

RGC Ref. No.: UGC/FDS13/H21/14 <hr/> (please insert ref. above)

**RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR
THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR**

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (FDS)

Completion Report
(for completed projects only)

<p><u>Submission Deadlines:</u> 1. Auditor's report with unspent balance, if any: within <u>six</u> months of the approved project completion date. 2. Completion report: within <u>12</u> months of the approved project completion date.</p>

Part A: The Project and Investigator(s)

1. Project Title

A study of Cantonese hometown associations and vegetarian halls in the 20th-century Vietnam

2. Investigator(s) And Academic Department(s) / Unit(s) Involved

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	YAU Chi-on / Associate Professor	Chinese Literature/ Chu Hai College of Higher Education
Co-Investigator(s)		
Others		

3. Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC / Institution Approval <i>(must be quoted)</i>
Project Start Date	1/1/2015		
Project Completion Date	31/12/2016		
Duration <i>(in month)</i>	24 months		
Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	31/12/2017		

Part B: The Final Report**5. Project Objectives**

5.1 Objectives as per original application

1. Hometown associations were known as "the chain to hometown".

Vegetarian halls were charitable and religious organizations. This project will analyze and evaluate the importance of these two kinds of organizations in binding together and orienting overseas Chinese.

2. This project will explore the various functions of hometown associations, as cultural, religious, charitable organizations and local cultural heritages.

3. This project will interview "vegetarian ladies" who are elderly female migrants from Qingyuan and Hong Kong. Their records will become valuable oral histories.

4. This project will collect and publish stone inscriptions of hometown associations in Ho Chi Minh City and Hoi An.

5.2 Revised objectives NIL

Since the fieldtrip research focus on the Charitable assembly of ten thousand people (*Wanrenyuanhui* 萬人緣大法會) jointly organized by Vegetarian Halls, Buddhist and Daoist associations and Townsmen Associations every 5-years, this project just skip to collect stone inscriptions of hometown associations in Ho Chi Minh City and Hoi An.

Date of approval from the RGC: _____

Reasons for the change: _____

1.

2.

3.

5.3 Realisation of the objectives

(Maximum 1 page; please state how and to what extent the project objectives have been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

Through 3 research fieldtrips taken in July and Nov. 2015, July 2016, the investigator visited 29 Chinese hometown associations and 16 vegetarian halls (including Buddhist monasteries) in Ho Chi Minh City (胡志明市), Vũng Tàu (頭頓), Biên Hòa (邊和), Hoi An (會安), Da Nang (峴港), Hue (順化), Rạch Giá (迪石) and Can Tho (芹苴). During the field visits, the

investigator carried out interview with the leaders of hometown associations and "vegetarian ladies". To sum up, the project objectives mostly have been achieved.

5.4 Summary of objectives addressed to date

Objectives <i>(as per 5.1/5.2 above)</i>	Addressed <i>(please tick)</i>	Percentage Achieved <i>(please estimate)</i>
1. analyze and evaluate the importance of Cantonese hometown associations and vegetarian halls	√	100%
2. explore the various functions of hometown associations	√	95%
3. will interview vegetarian ladies from Qingyuan and Hong Kong.	√	90%

6. Research Outcome

6.1 Major findings and research outcome

(Maximum 1 page; please make reference to Part C where necessary)

One of the major findings is to analyze the importance of hometown associations and vegetarian halls as the cultural bond of Chinese in Vietnam, i.e. to evaluate the charity works of the Grand Assemblies. The investigator carried out fieldtrip research on the charitable assembly of ten thousand people (*Wanrenyuanhui* 萬人緣大法會) on 19-25 Nov. 2015. It is an activity jointly organized by Vegetarian Halls, Buddhist and Daoist associations and Hometown associations every 5-years (**the preceding occasion held in 2010**). It clearly demonstrates the perseverance of Chinese religious tradition in Vietnamese Chinese community. The investigator has presented a paper in international conference: "International Symposium on the Studies of Hong Kong's History and Society " which held in Hong Kong Museum of History on 1-2 Dec. 2016.

