

Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund

Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2018

Report of the Director of Audit



Audit Commission

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated

Opinion

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund set out on pages 4 to 22, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 August 2018, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund as at 31 August 2018, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in accordance with section 8(3) of the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1098).

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with section 8(5) of the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporation Ordinance and the Audit Commission auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund in accordance with those standards, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those standards. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated for the financial statements

The Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and section 8(3) of the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporation Ordinance, and for such internal control as the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated is responsible for assessing the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose

of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund's internal control;

- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Kenneth Ho
Assistant Director of Audit
for Director of Audit

22 February 2019

Audit Commission
26th Floor
Immigration Tower
7 Gloucester Road
Wanchai, Hong Kong

SELF-FINANCING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FUND
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018
(Expressed in thousands of Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2018	2017
INCOME			
Interest income	3	48,914	36,678
Dividend income	4	61,056	59,328
Net realised and revaluation gains/(losses) on:			
— securities		102,423	346,494
— trading financial instruments		(1,580)	(273)
— deposits with banks and other financial institutions		1,243	(2,115)
		102,086	344,106
Other income		21	11
		212,077	440,123
EXPENDITURE			
Grants	5	(110,438)	(130,331)
Operating expenses	6	(10,727)	(9,709)
		(121,165)	(140,040)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		90,912	300,083
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		—	—
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		90,912	300,083

The accompanying notes 1 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

SELF-FINANCING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2018

(Expressed in thousands of Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2018	2017
ASSETS			
Cash at bank		12,735	14,604
Deposits with banks and other financial institutions			
with original maturities within three months	7	50,104	57,758
Deposits with banks and other financial institutions			
with original maturities over three months	7	516,489	533,420
Securities	8	2,652,110	2,633,808
Trading financial instruments	9	955	598
Receivables and other assets	10	41,436	32,342
Placement with the Exchange Fund	11	703,601	616,456
		3,977,430	3,888,986
LIABILITIES			
Trading financial instruments	9	(1,223)	(3,973)
Payables and other liabilities	12	(7,570)	(7,288)
		(8,793)	(11,261)
NET ASSETS		<u>3,968,637</u>	<u>3,877,725</u>
Representing:			
FUND BALANCE			
Accumulated surplus		<u>3,968,637</u>	<u>3,877,725</u>

The accompanying notes 1 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated
Trustee of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund

(Mrs Ingrid Yeung)
Permanent Secretary for Education
22 February 2019

SELF-FINANCING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FUND
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018
(Expressed in thousands of Hong Kong dollars)

	2018	2017
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Balance at beginning of year	3,877,725	3,577,642
Total comprehensive income for the year	90,912	300,083
Balance at end of year	<u>3,968,637</u>	<u>3,877,725</u>

The accompanying notes 1 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

SELF-FINANCING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FUND
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018
(Expressed in thousands of Hong Kong dollars)

	2018	2017
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus for the year	90,912	300,083
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(48,914)	(36,678)
Dividend income	(61,056)	(59,328)
Decrease in deposits with banks and other financial institutions with original maturities over three months	16,931	81,618
Increase in investments in securities	(18,302)	(326,836)
Increase in placement with the Exchange Fund	(87,145)	(35,556)
Change in trading financial instruments	(3,107)	4,392
Decrease in receivables and other assets	598	3,734
Increase/(Decrease) in payables and other liabilities	282	(3,174)
Elimination of foreign exchange differences in revaluation of cash and cash equivalents	(64)	(365)
Interest received	38,236	33,121
Dividends received	62,042	57,288
NET CASH (USED IN)/FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(9,587)	18,299
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	72,362	53,698
EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES	64	365
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	62,839	72,362
ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Deposits with banks and other financial institutions with original maturities within three months	50,104	57,758
Cash at bank	12,735	14,604
	62,839	72,362

The accompanying notes 1 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

SELF-FINANCING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FUND

Notes to the financial statements

(Amount expressed in thousands of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

1. General

The Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund (the Fund) was established by a declaration of trust made on 26 August 2011 by the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated (the Trustee) to support worthwhile initiatives and schemes that aim to enhance the quality of self-financing post-secondary education in Hong Kong.

2. Significant accounting policies

(a) Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with section 8(3) of the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1098), accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong, and all applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRSs), which is a collective term that includes all applicable individual HKFRSs, Hong Kong Accounting Standards (HKASs) and Interpretations issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Fund is set out below.

