

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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Memorandum Note

On 1 December 1993 the Legislative Council established the Disaster Relief Fund by Resolution to provide a ready mechanism for Hong Kong to respond swiftly to international appeals for humanitarian aid in relief of disasters that occur outside Hong Kong. The Resolution provides that—

- (a) the Financial Secretary is the administrator of the Fund and he may delegate his power of administration to other public officers;
- (b) a Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Chief Executive to advise the Financial Secretary on disbursements from the Fund;
- (c) the Financial Secretary shall make a single grant of cash for each purpose advised by the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee;
- (d) the Financial Secretary shall obtain the consent of the Finance Committee for a grant in excess of \$8 million;
- (e) the Finance Committee may amend the limit for which the Financial Secretary is required to obtain their consent;
- (f) the Financial Secretary shall credit to the Fund—
 - (i) appropriations from the general revenue approved by the Legislative Council for the purpose of the Fund;
 - (ii) donations received for the purpose of the Fund; and
 - (iii) other sums received for the purpose of the Fund including all moneys received as interest or dividends earned on moneys invested for the Fund;
- (g) the Financial Secretary may expend moneys from the Fund for the purpose of disaster relief as may be advised by the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee;
- (h) 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;
- (i) the Financial Secretary in his discretion may authorise the investment in the manner he may determine of any unexpended balance held in the Fund at any time; and
- (j) the Financial Secretary shall not transfer any moneys from the Fund to the general revenue.

2 On 10 December 1993, the Finance Committee approved an appropriation of \$50 million for the establishment of the Fund.

3 As at 31 March 2008, payments totalling about \$641,946,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 As at 12 December 2008, grants totalling \$345,228,000 have been made in 2008–09. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2008–09 and 2009–10 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

5 Receipts for 2008–09 and 2009–10 are estimated at \$354,964,000 and \$12,246,000 respectively.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2007-08	Revised estimate 2008-09	Estimate 2009-10
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
192	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army.....	2,000	—
193	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	2,000	—
194	Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunan and Jiangxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	3,700	—
195	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army.....	3,300	—
196	Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi, Guizhou and Hunan Provinces, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	2,500	—
197	Relief programme for cyclone and flood victims in Pakistan—grant to Mercy Corps Limited.....	880	—
198	Relief programme for flood victims in Anhui, Chongqing and Sichuan, Mainland—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	3,310	—
199	Relief programme for flood victims in Anhui Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army.....	2,510	—
200	Relief programme for flood victims in Anhui Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	3,300	—
201	Relief programme for flood victims in South Asia (Bangladesh, India and Nepal)—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	3,340	—
202	Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	1,500	—
203	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Peru—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	1,500	—
204	Relief programme for flood victims in Nepal—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	1,200	—
205	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	3,000	—
206	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to Cedar Fund.....	648	—
207	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in the Mainland—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	8,000	—
208	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in the Mainland—grant to Hunan Province	100,000	—
209	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in the Mainland—grant to Guizhou Province	100,000	—
210	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in the Mainland—grant to Shaoguan Municipality of the Guangdong Province	10,000	—
211	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in the Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	670	—
212	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in the Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army.....	7,760	—

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2007-08	Revised estimate 2008-09	Estimate 2009-10
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.			
213	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in the Mainland— grant to World Vision Hong Kong	5,000	—
214	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Anhui and Jiangxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	4,000	—
215	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Guangxi, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited	1,200	—
216	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Hubei, Mainland—grant to Cedar Fund	800	—
217	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Guangxi and Yunnan Provinces, Mainland—grant to The Amity Foundation, Hong Kong, Limited.....	—	1,276
218	Relief programme for victims affected by the earthquake in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to the disaster relief headquarters of the Central People's Government	—	300,000
219	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to The Amity Foundation, Hong Kong, Limited	—	3,500
220	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	—	7,500
221	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	5,000
222	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Disaster Relief Command of Yingxiu Town, Wenchuan County	—	528
223	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Gansu, Shaanxi and Sichuan Provinces, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	7,000
224	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Sichuan Provincial People's Government	—	3,631
225	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Myanmar—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	5,000
226	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Sichuan Provincial People's Government	—	580
227	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Cedar Fund.....	—	740
228	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan and Shaanxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong..	—	3,510
229	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Myanmar—grant to Cedar Fund	—	560
230	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited	—	700
231	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited	—	790

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2007-08	Revised estimate 2008-09	Estimate 2009-10
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.			
232			
Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	2,000	—
233			
Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to Cedar Fund	—	787	—
234			
Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	—	2,126	—
<i>Head 800: total</i>	272,118	345,228	—
Total (Payments)			
	272,118	345,228	—

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Receipts)

	Revised estimate 2008-09	Estimate 2009-10
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Investment income	3,405	3,000
Refund of grants	1,559	46
Transfer from General Revenue	350,000	9,200
Total (Receipts)	<u>354,964</u>	<u>12,246</u>

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Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	34	18	30	30	28	38
Revenue	2	2	3	3	5	3
Expenditure	38	18	19	272	345	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(36)	(16)	(16)	(269)	(340)	3
Transfer from GRA	20	28	16	267	350	9
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	(16)	12	—	(2)	10	12
Closing Balance	18	30	30	28	38	50

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	2	1	3	2	3	3
Refund of Grants	—	1	—	1	2	—
Total Revenue	2	2	3	3	5	3

Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	38	18	19	272	345	—
Total Expenditure	38	18	19	272	345	—

Note: The payment figure for 2008-09 reflects grants actually made as at 12 December 2008. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2008-09 and 2009-10 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.