The following is issued on behalf of the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee:

The Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee today (December 30) launched the Ping Wo Fund Sponsorship Scheme. The scheme aims to provide sponsorship to community organisations to organise public education programmes/activities to prevent and alleviate gambling-related problems. The Ping Wo Fund Sponsorship Scheme 2009-10 is inviting applications.

Any registered organisations or statutory bodies are eligible to apply for sponsorship to organise public education programmes/activities in Hong Kong. The maximum sponsorship for each project is \$300,000.

The Committee will accord priority to projects/activities that aim at preventing and alleviating gambling-related problems among young people. Assessment of applications will be made with due consideration to major factors including the contents, objectives, rationale, creativity, target groups, number of beneficiaries, self-assessed performance indicators and cost-effectiveness of the projects/activities.

Applicants should submit their proposals to the Secretariat of the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee at 31/F, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. Application deadline is 12:00 noon on March 31, 2009. Successful applicants will be informed of the result in writing by the end of May 2009.

For enquiries about the scheme, please contact the secretariat of the committee at 2835 1360 or visit the website of Home Affairs Bureau

(http://www.hab.gov.hk/en/policy\_responsibilities/Distric t\_Community\_and\_Public\_Relations/gambling.htm#6).

Ends

December 30, 2008 (Tuesday)