(b) Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The measurement basis used in the preparation of the financial statements is historical cost except that financial assets designated at fair value and trading financial instruments are stated at their fair value as explained in the accounting policies set out below.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with HKFRSs requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenditure. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgements about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no critical accounting judgements involved in the application of the Fund's accounting policies. There are also no key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the next year.

(c) Financial assets and financial liabilities

(i) Initial recognition

The Fund classifies its financial assets and financial liabilities into different categories at inception, depending on the purpose for which the assets were acquired or the liabilities were incurred. The categories are: trading financial instruments, financial assets designated at fair value, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity securities and other financial liabilities.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are measured initially at fair value plus, for loans and receivables, held-to-maturity securities and other financial liabilities, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial assets or the issue of the financial liabilities. Transaction costs on trading financial instruments and financial assets designated at fair value are expensed immediately.

The Fund recognises financial assets and financial liabilities on the date it becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are accounted for at trade date.

(ii) Categorisation and subsequent measurement

Trading financial instruments

These comprise forward currency contracts used by the Fund to manage its risks associated with foreign currency fluctuations. Such derivative financial instruments do not qualify for hedge accounting and are categorised as “trading” under HKAS 39, Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.

Trading financial instruments are carried at fair value, and presented as assets when the fair value is positive and as liabilities when the fair value is negative. Changes in the fair value are included in surplus or deficit in the period in which they arise.

Financial assets designated at fair value

Financial assets designated at fair value consist of equity and debt securities that are managed and evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with a documented risk management and investment strategy.

Financial assets designated at fair value are carried at fair value. Changes in the fair value are included in surplus or deficit in the period in which they arise.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. This category includes cash at bank, deposits with banks and other financial institutions, placement with the Exchange Fund, receivables and other assets.

Loans and receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment losses, if any (note 2(c)(vi)).

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or a financial liability and of allocating the interest income or interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts or payments through the expected life of the financial instrument or, when appropriate, a shorter period to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Fund estimates cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument but does not consider future credit losses. The calculation includes all fees received or paid between parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts.

Held-to-maturity securities

Held-to-maturity securities are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity which the Fund has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity, other than (a) those that the Fund, upon initial recognition, designates as at fair value; and (b) those that meet the definition of loans and receivables.

Held-to-maturity securities are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment losses, if any (note 2(c)(vi)).

Other financial liabilities

These are financial liabilities other than trading financial instruments. This category includes payables and other liabilities. They are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(iii) Fair value measurement principles

The Fund measures its investments in securities and trading financial instruments at fair value at the end of each reporting period. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either (a) in the principal market for the asset or liability, or (b) in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability; and the Fund has access to these markets at the measurement date.

The fair value of an asset or a liability is measured with those assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their best economic interest.

The Fund uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs. The Fund measures fair values using the following fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of inputs used in making the measurements:

Level 1 – fair values are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 – fair values are determined with inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices); and

Level 3 – fair values of financial instruments are determined with inputs that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

For assets and liabilities that are recognised in the financial statements on a recurring basis, the Fund determines whether transfers between levels in the hierarchy should be reflected in the financial statements by re-assessing categorisation (based on the level of input that is most significant and relevant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of the reporting period.

(iv) Derecognition

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to receive the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or where the financial asset together with substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred.

The Fund uses the weighted average method to determine realised gains and losses to be recognised in surplus or deficit on derecognition.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or when it expires.

(v) Offsetting

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the statement of financial position where there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously.

(vi) Impairment of financial assets

The carrying amounts of loans and receivables and held-to-maturity securities are reviewed at the end of each reporting period to determine whether there is objective evidence of impairment. If any such evidence exists, an impairment loss is recognised in surplus or deficit as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. If in a subsequent period the amount of such impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be linked objectively to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, the impairment loss is reversed through surplus or

deficit. A reversal of impairment losses is limited to the asset's carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised in prior years.

(d) Revenue recognition

(i) Interest income

Interest income is recognised in surplus or deficit on an accrual basis, using the effective interest method.

(ii) Dividend income

Dividend income from equity securities is recognised in surplus or deficit when the share price is quoted ex-dividend.

(iii) Net realised and revaluation gains/losses

Realised gains or losses on financial instruments are recognised in surplus or deficit when the financial instruments are derecognised. Changes in fair value of trading financial instruments and financial assets designated at fair value are recognised as revaluation gains or losses in surplus or deficit in the period in which they arise.

(e) Grants recognition

Grants are recognised as expenditure when they are approved by the Trustee except in those cases where the release of grant is subject to certain conditions, such grants are only recognised as expenditure when the conditions are met.

