The Government announced today (June 26) that the fifth round of applications for the Mega Events Fund (MEF) under its Tier-2 scheme will open on June 29, 2015.

Eligible local non-profit-making organisations are invited to apply for MEF funding support to organise mega arts, cultural, sports and entertainment events in Hong Kong on or before March 31, 2017.

Applications will close at noon on July 31, 2015. Application details, including the application form, guide to application and some frequently asked questions, are available on the MEF's dedicated website (www.tourism.gov.hk/english/mef/mef\_tier2.html). Completed application forms should be sent to the Secretariat of the Mega Events Fund Assessment Committee (Assessment Committee) at 22/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong.

A briefing session for those who are interested in applying for MEF funding support will be held on July 16, 2015 at 10 am at the Training and Lecture Room, 5/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong, to enable them to better understand the requirements of the MEF. For reservation of seats for the briefing session concerned, please contact the Assessment Committee Secretariat on or before July 10, 2015 by telephone (2810 2500) or email (mefsecretariat@cedb.gov.hk).

The Assessment Committee, which comprises members from relevant sectors, will consider the MEF applications and monitor the implementation progress of MEF-supported events. In assessing the applications, the Assessment Committee members will take into account a number of factors, including the economic benefits, public relations and other benefits of the events; its scale and feasibility; the background, governance structure, resources, capability and track record of the applicants; and the reasonableness of the event's budget. For details, please refer to the assessment criteria for applications and the scoring guideline for assessment which are available on the MEF's dedicated website.

Ends/Friday, June 26, 2015 Issued at HKT 18:03