#### **Memorandum Note**

On 1 April 1990, the Legislative Council established the Loan Fund by Resolution to assume the functions of the Development Loan Fund and the Student Loan Fund. The Development Loan Fund had been used to finance development schemes in Hong Kong through loans and advances. The Student Loan Fund had been used to finance loans to students at selected post-secondary institutions. The Resolution provides, inter alia, that—

- (a) the Fund be administered by the Financial Secretary who may delegate his power of administration to other public officers;
- (b) there be credited to the Fund—
  - (i) such appropriations from general revenue as may be approved by the Legislative Council for the purpose of the Fund;
  - (ii) all sums received by way of repayment of any loan or advance made from the Fund under sub-paragraph
    (c) below;
  - (iii) all sums received by way of interest or dividend on any loan or advance made from the Fund under sub-paragraph (c) below and any sum invested under sub-paragraph (e) below;
  - (iv) all sums received from the sale or other disposal of all or part of any investment made under sub-paragraph (e) below; and
  - (v) all such other sums as may be received for the purpose of the Fund;
- (c) the Financial Secretary may expend moneys from the Fund for the purpose of—
  - (i) meeting the liabilities assumed under the terms and conditions already approved as at 31 March 1990 by the Finance Committee; and
  - (ii) granting loans and advances to such persons as may be approved by the Finance Committee, in accordance with such terms and conditions as may be specified by the Finance Committee;
- (*d*) the Director of Accounting Services shall, under the authority of a funds warrant issued by the Financial Secretary, pay from the Fund such sums as may be required to meet expenditure from the Fund;
- (e) the Financial Secretary may, in his discretion, authorise the investment of moneys forming the unexpended balance held in the Fund at any time in interest-bearing securities in such manner as he may determine; and
- (f) the Financial Secretary may from time to time transfer from the Fund to the general revenue any balance held in the Fund which is not in his opinion reasonably required for the purpose of the Fund.

**2** The revised loan payments for 2003–04 are estimated at \$2,710,455,000. The loan payments for 2004–05 are estimated at \$4,353,251,000. Estimated net sums of \$14,000,000,000 and \$4,867,000,000 will be transferred to the general revenue in 2003–04 and 2004–05 respectively.

**3** The revised loan repayments and other receipts for 2003–04 are estimated at \$17,551,219,000. This includes proceeds of \$14,966,722,000 from sale of loans. The loan repayments and other receipts for 2004–05 are estimated at \$6,426,292,000 which includes estimated proceeds of \$5,000,000,000 from sale of loans.

**4** The following notes supplement the estimates of payments and receipts in respect of the approved projects.

#### Head 251—Housing

Hong Kong Housing Society

**5** Government provided loans totalling \$146,019,000 to the Housing Society for the completed housing schemes and interest is payable on the outstanding balance at either 3.5% or 5% per annum. These loans are repayable over 40 years from the respective date of completion of each scheme. From July 1974 to January 1988, the Finance Committee approved two separate loans at 5% per annum and another two interest-free loans totalling \$390,800,000 to the Housing Society for the development of different public housing projects. These loans are repayable over periods ranging from seven to 40 years. The total amount of approved loans to the Housing Society for these housing schemes is \$536,818,000 has been drawn and no further drawdown is expected. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$8,457,000 and \$8,209,000 respectively.

**6** On 21 February 1997, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$1,380,000,000 to provide the Housing Society with interest-free funding to make loans under the extended Sandwich Class Housing Loan Scheme (SCHLS) whereby low-interest loans were granted to eligible applicants to assist them in buying their own homes. The Housing Society has to repay to the Government all sums received from borrowers less any reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in implementing the SCHLS. The Housing Society had drawn down the full amount by 31 March 1998. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$64,369,000 and \$912,000 respectively.

7 On 9 January 1998, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$18,000,000,000 to provide the Housing Society with interest-free funding to make loans under the Home Starter Loan Scheme (HSLS) whereby low-interest loans are granted to eligible first-time home buyers to purchase their own homes. The Housing Society had to repay to the Government all sums received from borrowers less any reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in implementing the HSLS. Applications for the HSLS were closed on 31 March 2002 and the Housing Society had drawn \$14,953,000,000 by that date. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$829,792,000 and \$10,148,000 respectively.

**8** On 2 December 2003, the Government signed an agreement with the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited (HKMCL) for the sale of loans under the SCHLS and HSLS which are secured by second legal charges. The net proceeds received from this sale amounted to \$10,175,907,000. After the sale, the loan repayments received by the Housing Society less any reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in implementing the loan schemes will be remitted to the HKMCL. The loan repayments received by the Housing Society from the unsold loans less any reasonable expenses will continue to be remitted to the Government.

#### Local government officers

#### Loans 3.5% to 5% p.a.

**9** The loan scheme for the Co-operative Housing Scheme for government officers started in 1952. Under this scheme, eligible government officers who formed a co-operative building society could obtain land at one-third of the full market value and a building loan to enable them to construct blocks of flats. The loans are repayable over 20 years at an interest of 5% per annum (3.5% before August 1960). The total value of approved loans for this scheme is \$179,800,000, against which \$179,767,000 had been drawn by 31 March 1982. No further drawdown is expected. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$720,000 and \$756,000 respectively.