(f) Foreign currency translation

Foreign currency transactions during the year are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the spot exchange rates at the transaction dates. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the closing exchange rates at the end of the reporting period. All foreign currency translation differences are recognised in surplus or deficit.

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank and deposits with banks and other financial institutions with original maturities within three months.

(h) Impact of new and revised HKFRSs

The HKICPA has issued certain new and revised HKFRSs that are first effective or available for early adoption for the current accounting period. There have been no changes to the accounting policies applied in the financial statements for the years presented as a result of these developments. The Fund has not applied any new HKFRSs that are not yet effective for the current accounting period (note 16).

3. Interest income

	2018	2017
Interest income from:		
— placement with the Exchange Fund	26,620	17,766
— held-to-maturity debt securities	620	—
— debt securities designated at fair value denominated in:		
— Hong Kong dollar	911	874
— other currencies	8,513	7,069
	9,424	7,943
— deposits denominated in:		
— Hong Kong dollar	1,811	1,211
— other currencies	10,439	9,758
	12,250	10,969
	<u>48,914</u>	<u>36,678</u>

4. Dividend income

	2018	2017
Dividend income from equity securities listed:		
— in Hong Kong	27,066	28,469
— outside Hong Kong	33,990	30,859
	<u>61,056</u>	<u>59,328</u>

5. Grants

	2018	2017
Grants to institutions	110,901	130,358
Refund of unused grants	(463)	(27)
	<u>110,438</u>	<u>130,331</u>

6. Operating expenses

	2018	2017
Fees for investment managers	7,292	6,669
Staff costs	1,537	1,307
Fees for custodian	988	915
Investment transaction costs	893	781
Others	17	37
	<u>10,727</u>	<u>9,709</u>

7. Deposits with banks and other financial institutions

	2018	2017
Fixed deposits denominated in:		
— Hong Kong dollar	66,800	128,250
— other currencies	466,289	428,325
Call deposits and balances with the custodian denominated in currencies other than Hong Kong dollar	<u>33,504</u>	<u>34,603</u>
	566,593	591,178
Less: Deposits with banks and other financial institutions with original maturities over three months	<u>(516,489)</u>	<u>(533,420)</u>
Deposits with banks and other financial institutions with original maturities within three months	<u>50,104</u>	<u>57,758</u>

8. Securities

	2018	2017
<i>Held-to-maturity securities at amortised cost</i>		
Debt securities denominated in currencies other than Hong Kong dollar maturing after one year	30,792	—
<i>Financial assets designated at fair value</i>		
Equity securities listed:		
— in Hong Kong	825,988	942,710
— outside Hong Kong	1,336,875	1,214,953
Debt securities denominated in:		
— Hong Kong dollar	48,671	40,211
— other currencies	409,784	435,934
	<u>2,652,110</u>	<u>2,633,808</u>

9. Trading financial instruments

	2018		2017	
	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities
Forward currency contracts, at fair value	<u>955</u>	<u>1,223</u>	<u>598</u>	<u>3,973</u>

All these forward currency contracts would mature within one year and had a total notional amount of HK\$389.4 million as at 31 August 2018 (2017: HK\$326.9 million). The notional amounts of these contracts indicate the volume of outstanding transactions and do not represent the amounts at risk.

10. Receivables and other assets

	2018	2017
Proceeds receivable from investments sold	4,190	3,128
Accrued interest from placement with the Exchange Fund	20,851	11,376
Other interest and dividends receivable	15,755	15,538
Other receivables	640	2,300
	<u>41,436</u>	<u>32,342</u>

11. Placement with the Exchange Fund

The balance of the placement with the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$703.6 million (2017: HK\$616.5 million), being the principal sums of HK\$670.9 million (2017: HK\$600.9 million) plus interest paid but not yet withdrawn at the end of the reporting period of HK\$32.7 million (2017: HK\$15.6 million). The term of the placement is six years from the date of placement, during which the amount of principal sums cannot be withdrawn.

Interest on the placement is payable at a fixed rate determined every January. The rate is the average annual investment return of the Exchange Fund's Investment Portfolio for the past six years or the average annual yield of three-year Government Bond for the previous year subject to a minimum of zero percent, whichever is the higher. The interest rate has been fixed at 4.6% for the calendar year 2018 and at 2.8% for the calendar year 2017.

