systems.