#### Housing assistance for civil servants

**10** On 11 February 1981, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$400,000,000 to provide downpayment loans and housing loans under the civil service housing benefits schemes. From December 1985 to January 1989, the commitment was increased several times to \$2,137,000,000 to cover additional requirements. On 13 July 1990, 9 June 1995, and 7 May 1999, the Finance Committee approved increases in the commitment by \$4,553,000,000, \$2,123,000,000 and \$1,625,000,000 respectively to \$10,438,000,000 for servicing loans under the Home Purchase Scheme, the Home Financing Scheme and the Housing Loan Scheme. All the above loans are repayable with interest. The estimated loan payments and repayments in 2003–04 are \$208,370,000 and \$243,382,000 respectively. The estimated loan payments and repayments in 2004–05 are \$345,910,000 and \$99,055,000 respectively.

**11** On 30 May 2003, the Government signed an agreement with the HKMCL for the sale of loans outstanding as at 30 May 2003 under various housing loan schemes for civil servants. The net proceeds from this sale amounted to \$4,790,815,000. After the sale, the loan repayments received will be remitted to the HKMCL. The loan repayments from the unsold loans and new loans granted after 30 May 2003 will be received by the Government.

#### Housing loans to Hong Kong Institute of Education staff

**12** On 28 June 1996, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$30,000,000 for housing loans to eligible ex-Education Department lecturing staff who have been transferred to the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd). Under the bridging-over arrangements for civil servants on transfer to the HKIEd, lecturing staff on Master Pay Scale points 22 to 33 may retain their eligibility for the Home Purchase Scheme, including the downpayment loan. The loans are repayable by monthly instalments of principal and interest over a maximum period of ten years in the same way as those for civil servants. The estimated drawdowns and repayments in 2003–04 are \$1,090,000 and \$47,000 respectively. The estimated drawdowns and repayments in 2004–05 are \$1,123,000 and \$162,000 respectively.

#### Head 252—Loans to Schools/Teachers

#### Loans to schools

**13** Consequent upon the abolition of 'tong fai' and similar charges in junior secondary forms of aided and private non-profit-making schools on 9 May 1979, repayment of all outstanding loans for these schools has been waived. Loans to other schools are still subject to repayment. The approved commitment was \$222,086,000, against which loans totalling \$221,488,000 were drawn and no further drawdown is expected. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are each \$2,489,000.

#### Loans to schools in the Bought Place Scheme

14 On 12 July 1991, the Finance Committee approved a commitment to provide loans up to a total of \$490,000,000 to existing schools in the Bought Place Scheme (BPS) housed in rented accommodation for acquiring permanent school premises and converting their special room facilities to bring them up to aided school standards. Under the Scheme, a BPS school which has secured a government loan will not be required to repay the loan as long as it remains in the BPS. However, if it ceases operation during the BPS stage or leaves the BPS, it may be required to repay the loan with interest. The estimated drawdowns and repayments in 2003–04 are \$2,200,000 and \$21,804,000 respectively. No drawdowns or repayments are expected in 2004–05.

#### Loans to schools in the Direct Subsidy Scheme

**15** On 12 July 1991, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$36,760,000 to provide an interest-free loan to the Chinese International School to meet part of the construction cost of a new school building at Braemar Hill, Hong Kong. The loan is repayable over a period of ten years from 1992. On 5 March 1993, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$20,225,000 to provide an interest-free loan to the German Swiss International School to meet part of the construction cost of its extension block at Guildford Road, Hong Kong. The loan is repayable over a period of ten years from 1994. The above loans have been fully repaid on 11 September and 8 October 2002 respectively. On 16 April 1993,

the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$45,207,000 to provide an interest-free loan to the Hong Kong International School to meet part of the construction cost of its extension project at Tai Tam, Hong Kong. The loan is repayable over a period of ten years from 1996. On 24 May 1996, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$79,769,000 to provide an interest-free loan to the French International School to meet part of the construction cost of its extension project at Blue Pool Road, Hong Kong. The loan is repayable over a period of ten years from 2000. All the loans have been fully drawn. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are each \$12,498,000.

#### Loans to non-profit-making international schools

**16** On 17 January 1997, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$66,591,000 to provide an interest-free loan to the Canadian International School to meet part of the construction cost of a new school building at Nam Long Shan Road, Hong Kong. On 20 June 1997, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$44,800,000 to provide an interest-free loan to the Hong Kong Japanese International School Limited to meet the capital cost of a new school building in Tai Po Kau, N.T. On 26 November 1999, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$77,000,000 to provide an interest-free loan to the Australian International School Foundation Limited to meet part of the construction cost of a new school building at Kowloon Tong. All the loans have been fully drawn down and are repayable over a period of ten years with the first instalment due one year after the loans are drawn down. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$19,394,000 and \$18,839,000 respectively.

