



16 February 2020

Dear writers and poets,



*An FBL Project*

**Call for submissions**  
**Poems for Hong Kong's young learners**  
**[ITB/FBL/5021/19/P]**

*Rationale*

With the generous support from the Innovation and Technology Bureau of the HKSAR Government, the project team embarks on the task of developing a poetry reading tool, the backbone of which is an **e-Corpus** of English poetry, in order to support Hong Kong young learners' reading and appreciation of this distinguished art form. The philosophy of this project is that modern technology has a great role to play in the promotion of English poem reading and performance among the general public. The e-Corpus being constructed will feature an array of carefully selected poems from as early as William Shakespeare's sonnets to modern-day literary works specifically designed for **Hong Kong's young learners**. The e-Corpus will contain explanations, demonstrations and guidance for interpretation. The corpus is brought to the public by colleagues from two universities and IT specialists from beNovelty Limited, an awarding-winning company that specialises in sounds, speech and educational tools.

Please visit the Government's website for the project's brief:  
**<https://fbl.itb.gov.hk/approvedproject/1015/ViewPublishItem>**

The project, however, also crucially relies on poets' support, participation and contribution. We believe that many poets have written great works suitable for Hong Kong's young learners; these works should be published and made known to the public. The funding conditions of the HKSAR government require that the e-Corpus is: **a)** non-profit-making, **b)** to be completed in 2021, and **c)** to be freely accessed without charge by the general public and, in particular, the target group users – primary school learners. Publishing in this corpus therefore represents a far-and-wide access to a large reader base.



*Call for submissions*

We are calling for your contribution of poems to this e-Corpus. One category of this corpus will feature contemporary Hong Kong-related poems.

- The e-Corpus offers excellent channels (iOS, Android and WebApp) to disseminate a poet's work in the public domain.
- Accepted poems will be transformed into multi-media educational material, showcasing the multi-facetedness of a poem's versatile qualities.
- The e-Corpus will be available for download by the general public in 2021.
- The e-Corpus will be transformed into school-based activities in a group of primary schools during the project's second and third year.
- We will offer USD \$30, up to \$50, for each accepted poem. Hong Kong Baptist University will own copyrights exclusively for two years from the date of the publication of the

e-Corpus. The poet's name will always be acknowledged. Thereafter, if the piece is reprinted, please acknowledge Hong Kong Baptist University as its first publication.

- If the poem has been published, please obtain permission from the publisher for the re-printing of the poem. We may further ask poets to modify a poem in order to make it format-compatible with the e-Corpus.

### *Specific requirements*

- Submitted poems should be written on Hong Kong-related themes, or, on issues that are relatable to Hong Kong's young learners (ages 6 to 12). Their context and diction should be suitable for local learners.
- Poems that excite young learners may display one, or a combination of these qualities: it describes a story, a flash of life or an episode; we also look for energy, technique and imagination in the piece. The 'form' of the poems, whether one is a Cinquain or a free verse, for example, is not a major consideration.
- Poets should indicate at which level a poem is aimed (e.g., primary 1-2, primary 3-4, primary 5-6). English is not a vernacular among Hong Kong's young learners. If the poet is uncertain which level of learners a poem is suitable for, the editors can advise on this.
- Please suggest five keywords (tags) for the poem.
- Please include other information, if any, essential to the understanding of the poem.
- More than one poem may be submitted.
- A poem should be within 120 words, excluding the title. Poems for primary 1-2 learners may be shorter, and could consist of 50-70 words, as a rough guide.
- Please send the poem submission form to [poetryreading@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:poetryreading@hkbu.edu.hk) or use the **Google form** via the QR code.



### *Timeline*

All submitted poems will be subjected to a careful review process to ensure that the published pieces are compatible with the project's aim.

- Submissions due: **20 March 2020**
- Comments from editors, if any: **30 March 2020**
- Notifications of acceptance: **By 30 April 2020**
- Publication of the e-Corpus: **First half of 2021**

Questions relating to this call should be directed to **Miss Jessica Cheuk** at [poetryreading@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:poetryreading@hkbu.edu.hk).