12. Payables and other liabilities

	2018	2017
Unsettled purchases of investments	5,341	4,909
Amount due to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	97	125
Other payables and accruals	2,132	2,254
	<u>7,570</u>	<u>7,288</u>

13. Commitments

As at 31 August 2018, grants approved but not yet due for payment (note 2(e)) amounted to HK\$51.3 million (2017: HK\$60.1 million).

14. Financial risk management

(a) Investment management and control

The Trustee may invest moneys of the Fund in accordance with section 5 of the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporation Ordinance. She has appointed the Director of Accounting Services to manage the investments of the Fund.

The Steering Committee, established under the declaration of trust, may advise the Secretary for Education on policies and procedures governing the operation and development of the Fund. The Investment Committee, established under the declaration of trust, may advise the Trustee on the formulation of policies for and the monitoring of the investment of the Fund. Members of both the Steering Committee and the Investment Committee are appointed by the Secretary for Education.

The Fund's investment objective is to generate stable investment returns to support worthwhile initiatives and schemes that aim to enhance the quality of self-financing post-secondary education in Hong Kong.

The investment performance of the Fund is monitored through the Investment Committee which meets regularly to review investment reports prepared by the Director of Accounting Services and to interview the Fund's external investment managers. The Investment Committee also formulates guidelines on asset allocation in order to meet the investment objective.

The investment management and control of the Fund are set out in a documented risk management and investment strategy and are reviewed on a regular basis by the Investment Committee.

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market variables, such as equity prices, interest rates and currency exchange rates may affect the fair value or cash flows of a financial instrument.

(i) Equity price risk

Equity price risk is the risk of loss arising from changes in equity prices. The Fund's investments in equity securities are subject to the equity price risk inherent in all equity securities, i.e. the value of holdings may fall as well as rise. As at 31 August 2018, the equity securities were included in securities as shown in note 8. The risk is primarily addressed through diversification of investment portfolio in accordance with a documented risk management and investment strategy, and the Fund monitors the risk on a continuous basis.

It was estimated that, as at 31 August 2018, a 10% increase/decrease in the market bid prices of the equity securities, with all other variables held constant, would increase/decrease the surplus for the year by HK\$216.3 million (2017: HK\$215.8 million).

(ii) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk of loss arising from changes in market interest rates. This can be further classified into fair value interest rate risk and cash flow interest rate risk.

Fair value interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Since a substantial portion of the Fund's debt securities and all of its deposits with banks and other financial institutions bear interest at fixed rates, their fair values will fall when market interest rates increase. Investments in debt securities are made in accordance with a documented risk management and investment strategy, and the Fund monitors the fair value interest rate risk on a continuous basis.

It was estimated that, as at 31 August 2018, a 100 basis points increase/decrease in interest rates, with all other variables held constant, would decrease/increase the surplus for the year by HK\$28.0 million (2017: HK\$30.3 million). As regards deposits with banks and other financial institutions and held-to-maturity securities, since they are all stated at amortised cost, their carrying amounts will not be affected by changes in market interest rates.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Fund does not have a significant exposure to cash flow interest rate risk because only a small portion of its debt securities bear interest at rates determined by reference to market interest rates.

(iii) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in currency exchange rates. The Fund's foreign currency investments are exposed to currency risk. The Fund only makes investments denominated in Hong Kong dollar, US dollar and currencies of countries whose foreign currency long-term debt has a high credit rating. The Fund's exposure to currency risk is handled in accordance with a documented risk management and investment strategy, and the Fund monitors the risk on a continuous basis.

The net exposure to each currency at the end of the reporting period arising from recognised assets and liabilities after taking into account the effect of forward currency contracts is shown below:

	2018	2017
Hong Kong dollar	1,921,142	2,020,859
US dollar	1,400,984	1,204,432
Euro	239,466	257,386
Japanese yen	184,054	161,222
Pound sterling	48,133	66,943
Others	174,858	166,883
	<u>3,968,637</u>	<u>3,877,725</u>

It was estimated that, as at 31 August 2018, with all other variables held constant:

- a 0.5% increase/decrease in the exchange rate of US dollar against Hong Kong dollar would increase/decrease the surplus for the year by HK\$7.0 million (2017: HK\$6.0 million); and
- a 5% increase/decrease in the exchange rates of other currencies against Hong Kong dollar would increase/decrease the surplus for the year by HK\$32.3 million (2017: HK\$32.6 million).

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or a counterparty will cause a financial loss to the Fund by failing to discharge an obligation. Investments in debt securities, trading financial instruments and loans and receivables are potentially subject to credit risk. The credit risk associated with placement with the Exchange Fund is considered to be low. The Fund selects issuer or counterparty with good credit standing, strong financial strength and sizeable capital. The Fund also limits the individual exposure, in accordance with a documented risk management and investment strategy, and monitors credit risk on a continuous basis.

