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## \$2 million to provide political education

By DAPHNE CHENG

THE Hongkong Federation of Education Workers has set up a \$2 million fund to finance local groups mounting activities for democratic and patriotic education.

But the federation said it would not provide funds for seditious activities or entertain applications from overseas or the mainland.

Federation spokesman Mr Cheng Kai-nam said: "Applicants must be locally-registered groups. Since the registration procedures in other places are different, we would not accept these applications."

Mr Cheng said a 12-member panel comprising federation members and major donors had been set up to vet applications.

He said it would meet soon to discuss application regulations.

But Mr Cheng said one of the major criteria would be to follow the Civic Education Committee's practice of not subsidising seditious activities.

The federation started collecting donations to provide assistance to student hunger strikers in Beijing at the height of the pro-democracy movement in May last year.

A total of \$1 million was handed over through the China Red Cross to mainland students in early May last year.

After the military crackdown, the China Red Cross refused to hand over the remaining donations of about \$1.5 million.

The federation therefore decided in July to set up a fund, after consulting the donors, Mr Cheng said.

Public donations kept coming in and the total stood at \$2.08 million.

Mr Cheng explained that the delay in setting up the foundation was due to registration procedures.

Mr Cheng said approval for projects would be given after considering the objectives, contents, feasibility and effectiveness of those submitted by applicants.

Mr Cheng said under normal circumstances, the foundation would approve a maximum of \$10,000 for each project.

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