#### Slope improvement loan scheme for private schools

**17** On 25 June 1999, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$100,000,000 to provide loans to private schools for upgrading the sub-standard slopes under their maintenance responsibility as required by Dangerous Hillside Orders served by the Building Authority under section 27A of the Buildings Ordinance. The loans are offered on a non-means-tested basis. Loans to non-profit-making private schools will be interest-free whereas those to profit-making private schools will be repayable with interest, where applicable, by instalments within a period of up to 60 months. This may be extended to a maximum of 120 months where justified. The first instalment will become due one month after the final drawdown of the loan.

**18** The loan scheme operates on a revolving basis. There was no outstanding loan as at 31 March 2003. The estimated payments and repayments in 2003–04 are \$3,837,000 and \$64,000 respectively. The estimated payments and repayments in 2004–05 are \$12,000,000 and \$2,100,000 respectively.

#### Start-up loan for post-secondary education providers

**19** On 6 July 2001, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$5,000,000,000 to introduce a new loan scheme to provide post-secondary education providers with interest-free loans to meet their start-up expenses for launching accredited post-secondary education programmes. The loans are repayable in ten equal annual instalments starting one year after the date of the final drawdown. The estimated drawdowns and repayments in 2003–04 are \$444,438,000 and \$45,915,000 respectively. The estimated drawdowns and repayments in 2004–05 are \$824,119,000 and \$56,221,000 respectively.

#### Loans to teachers in training

**20** The Student Finance Assistance Scheme (SFAS) provided loans to eligible students at the then Colleges of Education including the Hong Kong Technical Teachers' College before the 1994/95 academic year. Loans are normally repayable over a period of four years after the students leave the institutions. With effect from the 1990/91 academic year, loans made under this scheme are repayable at an interest rate of 2.5% per annum. Loans totalling \$77,076,000 have been drawn and no further downdowns are expected. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively.

#### Head 254-Loans to Students

## Students of the universities, the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education, the Prince Philip Dental Hospital, the Hong Kong Institute of Education and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

**21** The Local Student Finance Scheme (LSFS) provides financial assistance to eligible full-time students of publicly-funded institutions, i.e. University Grants Committee (UGC) - funded institutions, the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education of the Vocational Training Council, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and the Dental Technology Course at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital.

**22** The LSFS, which is a means-tested scheme, provides assistance to students in need in the form of grants and/or loans. The loan element is intended to help towards students' living and personal expenses. The maximum loan for each student has been reduced from \$33,690 in the 2002/03 academic year to \$33,490 in the 2003/04 academic year to reflect general price decreases. The loans, which are interest-bearing at 2.5% per annum as from the commencement of repayment, are normally repayable over a period of five years after the students' graduation or termination of studies.

#### Non-means-tested loan scheme

23 The Non-means-tested Loan Scheme (NLS) was introduced in 1998 to complement the LSFS and to ensure that no qualified student will be denied access to tertiary education because of lack of means. It provides financial assistance in the form of loans for tuition fees to eligible students of publicly-funded institutions (i.e. UGC-funded institutions, the

Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education of the Vocational Training Council, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and the Dental Technology Course at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital), the Hong Kong Shue Yan College and the Open University of Hong Kong, and persons pursuing continuing and professional education courses provided in Hong Kong by registered schools, non-local universities and professional and recognised training bodies.

24 Eligible students may obtain a loan under the NLS up to the maximum amount of their tuition fees payable. Students who receive financial assistance under the LSFS may apply for loans under the NLS up to the difference between the maximum financial assistance under the LSFS and the amount of financial assistance they may receive under the LSFS, subject to the NLS loan maximum (equivalent to the tuition fees payable) not being exceeded. Students who fail to obtain assistance or do not wish to apply under the LSFS may obtain NLS loans up to the maximum amount of their tuition fees payable.

**25** With effect from the 2001/02 academic year, a Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Post-secondary Students (NLSPS) was introduced to complement the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP) to provide loans to eligible full-time students aged 25 or below pursuing accredited self-financing post-secondary education programmes to meet their tuition fees and living expenses. Eligible students may obtain a loan under the NLSPS up to the maximum amount of their tuition fees payable plus a loan of \$33,490 (for the 2003/04 academic year) for their living expenses. Students who receive FASP may apply for loans under the NLSPS up to the difference between their tuition fees and the financial assistance they may receive under the FASP plus a loan of \$33,490 (for the 2003/04 academic year) for their living expenses.

26 The NLS and the NLSPS operate on a full-cost recovery basis. Interest is payable on the outstanding balance of the loan at the "no-gain-no-loss" rate, plus a 1.5% risk-adjusted factor which seeks to cover the Government's risk in disbursing unsecured loans. An administrative fee is chargeable for each application and annually thereafter until the loan is fully repaid.

#### Means-tested loan for post-secondary students

**27** The FASP was introduced in the 2001/02 academic year to ensure that no qualified students will be denied access to self-financing post-secondary education because of a lack of financial means. The FASP is a means-tested scheme which provides financial assistance in the form of grant or loan to eligible full-time students aged 25 or below pursuing accredited, self-financing post-secondary education programmes, leading to a qualification at or above the levels of higher diploma, associated degree and/or professional diploma. The maximum level of financial assistance under the FASP is capped at the tuition fee payable for the accredited programme subject to a ceiling of \$57,090 (for the 2003/04 academic year).

