

APPENDIX A

MyCC RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The MyCC Research Grants Programme (RGP) is now open for applications. Applicants are advised to read and understand the **Competition Act 2010**, the **Competition Commission Act 2010**, the **MyCC Strategic Research Areas** and the **Objectives** of the RGP before submitting their applications.

The MyCC Research Grant Programme is to fund research studies, market surveys and case studies on competition issues in the Malaysian economy. The applicants of the MyCC Research Grants Programme are only for Malaysian citizens and it is open for both undergraduate as well as post-graduate students.

Objectives

The objective of the RGP is to promote a deeper understanding of and to develop a body of knowledge on competition issues, laws and practices in Malaysia by;

- (i) Funding research on competition issues identified as the MyCC Strategic Research Areas;
- (ii) Using the findings of the research to develop informed and evidence based competition policies, laws, guidelines, codes of practice and to design competition advocacy activities;
- (iii) Enabling the dissemination (nationally and internationally) of academic as well as popular articles and publications on competition issues and practices of specific relevance to the Malaysian economy; and
- (iv) Providing an opportunity for academics and the civil society to participate and contribute ideas and knowledge to the promotion and development of competition policy making.

Eligibility

Applicants shall be Malaysian citizens with proven research capacity in any discipline. They may be faculty, post-doctoral or doctoral researchers attached to public or private universities, undergraduates; staff of think tanks or civil society organisations or freelance researchers. Civil society organisations may submit applications in the name of the organization, represented by a member of the staff or the Chief Executive Officer. Applicants should submit detailed curriculum vitae, information/documentation demonstrating proof of research experience and successful research outcomes, together with letters of recommendation from at least 2 referees.

Research Proposals

Research proposals must fall within the scope of **Appendix E - MyCC Strategic Research Areas**. Applicants may submit any number of research proposals, individually or in collaboration with others. Preference will be given to evidence based research studies and surveys with findings that are likely to be published in academic journals or publications for popular consumption. Research outcomes must lead to recommendations for policies, laws, strategies, guidelines, codes of practice or competition advocacy activities that will spread awareness of competition issues and promote competition culture in the country. Research proposals should be submitted in accordance with **Appendix C - Guidelines for Research Proposals** and using **Appendix B - Application Cover Sheet** which can be downloaded from the RGP webpage. Research proposals and applications not following the prescribed format will be automatically disqualified.

Selection Process

The MyCC Sub-Committee on RGP will establish a RGP Panel of Experts to assist in the review and evaluation of the research applications. The final decision on the awarding of grant will be made by the MyCC. If necessary, the RGP Panel of Experts may interview an applicant as part of the review and evaluation process.

Successful applicants will be notified by email and have to sign a contract with the MyCC before commencement of the research. Applicants must agree to abide by the conditions imposed in the contract including the intellectual property rights condition stated below.

Grant applicants not selected for funding will be notified of the reasons for the rejection of their research proposals. Such research proposals may be amended and re-submitted for re-evaluation. In the event that the re-submitted research proposal is again not selected for funding, the proposal unable be re-submitted again. The decision of the MyCC is final and no appeals will be entertained.

Selection Criteria

Among the criteria that will be used to screen and shortlist research proposals are the following:

1. The research proposal falls within the scope of one or more of the topics proposed in MyCC Strategic Research Areas.
2. The research proposal demonstrates originality and examines a significant issue in the context of existing knowledge and literature on competition issues;
3. The research proposal proposes appropriate strategies for conducting the research, including a plan for systematic and critical analysis that will produce objective and reliable results;
4. The research proposal shows feasibility for completion within the established time frame and budget;
5. The proposed research study results in research product(s) that will be useful, applicable and have impact on competition advocacy and policy making.
6. The research proposal includes a proposed plan for dissemination of the research products that will further the aims of the RGP.
7. The qualifications, expertise, previous research experience and successful completion of previous researches of the principal researcher and collaborators are convincing and suggest that a similar successful outcome will be achieved in the current proposed research.