6.2 Potential for further development of the research and the proposed course of action

(Maximum half a page)

To further our study and understanding about this subject matter, (the prevailing term: One Belt and One Road), we proposed to widen our scope of study to Southeast Asia in general, and to Malaysia & Singapore in particular, focusing on hometown associations and vegetarian halls which owe their origin to Lingnan and also on their inter-relationships during 19th & 20th centuries. This study enhance the body of knowledge with regard to understand the importance of these two kinds of organizations in binding together and orienting overseas Chinese especially through religious activities.

7. Layman's Summary

(Describe in layman's language the nature, significance and value of the research project, in no more than 200 words)

The development of Chinese communities in Southeast Asia is strongly affected by the social and cultural traditions of Ming-Qing China. Chinese immigrants to Southeast Asia organized associations including temples, hometown associations that usually worshipped Guandi and Tianhou, and vegetarian halls that usually worshipped Guanyin. The investigator trace their origins in South China, document their migration, settlement and transformation in Southeast Asia, and analyzes their importance as the cultural bond of Chinese in Vietnam.

Hometown associations and vegetarian halls play vital roles in the preservation and development of Vietnamese Chinese culture. The religious activities of the Vegetarian Halls and the community services of the hometown associations are bound together in organic interaction. Since most of the Chinese in South Vietnam are Cantonese, the *Wanrenyuanhui* they organized clearly demonstrate the impact of Cantonese culture. Today, the Grand Assembly has expanded beyond its previous ethnic Cantonese boundary and becomes a cultural carnival embracing all Vietnamese Chinese. Moreover, Grand Assemblies also raise fund for charity and social service. They demonstrate the modernization of religious life in Vietnamese Chinese community.

Part C: Research Output**8. Peer-Reviewed Journal Publication(s) Arising Directly From This Research Project**

(Please attach a copy of the publication and/or the letter of acceptance if not yet submitted in the previous progress report(s). All listed publications must acknowledge RGC's funding support by quoting the specific grant reference.)

The Latest Status of Publications				Author(s) (denote the corresponding author with an asterisk*)	Title and Journal / Book (with the volume, pages and other necessary publishing details specified)	Submitted to RGC (indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)	Attached to this Report (Yes or No)	Acknowledged the Support of RGC (Yes or No)	Accessible from the institutional repository (Yes or No)
Year of Publication	Year of Acceptance (For paper accepted but not yet published)	Under Review	Under Preparation (optional)						
NIL									

9. Recognized International Conference(s) In Which Paper(s) Related To This Research Project Was / Were Delivered

(Please attach a copy of each conference abstract)

Month / Year / Place	Title	Conference Name	Submitted to RGC (indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)	Attached to this Report (Yes or No)	Acknowledged the Support of RGC (Yes or No)	Accessible from the institutional repository (Yes or No)
1-2 Dec 2016	萬人緣——從香港到越南的華人宗教善業 <i>The Charitable assembly of ten thousand people and the perseverance of Chinese religious tradition in Vietnamese Chinese community</i>	「香港的歷史與社會研究」國際學術研討會，珠海學院香港歷史文化研究中心與新亞研究所、香港浸會大學近代史研究中心及香港歷史博物館合辦，刊於《香港的歷史與社會研究》一書，2017年8月出版，論文於會後經編委會審閱刊登。請見附件	NIL	Yes	Yes	Yes

10. Whether Research Experience And New Knowledge Has Been Transferred / Has Contributed To Teaching And Learning

(Please elaborate)

NIL

11. Student(s) Trained

(Please attach a copy of the title page of the thesis)

Name	Degree Registered for	Date of Registration	Date of Thesis Submission / Graduation
NIL			

12. Other Impact

(e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, technology transfer, teaching enhancement, etc.)

NIL

13. Public Access Of Completion Report

(Please specify the information, if any, that cannot be provided for public access and give the reasons.)

Information that Cannot Be Provided for Public Access	Reasons
NIL	