**28** The loans are repayable within ten years upon graduation or termination of studies, and are interest-bearing at 2.5% per annum chargeable from the commencement of the repayment period.

#### Students of approved post-secondary colleges

**29** The Student Finance Assistance Scheme provides loans to eligible continuing students of the Hong Kong Shue Yan College (HKSYC) registered in the 2000/01 academic year or before. The maximum level of the loan to these students was reduced from \$17,600 in the 2002/03 academic year to \$17,300 in the 2003/04 academic year to reflect general price decreases. The loans are repayable over a period of four years after the students leave the college. Since the 1991/92 academic year, the interest rate of these loans has been fixed at 2.5% per annum. The scheme is being replaced by the FASP and is no longer available to new students of the HKSYC with effect from the 2001/02 academic year.

#### Hong Kong students in the United Kingdom

**30** The former Hong Kong/United Kingdom Governments Joint Funding Scheme provided financial assistance to eligible Hong Kong students of first degree or Higher National Diploma courses in the United Kingdom. Financial assistance under the scheme was subject to means-testing and was in the form of grants and loans. Loans under this scheme are normally repayable over a period of five years after the students' graduation or termination of studies. The scheme was phased out as from the 1994/95 academic year. The last loan payment under the scheme was made in September 2001. There are no more loan payments to be made under this scheme.

**31** As at 31 March 2003, the amount of outstanding loans recoverable under the schemes mentioned in paragraphs 21 to 30 above was \$5,001,379,000. The estimated loan payments and repayments in 2003–04 are \$1,746,857,000 and \$861,775,000 respectively. The loans under the LSFS, NLS and NLSPS are planned to be sold towards the end of 2004–05. Assuming that the loans are sold as scheduled, the estimated loan payments and repayments in 2004–05 are \$2,030,184,000 and \$849,876,000 respectively.

## Head 255—Interest-free loans to employees injured at work and dependants of employees who die as a result of work-related accidents

#### Loans to employees injured at work and dependants of deceased employees

**32** On 2 July 1993, the Finance Committee approved a revolving fund with a commitment of \$10,000,000 to provide temporary relief in the form of interest-free loans of up to \$15,000 each to employees injured at work and to dependants of employees who die as a result of work-related accidents. The loans are normally repayable in four equal quarterly payments after the relevant employees' compensation claims have been settled. The amount of outstanding loans as at

31 March 2003 was \$1,291,000. The estimated drawdowns and repayments in 2003–04 are \$690,000 and \$402,000 respectively. The estimated drawdowns and repayments in 2004–05 are \$690,000 and \$449,000 respectively.

#### Head 256—Interest-free loans for starting up Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme

#### Loan to Occupational Deafness Compensation Board

**33** On 28 April 1995, the Finance Committee approved an interest-free loan of \$115,000,000 to the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board for starting up the Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme. The Board had fully drawn down the loan by 31 March 1996. The loan is repayable in nine annual instalments starting from 1997–98. The first eight instalments are \$13,000,000 each and the balance of \$11,000,000 is to be paid in the last instalment. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are each \$13,000,000.

#### Head 257—Employees Compensation Assistance Fund

#### Bridging loan to Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Board

**34** On 16 June 2000, the Finance Committee approved the provision of a bridging loan of up to \$60,000,000 to the Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Board to assist its cash flow up to the end of July 2001. The Board fully drew down the loan in July 2001 and repaid the first instalment of \$10,000,000 in August 2001. On 21 June 2002, the Finance Committee approved the provision of an additional loan of \$220,000,000 to the Board. The additional loan can be drawn down by instalments as and when necessary until 31 March 2005. Interest on the outstanding balance of \$50,000,000 of the previous bridging loan and the additional loan will be charged at the "no-gain-no-loss" rate. The total loan will be repaid by 10 equal annual instalments (covering loan principal and interest) beginning on 1 April 2006. The estimated drawdowns in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$50,000,000 and \$150,000,000 respectively.

#### Head 258—Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund

#### Bridging loan to Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund Board

**35** On 8 November 2002, the Finance Committee approved the provision of a bridging loan up to \$695,000,000 to the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund Board to enable it to tide over its cash flow problem. The loan can be drawn down by instalments as and when necessary until 31 March 2006. Interest will be charged on the outstanding balance of the loan at the "no-gain-no-loss" rate. The loan is repayable by half-yearly equal instalments (covering loan principal and interest) over nine years beginning on 1 April 2007. The estimated drawdowns in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$72,000,000 and \$180,000,000 respectively.

#### Head 262—Primary Products

#### Fisheries loans

**36** The Fisheries Development Loan Fund is a revolving fund established in January 1960 with a commitment of \$2,000,000 from the Development Loan Fund to provide loans at an interest rate of 6% per annum to promote fishing in middle and distant waters. The approved commitment for this fund was increased to \$5,000,000 in December 1961, \$7,000,000 in October 1984 and \$100,000,000 in November 1997. Loans are repayable by instalments according to a quarterly repayment pledge, normally by deduction at a minimum rate of 15% of the proceeds of sale of catches at the wholesale fish markets run by the Fish Marketing Organization and by cash in case the deduction falls short of the quarterly repayment pledge. The amount of outstanding loans as at 31 March 2003 was \$84,399,000. The estimated loan payments and repayments in 2003–04 are \$17,710,000 and \$9,045,000 respectively. The estimated loan payments and repayments in 2004–05 are \$3,000,000 and \$13,836,000 respectively.

#### Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund-livestock waste control scheme

**37** On 16 March 1988, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$46,700,000 to the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund (KAALF) to provide loans, at interest rates determined by the KAALF Committee, to livestock farmers for installing waste treatment facilities in compliance with the requirements of the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) and the Waste Disposal (Livestock Waste) Regulations. On 10 December 1993, the Finance Committee approved an increase in the commitment by \$33,800,000 to \$80,500,000. The KAALF had drawn \$18,780,000 by 31 March 1999 and no further drawdown is expected. It is estimated that the KAALF will have fully repaid the outstanding amount of the loans by 31 March 2004.

#### Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund-loans to poultry farmers

**38** On 9 January 1998, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$80,000,000 to the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund (KAALF) to provide loans, at an interest rate of 2% per annum, to chicken farmers affected by the poultry slaughter operation due to the avian influenza outbreak. The loans are for the chicken farmers to re-establish their businesses or to upgrade their equipment and facilities for the purpose of improving hygiene on the farms. The KAALF had drawn \$14,638,000 by 31 March 2000 and no further drawdown is expected. It is estimated that the KAALF will have fully repaid the outstanding amount of the loans by 31 March 2004.

#### Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund-loans to mariculturists

**39** On 23 April 1998, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$200,000,000 to the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund (KAALF) to provide loans at an interest rate of 2% per annum to mariculturists affected by the red tide in March and April 1998. The loans are for the mariculturists to re-establish their fish farming businesses. The KAALF had drawn \$130,189,000 by 31 March 2000 and no further drawdown is expected. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$1,844,000 and \$6,669,000 respectively.

#### Loans to poultry wholesalers and retailers

**40** On 9 January 1998, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$570,000,000 to provide loans at an interest rate of 2% per annum to poultry wholesalers and retailers who were affected by the avian influenza outbreak. The loans are for the poultry wholesalers and retailers to resume their businesses. Loans totalling \$81,498,000 had been drawn by 31 March 2000 and no further drawdown is expected. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$304,000 and \$477,000 respectively.

#### Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund-loans to fishermen

**41** On 25 June 1999, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$65,000,000 to the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (FMOLF) to provide loans at an interest rate of 3% per annum to fishermen affected by the fishing moratorium in the South China Sea during June and July 1999. The loans are for the fishermen to maintain and repair their fishing vessels for resumption of fishing operation after the moratorium. The FMOLF had drawn \$46,645,000 by 31 March 2000 and no further drawdown is expected. It is estimated that the FMOLF will have fully repaid the outstanding amount of the loans by 31 March 2004.

#### Loans to poultry wholesalers and retailers affected by avian flu

**42** On 1 June 2001, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$146,000,000 to provide loans at an interest rate of 2% per annum to poultry wholesalers and retailers who were affected by the avian influenza outbreak in May 2001. The loans are for the poultry wholesalers and retailers to alleviate their cash flow problems during suspension of trading. Loans totalling \$15,423,000 had been drawn by 31 March 2002 and no further drawdown is expected. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$1,268,000 and \$1,243,000 respectively.

#### Head 265—Land Development

#### Urban Renewal Authority

**43** On 15 July 1987, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$100,000,000 to provide a loan to the then Land Development Corporation (LDC) for financing the establishment of the LDC and its initial operation. The loan is to be drawn in tranches and for each tranche drawn, repayment is to be made by 25 equal annual instalments after a grace period of five years. Interest is payable on the outstanding balance at 5% per annum calculated from the date of the drawdown of each tranche. A total of \$31,150,000 had been drawn by the LDC by 31 March 1989. No further drawdown is expected.

**44** On 1 May 2001, the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) was established under the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance (Cap. 563). Upon the establishment of the URA, all rights, obligations, assets and liabilities of the LDC were vested in the URA in accordance with section 37 of the Ordinance and the LDC was dissolved. The URA has fully repaid the outstanding loan balance on 16 March 2003.

#### Head 266—Industry

#### Hong Kong Productivity Council

**45** On 18 May 1988, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$156,100,000 to provide a loan to the Hong Kong Productivity Council for constructing a special-purpose building to house its present and planned facilities. On 31 May 1989, the Finance Committee approved an additional commitment of \$110,870,000 to the Council, thus bringing the total approved commitment to \$266,970,000. The Council has drawn a total of \$249,425,000. Interest incurred during the construction period which ended in December 1990 has been capitalised. Interest is payable on the outstanding loan balance at the average best lending rate quoted by the note-issuing banks. The loan and interest thereon are repayable annually over 20 years as from December 1991. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are each \$13,025,000.