Intellectual Property Rights

The results of the research funded under the RGP will be freely disseminated through the internet and other means at the sole discretion of the MyCC. The MyCC aims to spread widely the research results including findings, papers, data, ideas, tools and resources in the spirit of openness, transparency and sharing of knowledge and experiences. The MyCC needs not seek the permission of the researcher(s) for the dissemination of the research results in any form but will duly acknowledge the authors of the work. Users need not obtain prior permission to reproduce the research results, but must duly acknowledge the researcher(s) and the MyCC as well as send copies of the reproductions to the MyCC and the researcher(s). Copyright for the research results rests jointly with the MyCC and the researcher(s) (and their institutions where required by their employment contracts).

Timeframe for Research

The timeframe for each research study or survey shall not exceed within 1 year to 2 years from the date of signing of the contract between the grant recipient and the MyCC. No application for extension will be entertained unless there are acceptable and reasonable extenuating circumstances such as illness or disability of principal members of the research team.

Budget

The budget for each research proposal shall not exceed RM 25,000 and shall be used solely for the administrative costs of conducting the research study or survey. The estimated budget shall be included in the Research Proposal in accordance with the format prescribed in [Appendix D - Guidelines for Budget](#). Applicants are advised to take note of line items that will not be covered. However the MyCC may, on a case-to-case basis depending on the proposed research, grant more than the stipulated amount.

Disbursement of Grant

The grant will be disbursed in stages:

- (i) First disbursement of 30% upon approval of research by MyCC and completed signing of the contract;
- (ii) Second disbursement of 30% upon MyCC's endorsement of a satisfactory mid-term progress; and
- (iii) Third disbursement of 40% upon MyCC's endorsement of a satisfactory final report together with an Executive Summary of the findings.

A fresh grant application may be made for publication of research products in the form of printed books, booklets, brochures, electronic books, etc. after satisfactory conclusion of the initial research study.

However, the MyCC has the right to withdraw and / or cancel further disbursement of remaining grant payments in the event of non-compliance (i.e. the research has deviated from the scope approved by MyCC)

Application Timelines

The Research Grant Programme is open for applications throughout the year. Every application is considered on its own merits. Applications will be closed when the total allocation for the year is exhausted, notification of which shall appear on the MyCC RGP webpage.

Submission

The grant application documents should be **printed on white A4 size paper and bound using comb binding. Four (4) sets** of the grant application documents should be sent to:

**MyCC Research Grant Programme
Malaysia Competition Commission
Level 15, Menara SSM@Sentral
No.7 Jalan Stesen Sentral 5
Kuala Lumpur Sentral
50623 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-2273 2277
Fax : 03-2272 1692**

Further Information

Only email enquiries will be entertained. All enquiries for further information on the MyCC Research Grant Programme should be addressed to rgp@mycc.gov.my.

APPENDIX B
MyCC RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME
APPLICATION COVER SHEET

1. Date Submitted:
2. Project Title:
3. Name of Principal Researcher (and collaborators, if any):
4. Address:
5. Telephone:
6. Fax:
7. Email:
8. Host, if applicable (i.e. University, Organisation, Association, etc):
9. Address:
10. Telephone:
11. List of Attachments:
 - Curriculum vitae (s)
 - Research Proposal
 - Letters of recommendation from 2 referees

APPENDIX C

MyCC RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Research Proposals must be written in **English**, in **word format**, **Arial 12 point font size**, **double line spacing**, **not exceeding 4,000 words** and include the following:

- i. Abstract of the proposed research study.
- ii. Statement of how this research advances the current state of knowledge in the field.
- iii. Proposed research study addressing the following:
 - o Problem statement/policy issue and its importance
 - o Theoretical or conceptual framework for the research
 - o Brief review of relevant research/policy literature
 - o Research questions, hypotheses to be tested
 - o Description of methodology including proposed data, sample (e.g. groups used, exclusions to sample, and estimated sample sizes), selection of variables and rationale for using them, and analytic techniques
 - o Connections between the potential findings and the policy issue
 - o Proposed dissemination plan for the research findings
- iv. References
- v. Brief list of previous and/or current research studies conducted, grants received and research outcomes.
- vi. Gantt chart with tasks and estimated completion dates.
- vii. Estimated Budget.