Yours sincerely,

Ms Jane Lo  
Language Centre, HKBU

Dr Joshua Chan  
Department of Education Studies, HKBU

#### **Enquiries**

Miss Jessica Cheuk  
[poetryreading@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:poetryreading@hkbu.edu.hk)

#### **Project team**

Dr Joshua Chan, EDUC, HKBU  
Dr Cissy Li, Language Centre, HKBU  
Dr Rebecca Chen, Centre for Language in Education, EdUHK  
Ms Jane Lo, Language Centre, HKBU  
Miss Jessica Cheuk, EDUC, HKBU  
Miss Tiffany So, EDUC, HKBU

# Appendix

**創新及科技局**  
香港海峽美道二號  
政府總部二十六樓



**INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY BUREAU**  
26/F, Central Government Offices,  
2 Tim Mei Avenue,  
Tamar, Hong Kong.

**BY REGISTERED MAIL**

本局編號 OUR REF : ITB/FBL/5021/19/P  
來函編號 YOUR REF :  
電話 TEL NO. : 3655 4792  
傳真 FAXLINE : 2530 2018  
電子郵件 E-mail Address : itb@itb.gov.hk

18 November 2019

Dr CHAN Hang Joshua  
Assistant Professor, Department of Education Studies  
Room 820, Academic and Administration Building  
Baptist University Road Campus, Kowloon Tong

Dear Dr CHAN,

**Offer of the Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living ("FBL")**  
**Project Title: A multi-modal Speaking App that introduces primary school pupils to the world of English poetry and intonation**

We are pleased to inform you that your captioned FBL application submitted on 30 May 2019 has been accepted by the Government. The Government hereby offers a funding support of a maximum of HK\$2,699,280 to Hong Kong Baptist University for the captioned project on the terms and conditions set out in the Fund Agreement attached to this Letter.

If you wish to accept the offer, please execute two copies of the Fund Agreement by having them signed by the persons authorised by your organisation and return one copy to the FBL Secretariat by **29 November 2019** at the following address:

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FBL Secretariat  
Innovation and Technology Bureau  
26/F, Central Government Offices,  
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

Please note that no binding contract will be made between the Government and your organisation unless and until the Fund Agreement is duly executed by both parties thereto. The Government reserves its right to revise the Fund Agreement before its execution.

Should Hong Kong Baptist University fail to return the duly signed fund agreement by the above deadline, this offer will lapse and your application will be regarded as being withdrawn.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact the undersigned at 3655 4792 or Mr David LAW at 3655 4761.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Loretta WONG)  
Chief Executive Officer (Fund for Better Living)

Encl.  
Fund Agreement (2 copies)

[The project benefits from the generosity of the Innovation and Technology Bureau.]

## Poem submission form

We are calling for your contribution of poems to the e-Corpus. Please send this form to [poetryreading@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:poetryreading@hkbu.edu.hk) by **20 March 2020**.

### Personal particulars

<b>Title</b>	Tick (✓): Prof ( <input type="checkbox"/> ), Dr ( <input type="checkbox"/> ), Mr ( <input type="checkbox"/> ), Ms ( <input type="checkbox"/> ), Miss ( <input type="checkbox"/> )
<b>First Name</b>	
<b>Last Name</b>	
<b>Organisation / School Name</b>	
<b>Target learners of the poem</b>	[e.g., kindergarten, primary 1-2, primary 3-4, primary 5-6, or junior secondary]
<b>Keywords of the poem</b>	[Please suggest five keywords / tags]
<b>Contacts</b>	Email: Phone:
<b>Questions (if any)</b>	

**The Poem** (Within 120 words, excluding the title; a poem for primary 1-2 learners may be shorter, and could consist of 50-70 words, as a rough guide.)

1. This poem is my original work. Tick (✓): Yes ( <input type="checkbox"/> ), No ( <input type="checkbox"/> )
2. Has this poem been published before? Tick (✓): Yes ( <input type="checkbox"/> ), No ( <input type="checkbox"/> )
3. If yes, do you need to get permission from the publishers? Tick (✓): Yes ( <input type="checkbox"/> ), No ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) (Please explain your answer.)

### Other information

[Other information, if any, essential to the understanding of the poem.]
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