#### Head 267—Estate Agents Authority

#### Loan to the Estate Agents Authority

**46** On 13 June 1997, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$40,000,000 to provide a loan to the Estate Agents Authority (EAA) for financing its establishment and initial operation. The first drawdown of \$22,000,000 was made in 1997–98 and the second and final drawdown of \$18,000,000 in 1998–99. The loan is repayable in ten equal annual instalments starting from 1999–2000. The Authority will pay interest at 5% per annum on the outstanding loan balance. The EAA has fully repaid the outstanding loan balance on 27 February 2003.

#### Head 269—Building Safety

#### Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme

**47** On 27 April 2001, the Finance Committee approved the merger of the Fire Safety Improvement Loan Scheme under Head 268 and the Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme under Head 269 into a new loan scheme called "Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme" (CBSILS) under Head 269 with a commitment of \$700,000,000 to provide loans to building owners who need financial assistance to improve the safety of their premises. The CBSILS is a revolving loan facility. Interest is payable on the outstanding balance of the loans at the "no-gain-no-loss" rate. The amount of outstanding loans as at 31 March 2003 was \$67,390,000. The estimated loan payments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$93,263,000 and \$110,295,000 respectively. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are \$28,030,000 and \$47,925,000 respectively.

#### Head 274—Tourism

#### International Events Fund

**48** On 27 March 1998, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$100,000,000 to provide a loan to the Hong Kong Tourism Board (formerly the Hong Kong Tourist Association) for the setting up of the International Events Fund to promote international events in Hong Kong. The loan operates on a revolving basis with a credit limit of \$100,000,000 for a period of five years from the date of the first drawdown. Interest is payable at 5% per annum on the outstanding amount of the loan. The Board drew down the full amount of \$100,000,000 in 1998–99 and fully repaid the loan in 2003–04.

#### Ocean Park Lowland Redevelopment Fund

**49** On 21 May 1999, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$500,000,000 to provide a loan to the Ocean Park Corporation for the construction of its Lowland Redevelopment Project. The Corporation will repay the loan in ten annual instalments plus interest at 5% per annum on the outstanding amount of the loan, due on 30 June each year. The Corporation is reconsidering its redevelopment plans. No drawdown of the loan is expected in 2003–04 and 2004–05.

#### Head 275—Small and Medium Enterprises

#### Special finance scheme for small and medium enterprises

**50** On 31 July 1998, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$2,500,000,000 for the establishment of a special finance scheme, which operated on a revolving basis, to provide guarantees for loans or credit facilities extended by recognised lending institutions to small and medium enterprises which were then hard hit by the liquidity crunch in Hong Kong. The maximum amount of the guarantee in each case was either \$2,000,000 or 50% of an approved loan, whichever was the less. On 23 April 1999, the Finance Committee approved an increase in the maximum amount of the guarantee in each case to either \$2,000,000 or 70% of an approved loan, whichever was the less. Under the scheme, the Government placed with a lending institution, on request, a deposit of up to the amount of each guarantee issued. On 12 November 1999, the Finance Committee approved the increase of commitment to \$5,000,000,000 and at the same time the revocation of the deposit option for lending institutions. On 8 April 2000, the Government stopped receiving further applications. By 30 September 2000, all outstanding applications have been either processed or withdrawn. Placements of deposits and payments of compensation under guarantees in default cases are classified as payments while uplifting of deposits and recoveries of compensation are classified as receipts. The net amount of payments as at 31 March 2003 was \$253,246,000. The estimated loan payments and repayments in 2003–04 are \$70,000,000 and \$6,570,000 respectively. The estimated payments and receipts for 2004–05 are \$88,000,000 and \$5,000,000 respectively.

#### Head 276—Water Supply

#### Loan to the Guangdong Provincial People's Government for water quality improvement project

**51** On 3 April 1998, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$2,364,000,000 to provide an interest-free loan to the Guangdong Provincial People's Government to help finance a works project in Guangdong to improve the quality of water supplied to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The loan was fully drawn by 2002–03. The loan is repayable in 20 equal annual instalments starting from 2003–04. The estimated repayments in 2003–04 and 2004–05 are each \$118,200,000.

#### Head 277—Information Technology

#### Loan to Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited

**52** On 8 March 2002, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$6,500,000 to provide a loan to the Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (HKIRCL) for starting and maintaining its operations in the initial years. The HKIRCL will repay the loan by seven equal annual instalments (covering loan principal and interest) beginning on the third anniversary of the date of the first drawdown. Interest is payable at the average best lending rate quoted by the note-issuing banks in Hong Kong. The HKIRCL is expected to draw down the full amount of the loan in 2004–05. Repayments are expected to start from 2007–08.

#### **Additional Commitments**

**53** A sum of 601,430,000 will be provided in 2004–05 to allow for additional commitments that may be identified during the course of the year.