APPENDIX D
MyCC RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME
GUIDELINES FOR BUDGET

The budget should be submitted under the following line items:

1. Allowances/per diem – principal researcher, collaborators, research assistants, others.
2. Transport – only domestic travel costs will be covered. Domestic air travel must be by economy class actual fare for the shortest routes between the nearest airports.
3. Accommodation – maximum 3 star hotel only.
4. Meeting costs – rental of space, refreshments, equipment, per diem for participants, etc.
5. Communication – postal, courier, telephone.
6. Consumables – paper, printing, photocopying, stationery, CDs, etc.
7. Rental and Procurement – resource materials such as articles, books, software, photographs, fees for access to libraries, information from databases, rental of equipment, etc.
8. Any other direct expenses not specified above.

The following items will not be covered:

- Remuneration for services rendered by the applicant and his/her collaborator(s) in the form of salaries, fees, etc.
- Administrative expenses of universities, think tanks, research institutes, or other organizations to which the applicant and/or collaborator(s) belong.
- Expenses for purchase of any instruments, apparatuses, or equipment for general use such as personal computers, facsimile machines, copying machines, and others.
- Any other expenses which the MyCC deemed as inappropriate to the research.

APPENDIX E
MyCC RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME
STRATEGIC RESEARCH AREAS

The **Strategy Plan for Competition Advocacy & Communications 2015-2017** identifies the priority sectors and stakeholders that will be the focus of competition advocacy activities of the MyCC. Hence the strategic research areas that will be funded under the MyCC Research Grant Programme are market surveys, case studies and research on the anti-competitive and pro-competitive economic climate, laws and practices in Malaysia relating to the following priority sectors and stakeholders:

Priority Sectors:

- i. Food production, import and distribution;**
- ii. Transport such as taxies, buses, mass rapid transit, railways, hauliers and shipping;**
- iii. Healthcare Institutions;**
- iv. Professional services;**

Examples of research studies that can be undertaken with respect to the above-mentioned priority sectors include existence of anti-competitive practices such as **cartelisation, collusion to fix prices, bid rigging practices, quota on outputs, controls on market access, resale price maintenance, exclusive dealing, tie-in deals, abuse of dominant market position through predatory pricing, refusal to supply, imposing unfair conditions on suppliers or retailers, and so on, in specific local markets or geographical regions in Malaysia**. Also supported will be studies on the **structure and operation of the market in the priority sectors** to determine generally to what extent the enterprises in a particular sector are engaging in fair and open competition.

Stakeholders:

- i. **The Executive** – for example, studies on the extent competition knowledge or culture permeates government agencies and proposals to enhance such knowledge and culture; case studies of “regulatory capture” of Malaysian government agencies and proposals to overcome this; case studies of government policies and regulations promoting and/or hindering competition culture; case studies of public procurement practices in the priority sectors mentioned above and their impact on competition.
- ii. **The Judiciary** – for example, a critical analysis of judicial pronouncements and decisions in competition cases in other jurisdictions particularly relating to interpretations of concepts and terminology used in competition laws and their relevance or application to Malaysian competition law; comparative studies on the performance of competition tribunals in other jurisdictions and proposals of best practices in the administration of these tribunals.
- iii. **The Legislature** – for example, a survey on the knowledge and awareness level of competition issues and laws among parliamentarians and local councils/assemblies and proposals on how this can be enhanced in Malaysia.
- iv. **Enterprises and Associations of Enterprises** – for example, market surveys/studies on the conduct of specific enterprises or trade associations in relation to competition practices in the priority sectors mentioned above; surveys of competition compliance practices of specific enterprises or trade associations; surveys on awareness level of competition issues and laws amongst enterprises or trade associations in Malaysia.
- v. **Professionals and Associations of Professionals** – for example, studies on the conduct and practices of professionals and professional bodies in relation to promotion and compliance with competition laws in the priority sectors mentioned above; comparative studies on impact of codes of practice of professional bodies to align their members to competition regulation.
- vi. **Consumer Associations and civil society organizations** – for example, surveys on the awareness of consumers and civil society on competition issues and laws in relation to the priority sectors and proposals on how to enhance consumer awareness; studies on civil society user organizations in Malaysia and their role in promoting a competition friendly environment in the priority sectors mentioned above.

- vii. **Universities and think tanks** – for example, surveys on the knowledge and awareness level of university graduates on competition issues and laws in Malaysia and proposals to address issues raised; surveys on university courses and Programmes on competition issues and laws in Malaysia and proposals to address issues raised; surveys on journal articles and publications on competition issues and laws in Malaysia and proposals to address issues raised.

MyCC

10 March 2016