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Cash boost to encourage study in UK

MORE Hongkong students studying in the UK are to benefit under a joint funding scheme between Hongkong and the British government.

The UK has decided to boost its annual contribution to the joint fund which provides support for local students to \$26 million.

This was revealed yesterday by the British Minister with Special Responsibility for Hongkong, Francis Maude, who said the 10 percent increase in contribution would come into effect from the next financial year.

He also disclosed that the Hongkong Government would increase its contribution to the scheme by the same amount.

"The United Kingdom government is very keen to encourage closer links between Hongkong and Britain in all fields. Education is one field in which we are particularly interested," Mr Maude said.

"That is why we introduced in 1983, a scheme which is jointly funded with the Hongkong Government, to provide fee support for Hongkong students who wish to pursue their studies in the UK," he said.

Mr Maude told reporters after visiting City Polytechnic that since 1983 the number of students who had taken advantage of the scheme had risen to about 1,600.

Beneficiaries of the

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scheme were students of families with a relatively low disposable income.

The minister pointed out that in order to maintain the effectiveness of this measure, which played a useful role in making educational opportunities available to a cross section of the community, the British government had decided to increase its contribution.

"This is yet another indication of the sort of support and commitment which Her Majesty's government is giving to Hongkong in working closely with the Hongkong Government for its future."