

**For Information**

**Eighth Meeting of  
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 2 : Expressions of Interest for Allocation of  
Greenfield Sites and Vacant/to-be-vacated  
School Premises for International School  
Development***

**Purpose**

This paper presents to the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (“BFAC”) the progress made to facilitate the development of the international school sector, in particular the Expressions of Interest (“EoI”) exercise undertaken by the Education Bureau (“EDB”) for the allocation of greenfield sites and vacant/to-be-vacated school premises for international school development and other related follow-up measures for Members’ information.

**Background**

2. At the sixth meeting of the BFAC held on 1 November 2007, the Administration presented its responses to the findings and recommendations of the study conducted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (AmCham). Amongst others, the Administration reported that it was aware that the international school sector was mainly concerned about (i) the lack of sites for international schools to expand; and (ii) the need to improve the transparency and efficiency of various government processes related to school expansion projects. We also reported that, to follow up a new initiative in the Chief Executive’s 2007-08 Policy Address, EDB would identify a number of greenfield sites and vacant school premises for international school development. Moreover, in order to facilitate international schools seeking expansion to better understand the workings of government departments, EDB would consider further enhancing the

transparency of the relevant application procedures by working with other relevant government departments to run joint briefing sessions that would make reference to a range of practical examples.

## **Latest Developments**

### *Expressions of Interest Exercise*

3. EDB launched an EoI exercise on 19 March 2008 to invite all existing international schools in Hong Kong and other interested parties to express their interests in four greenfield sites and five vacant/to-be-vacated school premises earmarked for international school development. Details of the sites and premises are at **Annex A** and **Annex B** respectively. By the close of the exercise on 30 April 2008, EDB received a total of 63 expressions of interest, 31 of which are for the four greenfield sites and 32 are for the five vacant/to-be-vacated school premises. All together, 46 parties have expressed interests in these sites / premises and 17 of them submitted expressions of interest in both sites and premises. Among the 46 respondents, 14 are existing international school operators wishing to meet their expansion needs, 20 are existing local schools / operators / organizations, and 12 are overseas schools / governments / organizations wishing to establish footing in the Hong Kong international school sector.

### *School Allocation Exercise*

4. The EoI exercise has enabled us to gauge market response and is not intended to be a shortlisting exercise. We will therefore invite all respondent parties to submit formal applications with detailed school proposals to the forthcoming School Allocation Exercise (“SAE”). We will launch two rounds of the SAE, the first round for vacant school premises and the second around for greenfield sites.

5. The first SAE on vacant school premises was launched on 30 May 2008. We have invited all of the 32 respondent parties to submit formal applications and detailed school proposals by 11 July 2008. Based on the responses of the EoI exercise and having regard to the availability of the school premises concerned, we have included four of the five premises (except Premises E as shown in the list at Annex B) in the SAE. We aim to

complete the first round of the SAE and announce the allocation results by early October 2008, after which the second round of the SAE on greenfield sites will be launched in October/November 2008.

### ***Enhancing Transparency of Application Procedures for School Registration and Expansion***

6. As reported in the last meeting, EDB has published comprehensive guidelines which are applicable to both public sector schools and private schools including international schools. These guidelines cover all the necessary application procedures and requirements of EDB and other relevant government departments. EDB also conducts regular briefing sessions on the school registration process. In order to further enhance the transparency of the relevant application procedures, EDB will run joint briefing sessions that would make reference to a range of practical examples by working with other relevant government departments. In particular, a briefing session for the SAE on vacant school premises will be arranged in mid-June 2008 for EDB and relevant government departments to brief interested parties on the procedures and related matters on school registration and school expansion/extension applications. Similar briefing session will be arranged when we launch the SAE on greenfield sites.

### ***Access to Information on Availability of International School Places***

7. In response to a Member's suggestion that the Administration should consider providing a central database on the availability of international school places for reference of the international business community, EDB has established hyperlinks in its website to the websites of individual international schools and that of the AmCham since 1 December 2007. EDB has also sounded out a number of international school operators regarding the possibility of providing on their websites up-to-date information on vacancies available, but the general feedback from school operators was that they were concerned that the information on vacancies might not reflect the full and "real-time" picture and could be misinterpreted. Instead, they have suggested that interested parties who wish to look for information on a certain international school may approach the school direct through the contact as provided in the relevant hyperlink of the school concerned.

## **The Way Forward**

8. The Administration will continue to facilitate the development of international schools in Hong Kong and monitor the provision of school places in the international school sector to meet the needs of the community. In the process, we will keep in touch with the international business community and we welcome their feedback.

Education Bureau  
June 2008

Greenfield Sites Earmarked for International School Development

Site	Location (Note 1)	Site Area	Timing for Allocation to the Successful Bidder (Tentative) (Note 2)
1	Kai Cheung Road / Wang Kwong Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon	9,640 m <sup>2</sup> (0.964 ha)	January 2009
2	Former Lai Chi Kok Cottage Area, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon	About 18,900m <sup>2</sup> (1.89 ha)	By phases from April 2011 (about 2400 m <sup>2</sup> ) to April 2013.
3	Junction of Wai Man Road and Mei Yuen Street, Area 4, Sai Kung Town, New Territories	8,400 m <sup>2</sup> (0.84 ha)	October 2009
4	Ex-military site at Area 48, Castle Peak Road, So Kwun Wat, Tuen Mun, New Territories (for development as an international school with hostel facilities)	About 33,400 m <sup>2</sup> (3.34 ha)	July 2009

Note:

1. All the sites identified are on Government land and zoned as "Government, Institution or Community" sites where international school use is permitted. Though all the sites are on Government land, all of them are being occupied by different parties for temporary uses at present.
2. The timing for availability and allocation as indicated above is tentative and is subject to applicable procedures and timely surrender of land by the current occupants. The sites will be cleared before allocation to the successful bidders. Exact boundary of the sites will be determined by the lands authorities prior to the launch of the School Allocation Exercise.

### Vacant/to-be-vacated Premises Earmarked for International School Development

Premises	Location <small>Note 1</small>	No. of Classrooms	Site Area <sup>Note 2</sup>	Earliest Timing for handing over of Premises to the Successful Bidder <sup>Note 3</sup>
A	Chai Wan, Hong Kong	12 C/R	6500 m <sup>2</sup>	Late 2009
B	Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong	20 C/R	3236 m <sup>2</sup>	September 2008
C	Chai Wan, Hong Kong	20 C/R 7 S/R	3300 m <sup>2</sup>	December 2009
D	Sha Tau Kok, New Territories	23 C/R 14 S/R	8105 m <sup>2</sup>	Late 2008
<del>* E</del>	<del>Tai Po, New Territories</del>	<del>29 C/R 7 S/R</del>	<del>4850 m<sup>2</sup></del>	<del>September 2010</del>

C/R – means classrooms      S/R – means special classrooms

Note:

1. Since the premises once allocated could be made available for occupation by school operators (after any renovation to be carried out by the successful bidders), it is our intention that all or part of the existing buildings will not be demolished.
2. The areas as shown for Premises A, B and D are the approximate site areas obtained from available lands documents. The exact area to be allocated for Premises A is subject to change due to site surrender considerations. The areas as shown for Premises C and E are internal floor areas as provided by the relevant government department. All figures are indicative only.
3. The timing for handing over of the premises as indicated above is tentative. It is subject to applicable procedures and the successful and timely surrender of premises or land by the current occupants or land owners. Premises C and E are located within housing estates managed by the Housing Authority. Since the two premises are still being occupied by schools in operation, their availability is subject to confirmation.

\* Not included in SAE on vacant premises launched on 30 May 2008.