## LOAN FUND (Payments)

Sub- head (Code)		Approved commitment	Actual expenditure to 31.3.2003	Revised estimate 2003–04	<b>Estimate</b> 2004–05
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Loan	S				
	Head 251—Housing				
	Housing assistance for civil servants				
151	Housing loans§	10,438,000	5,215,561	208,370	345,910
	Housing loans to Hong Kong Institute of Education staff				
161	Housing loans	30,000	4,175	1,090	1,123
	Head 251: total	10,468,000	5,219,736	209,460	347,033
	Head 252—Loans to Schools/Teachers				
102	Loans to schools in the Bought Place Scheme	490,000	291,375	2,200	—
105	Slope improvement loan scheme for private schools§	100,000	_	3,837	12,000
106	Start-up loan for post-secondary education providers	5,000,000	680,975	444,438	824,119
	<i>Head 252</i> : total	5,590,000	972,350	450,475	836,119
101	Head 254—Loans to Students Students of the universities, the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education, Prince Philip Dental Hospital, Hong Kong				
	Institute of Education and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts		8,040,580	600,737	691,635
102	Non-means-tested loan scheme	_	2,121,397	1,064,719	1,209,972
103	Means-tested loan for post-secondary students.	_	75,529	77,193	128,152
111	Students of approved post-secondary colleges	_	184,990	4,208	425
	<i>Head 254</i> : total		10,422,496	1,746,857	2,030,184
	Head 255—Interest-free loans to employees injured at work and dependants of employees who die as a result of work- related accidents				
101	Loans to employees injured at work and dependants of deceased employees§	10,000	1,291	690	690
	Head 255: total	10,000	1,291	690	690

 $\$  The actual expenditure to 31.3.2003 represents the net amount of outstanding loans as at that date.

(Payments)

Sub- head (Code)		Approved commitment	Actual expenditure to 31.3.2003	Revised estimate 2003–04	Estimate 2004–05
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Loan	s				
	Head 257—Employees Compensation Assistance Fund				
101	Bridging loan to Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Board	280,000	80,000	50,000	150,000
	Head 257: total	280,000	80,000	50,000	150,000
	Head 258—Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund				
101	Bridging loan to Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund Board	695,000	_	72,000	180,000
	Head 258: total	695,000		72,000	180,000
	Head 262—Primary Products				
101	Fisheries loans§	100,000	84,399	17,710	3,000
	Head 262: total	100,000	84,399	17,710	3,000
	Head 269—Building Safety				
101	Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme§	700,000	67,390	93,263	110,295
	<i>Head 269</i> : total	700,000	67,390	93,263	110,295
	Head 274—Tourism				
111	Ocean Park Lowland Redevelopment Fund	500,000	_		_
	<i>Head 274</i> : total	500,000			
	Head 275—Small and Medium Enterprises				
101	Special finance scheme for small and medium enterprises§	5,000,000	253,246	70,000	88,000
	<i>Head 275</i> : total	5,000,000	253,246	70,000	88,000

 $\$  The actual expenditure to 31.3.2003 represents the net amount of outstanding loans as at that date.

## LOAN FUND (Payments)

Sub- head (Code)		Approved commitment \$'000	Actual expenditure to 31.3.2003 \$'000	Revised estimate 2003–04 \$'000	Estimate 2004–05 \$'000
Loan	IS				
	Head 277—Information Technology				
101	Loan to Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited	6,500	_	_	6,500
	Head 277: total	6,500			6,500
	Additional Commitments				601,430†
	Transfer to General Revenue			14,000,000	6,500,000
	Total (Payments)	23,349,500	17,100,908	16,710,455	10,853,251

† Subject to Finance Committee's approval.

### (Receipts)

Sub- head (Code)		Actual receipts to 31.3.2003	Revised estimate 2003–04	Estimate 2004–05
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Loan	repayments			
	Head 251—Housing			
	Hong Kong Housing Society			
211	Completed schemes	129,519	4,937	4,689
213	Rural public housing (i) Tui Min Hoi	12,310	758	758
	(ii) Sha Tau Kok	32,229	2,762	2,762
215	Sandwich class housing loan scheme	1,065,822	64,369	912
216	Home starter loan scheme	1,092,000	829,792	10,148
	Local government officers			
221	Loans 3.5 to 5% p.a	174,970	720	756
	Housing assistance for civil servants			
251	Housing loans#		243,382	99,055
			,	,
261	Housing loans to Hong Kong Institute of Education staff	4 175	17	1(2
261	Housing loans	4,175	47	162
	Head 251: total	2,511,025	1,146,767	119,242
	Head 252—Loans to Schools/Teachers			
201	Loans to schools	214,022	2,489	2,489
202	Loans to schools in Bought Place Scheme		21,804	—
203	Loans to schools in the Direct Subsidy Scheme	115,973	12,498	12,498
204	Loans to non-profit-making international schools	41,183	19,394	18,839
205	Slope improvement loan scheme for private schools#		64	2,100
206	Start-up loan for post-secondary education providers	17,613	45,915	56,221
211	Loans to teachers in training	77,063	2	1
	Head 252: total	465,854	102,166	92,148
	Head 254—Loans to Students			
201	Students of the universities, the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education, Prince Philip Dental Hospital, Hong Kong Institute of Education and Hong Kong Academy for	4,999,524	723,785	710,355
202	Performing Arts Non-means-tested loan scheme	4,999,324 291,784	124,132	119,833
202	Means-tested loan for post-secondary students	291,784 986	2,151	6,136
203 211	Students of approved post-secondary students	125,290	11,608	13,506
	or approved post secondary conceptonian			

