PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ADVANCEMENT SUPPORT SCHEME (PASS)



PASS complements many government support measures for professional services

Improve market access

- ☐ Free Trade Agreements
- Investment Promotion & Protection Agreements
- CEPA



Spearhead market promotion

- ☐ HK Trade Development Council
- Offices Mainland Offices
 - Offices, Mainland Offices
- ☐ Relevant Govt b/ds



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ADVANCEMENT SUPPORT SCHEME MAIN PROGRAMME

(PASS Main Programme)

WHO CAN APPLY FOR PASS MAIN PROGRAMME?

MUST be non-profit-distributing *organisations* under HK laws

- ✓ Professional bodies
- ✓ Trade & industrial organisations
- ✓ Research institutes



Constitution, Memorandum & Articles of Association explicitly state:

Organisation does <u>not</u> distribute profits to its directors, members, shareholders, employees or any other persons (operation & insolvency)

WHAT PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PASS MAIN PROGRAMME? Project goal MUST directly meet one or more PASS objectives

Increase exchanges & co-operation of HK's professional services with counterparts in external markets

Promote relevant publicity activities



Enhance standards & external competitiveness of HK's professional services



Main beneficiaries MUST be HK professionals from eligible sectors





- ✓ Sector-specific OK!
- ✓ Cross-sector OK!
- No geographical restrictions, including ASEAN and Middle East countries OK!

Main beneficiaries MUST be HK professionals from eligible sectors



Accounting

Accounting
Auditing
Book-keeping
Tax services



Legal

Legal
Arbitration
Mediation

Building & construction

Architecture & landscape architecture

Engineering

Planning

Surveying

Project development &

finance

Real estate

Main beneficiaries MUST be HK professionals from eligible sectors

Health

Medical

Dental

Chinese medicine

-W

Nursing

Physiotherapy

Midwifery

Paramedical

Others ICT **Company secretary** Design **Business consultancy Environmental & waste** management **Technical testing &** analysis **Veterinary**



Projects MUST be non-profit-making

Project income (if any)
plough back to
project budget



NO double
Govt funding

ANY project types OK!

Common examples

- Mainland or overseas visit
- Exhibition (HK pavilion)
- HK conference & seminar

Other examples

- External market study
- Exchange activity
- Professional internship or attachment programme (longer term, say 6 weeks+)

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS OF PASS MAIN PROGRAMME ASSESSED?

Value

Contribute to PASS objectives?

Practical value for sector?

Cost- Verification effectiveness

Benefit good no. of HK professionals?

Implementation

Project management capabilities?

Realistic proposal & budget?

Other areas

NOT normal business of applicant?

Participants to shoulder part of cost?







Project
90% of total
eligible project
cost or \$3M,
whichever lower

Grantee's Contribution

10%+ (cash or in-kind)

Self-financing,

3rd party sponsorship or project income

By phases OK!

Project Period

Max 3 years

MUST be direct costs incurred for Project Examples of Typical Allowable Costs



Manpower

Venue rental & set-up

Production & promotion

(e.g. design, advertising, kits for participants)

Travel & accommodation for individuals with specific roles

Equipment

External audit (\$10,000@)

MUST be direct costs incurred for Project



Project team member

Non-local speaker

Basic travel & accommodation for individuals with specific roles

Participant with active role in PASS event outside HK (e.g. speaker, panellist)

Participant of relatively longer professional internship / attachment programme outside HK under PASS (say 6 weeks +)

Examples of Typical Unallowable Costs (i.e. indirect costs)



Entertainment & meal

Cash prize & contest award

Participation fee for visit & mission trip

General office
equipment
(e.g. computer,
projector)

Office overheads

RECENT ENHANCEMENTS



More flexibility in redistributing PASS grant between cost items

Govt approval required only if: cost item increase ≥20% and actual cost >\$60,000



No. of quotations required

Nil if $\leq $2,000$

3 if >\$50,000 & ≤ \$300,000

RECENT ENHANCEMENTS

4 No. of Quotations Required

Aggregate Value (\$)	No. of Written Quotation
≤ 2,000	0
	(Project Co-ordinator confirms price reasonable in progress/final report)
>2,000 & ≤ 50,000	2
>50,000 & ≤ 300,000	3
>300,000 & ≤ 1.36 million	5
> 1.36 million	Open Tender



Open, fair & competitive procedures

LIFE CYCLE OF PASS MAIN PROGRAMME PROJECT

Application

Assessment

Result

Project Start

Accepted all year round

Quarterly Vetting Committee (VC) meetings

Smaller, shorter & straight-forward projects via circulation

(6-8 weeks)

PASS Secretariat & relevant Govt b/ds: Preliminary assessment

VC: Assessment & recommendation

Govt formal approval

(2-3 weeks)