The maximum exposure to credit risk of the financial assets of the Fund is equal to their carrying amounts at the end of the reporting period.

The credit quality of cash at bank, deposits with banks and other financial institutions, and debt securities at the end of the reporting period, analysed by the ratings designated by Moody's or their equivalents, is shown below:

	2018	2017
Cash at bank and deposits with banks and other financial institutions, by credit rating:		
Aa1 to Aa3	277,531	120,266
A1 to A3	<u>301,797</u>	<u>485,516</u>
	<u>579,328</u>	<u>605,782</u>
	2018	2017
Debt securities, by credit rating:		
Aaa	201,105	179,759
Aa1 to Aa3	91,565	75,561
A1 to A3	160,993	163,768
Baa1 to Baa3	<u>35,584</u>	<u>57,057</u>
	<u>489,247</u>	<u>476,145</u>

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Fund monitors the liquidity requirements on a continuous basis and maintains a level of short-term deposits and cash to pay grants and operating expenses as necessary. Hence the Fund does not have significant exposure to liquidity risk.

As at 31 August 2018, the remaining contractual maturities of all financial liabilities, based on contractual undiscounted cash flows and the earliest date on which the Fund can be required to pay, were three months or less (2017: three months or less).

(e) Other financial risk

The Fund is exposed to financial risk arising from change in the interest rate on the placement with the Exchange Fund which is determined every January (note 11). It was estimated that, as at 31 August 2018, a 50 basis points increase/decrease in the interest rate, with all other variables held constant, would increase/decrease the surplus for the year by HK\$3.3 million (2017: HK\$3.0 million).

15. Fair values of financial instruments

The fair value of financial instruments classified under Level 1 is based on the quoted market prices of these financial instruments at the end of the reporting period, without any deduction for estimated future selling costs.

In the absence of such quoted prices, the fair value of financial instruments classified under Level 2 is estimated using present value or other valuation techniques which maximise the use of observable data, using inputs based on market conditions existing at the end of the reporting period.

(a) Financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis

The carrying value of financial instruments measured at fair value at the end of the reporting period according to the fair value hierarchy is shown below:

2018	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Assets			
Financial assets designated at fair value	2,422,072	199,246	2,621,318
Trading financial instruments	—	955	955
	<u>2,422,072</u>	<u>200,201</u>	<u>2,622,273</u>
Liabilities			
Trading financial instruments	—	1,223	1,223
	<u>—</u>	<u>1,223</u>	<u>1,223</u>
2017	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Assets			
Financial assets designated at fair value	2,423,496	210,312	2,633,808
Trading financial instruments	—	598	598
	<u>2,423,496</u>	<u>210,910</u>	<u>2,634,406</u>
Liabilities			
Trading financial instruments	—	3,973	3,973
	<u>—</u>	<u>3,973</u>	<u>3,973</u>

No financial assets or liabilities were classified under Level 3. There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during the year.

(b) Financial instruments not measured at fair value on a recurring basis

All other financial instruments are stated in the statement of financial position at amounts equal to or not materially different from their fair values.

16. Possible impact of amendments, new standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective for the year ended 31 August 2018

Up to the date of issue of the financial statements, the HKICPA has issued a number of amendments, new standards and interpretations which are not yet effective for the year ended 31 August 2018 and which have not been early adopted in the financial statements. These include the following which may be relevant to the Fund:

**Effective for accounting
periods beginning on or after**

HKFRS 9, *Financial Instruments*

1 January 2018

HKFRS 9 replaces HKAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement and introduces new requirements for classification and measurement of financial assets, including the measurement of impairment for financial assets. HKFRS 9 contains three primary categories for measuring financial assets: (1) amortised cost, (2) fair value through profit or loss and (3) fair value through other comprehensive income. The basis of classification depends on the entity's business model and contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets.

HKFRS 9 also introduces a new expected credit loss model to replace the incurred loss impairment model used in HKAS 39. Under the expected credit loss model, it will no longer be necessary for a loss event to occur before an impairment loss is recognised. Instead, an entity is required to recognise and measure either 12-month expected credit losses or lifetime expected credit losses, depending on the assets and the facts and circumstances.

The Fund is in the process of making an assessment of what the impact of these amendments, new standards and interpretations is expected to be in the period of initial adoption. So far, it has concluded that the adoption of them is unlikely to have a significant impact on the financial statements.