# Actual receipts to 31.3.2003 are not shown as the item is a revolving loan.

### (Receipts)

Sub- head (Code)		Actual receipts to 31.3.2003	Revised estimate 2003–04	Estimate 2004–05
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Loan	repayments			
	Head 254—Loans to Students—Cont'd.			
231	Hong Kong students in the United Kingdom	172,977	99	46
	<i>Head 254</i> : total	5,590,561	861,775	849,876
	Head 255—Interest-free loans to employees injured at work and dependants of employees who die as a result of work-related accidents			
201	Loans to employees injured at work and dependants of deceased employees#	_	402	449
	<i>Head 255</i> : total		402	449
	Head 256—Interest-free loan for starting up Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme			
201	Loan to Occupational Deafness Compensation Board	78,000	13,000	13,000
	<i>Head 256</i> : total	78,000	13,000	13,000
	Head 257—Employees Compensation Assistance Fund			
201	Bridging loan to Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Board	10,000	_	_
	<i>Head 257</i> : total	10,000		
	Head 262—Primary Products			
201	Fisheries loans#	_	9,045	13,836
211	Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund—livestock waste control scheme	18,394	1,350	_
212	Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund—loans to poultry farmers	14,450	188	_
213	Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund-loans to mariculturists .	120,502	1,844	6,669
221	Loans to poultry wholesalers and retailers	80,067	304	477
231	Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund—loans to fishermen	46,405	240	—
241	Loans to poultry wholesalers and retailers affected by avian flu	12,912	1,268	1,243
	Head 262: total	292,730	14,239	22,225

# Actual receipts to 31.3.2003 are not shown as the item is a revolving loan.

(Rec	

Sub- head (Code	)	Actual receipts to 31.3.2003	Revised estimate 2003–04	Estimate 2004–05
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Loar	n repayments			
	Head 265—Land Development			
201	Urban Renewal Authority	31,150	—	_
	<i>Head</i> 265: total	31,150		
	Head 266—Industry			
201	Hong Kong Productivity Council—special-purpose building	163,607	13,025	13,025
	Head 266: total	163,607	13,025	13,025
	Head 267—Estate Agents Authority			
201	Loan to Estate Agents Authority	40,000	—	—
	Head 267: total	40,000		
	Head 269—Building Safety			
201	Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme#		28,030	47,925
	Head 269: total		28,030	47,925
	Head 274—Tourism			
201	International Events Fund		100,000	
	<i>Head 274</i> : total		100,000	
	Head 275—Small and Medium Enterprises			
201	Special finance scheme for small and medium enterprises#	—	6,570	5,000
	Head 275: total		6,570	5,000
	Head 276—Water Supply			
201	Loan to the Guangdong Provincial People's Government for water quality improvement project	_	118,200	118,200
	Head 276: total		118,200	118,200
	Loan repayments: total	9,182,927	2,404,174	1,281,090

# Actual receipts to 31.3.2003 are not shown as the item is a revolving loan.

## LOAN FUND (Receipts)

Sub- head (Code)	Actual receipts to 31.3.2003 *'000	Revised estimate 2003–04 *'000	Estimate 2004–05 \$'000
Interest on loans	_	137,750	133,139
Surcharges on overdue loan repayments		2,986	2,986
Interest on deposits and bank balances		39,587	9,077
Proceeds from sale of loans		14,966,722	5,000,000
Transfer from General Revenue			1,633,000
Total (Receipts)	9,182,927	17,551,219	8,059,292

#### Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1999–2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003–04	2004–05
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
OPENING BALANCE	3,884	8,819	7,121	5,226	3,601	4,442
Expenditure	6,580	5,310	7,277	2,788	2,710	4,353
Revenue	11,515	3,612	5,382	4,463	17,551	6,426
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from/to GRA	4,935	(1,698)	(1,895)	1,675	14,841	2,073
Net Transfer from/(to) GRA	_	_	_	(3,300)	(14,000)	(4,867)
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from/to GRA	4,935	(1,698)	(1,895)	(1,625)	841	(2,794)
CLOSING BALANCE	8,819	7,121	5,226	3,601	4,442	1,648

### **Expenditure Analysis**

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1999–2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003–04	2004–05
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Loans						
Housing	5,066	3,735	5,083	211	209	347
Loans to Schools/Teachers	80	_	280	478	450	836
Loans to Students	899	888	1,094	1,332	1,747	2,030
Labour	1	1	60	20	123	331
Primary Products	65	14	40	26	18	3
Building Safety	3	6	23	54	93	110
Small and Medium Enterprises	170	75	106	76	70	88
Water Supply	296	591	591	591	—	—
Information Technology	—	_	—	—	—	7
Additional Commitments	—	_	_	_	_	601
Total Expenditure	6,580	5,310	7,277	2,788	2,710	4,353

### **Revenue Analysis**

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1999–2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002–03	2003-04	2004-05
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Loan repayments	10,402	2,469	4,509	4,024	2,404	1,281
Interest on loans	886	719	473	292	138	133
Surcharges on overdue loan repayments	3	3	3	3	3	3
Interest on deposits and bank balances	224	421	397	144	39	9
Proceeds from sale of loans	—	—	—	—	14,967	5,000
Total Revenue	11,515	3,612	5,382	4,463	17,551	6,426