

\$110,000 set aside to promote law draft

THE Kwai Tsing District Board, dominated by liberal activists, has taken the lead in allocating public funds to promote the first draft of the Basic Law.

The board has set aside \$110,000 to sponsor Basic Law-related activities in the district.

The territory's remaining 18 district boards have been lukewarm towards allotting funds for similar projects.

However, some members of at least three other boards — Central and Western, Wan Chai and Sha Tin — are pushing for direct funding for Basic Law promotion programs within their jurisdictions.

Kwai Tsing District Board chairman Lee Wing-tat said yesterday the decision to fund Basic Law-related activities had been agreed at their internal meeting last week.

"We want to arouse public concern on the important document through various activities," said Mr Lee, who is also a leader of the Association for the Promotion of Democracy and People's Livelihood.

Half the money will be used to organise projects by the district board, while the remaining \$55,000 will be reserved for funding activities initiated by concerned groups in the district.

The Central and Western District Board will soon set up a working group to examine whether it should grant funds for groups promoting the Basic Law draft.

Board chairman Ambrose Lau said the working group would also discuss how the board could help to arouse public interest in the document.

Dr John Young, who chaired a Sha Tin District Board subcommittee on the issue, said he would try to convince his colleagues to sponsor an opinion poll in the new town to gauge residents' views on the draft.

Dr Young's working group will discuss the proposal and other Basic Law activity funding issues next week.

The Wan Chai District Board, has already resolved not to set aside a special fund for such projects.

But board chairman Peggy Lam said community groups holding seminars and exhibitions on the draft Basic Law in the district could still apply for funds from the board.