Agree on cashflow projection

Sign Project Agreement (Max. 3 years)

On-going monitoring by VC & PASS Secretariat (e.g. site visits)

Progress Report & Audited Accounts (max. 2)

Final Report & Final Audited Accounts

Lump sum or instalment payments

LIFE CYCLE OF PASS MAIN PROGRAMME PROJECT



Project Implementation

<\$300,000 & 18 months

☐> Upfront lump sum payment for ALL

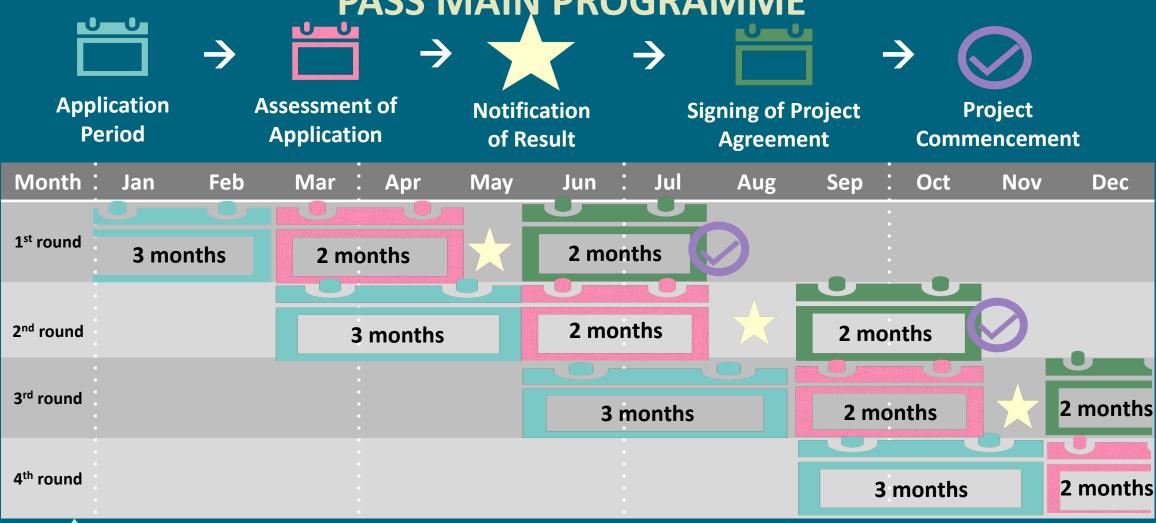
> 2 years □> 3 instalments

*Based on project milestones, ahead of expenditure schedule



No expenditure before project starts

UPCOMING APPLICATION CYCLES OF PASS MAIN PROGRAMME





CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION OF PASS MAIN PROGRAMME

Who?

✓ Non-profit distributing organisation

What?

- ✓ <u>Directly</u> meet PASS objective(s)
- ✓ <u>Mainly</u> benefit

 HK professionals

 from eligible sectors

How?

- ✓ Practical benefits
 - ✓ Cost-effective
 - ✓ Realistic

Financials?

- ✓ Non-profit-making project
 - ✓ No expenditure yet
 - ✓ No double Govt funding

(PSP)



\$50M

Background:

Set aside \$50 million under PASS to subsidise HK major professional bodies to participate in activities organised by Government and HKTDC, so as to step up promotion of HK's competitive edges & professional services to Mainland (including GBA) cities & overseas markets after pandemic has stabilised

Objective: PSP activities must directly meet at least one or more of PASS objectives –

- Exchanges
- Promotion
- Professional standard enhancement

Eligibility

- Beneficiaries: HK professionals from eligible professional services sectors listed under PASS who have participated in PSP activities
- Applicants: HK major professional bodies (non-profitdistributing nature)
- Activities: non-profit-making exchange, promotion and professional standard enhancement activities organised by Government and HKTDC

Subsidy Principle

- 90% of actual cost incurred for each eligible participation cost item, up to approved maximum subsidy level
- Approved maximum subsidy levels cannot be transferred
- On a reimbursement basis, subject to full attendance of activity

Participation Cost

Direct costs only:

- Travel
- Accommodation
- Participation fee charged by organiser (e.g. group in-town transportation, venue of sectoral promotion/exchange)

TALK TO US!





PASS@cedb.gov.hk

✓ Preliminary project ideas OK!

3655 5418



Discussion of projects under planning OK!



www.PASS.gov.hk

✓ Seeking advice OK!

✓ General enquiries OK!

USEFUL REFERENCES OF PASS MAIN PROGRAMME

List of Funded Projects

Assessment Criteria Application Cycle

Sample Forms (common projects)















Pamphlet



Guide to Application



Application Form

USEFUL INFORMATION ON PSP

List of PSP Activities

Participation Cost Application Form













Guide to Application



Request Form