

Legislative Council Manpower Panel

Second Half-yearly Progress Report on the Skills Upgrading Scheme

PURPOSE

This paper presents the second half-yearly progress report on the Skills Upgrading Scheme (SUS) for the period April 2002 to September 2002 for Members' information.

BACKGROUND

2. On 1 June 2001, the Finance Committee approved the implementation of the SUS. The first progress report on the Scheme from September 2001 to March 2002 was presented to members vide information paper CB(2)1881/01-02(01). The progress of the second half-yearly period April 2002 to September 2002 of the SUS is set out in the following paragraphs.

PROGRESS

Courses

3. As at 30 September 2002, a total of 786 classes have been launched for a total of 16 599 workers since the commencement of the Scheme. Of these, 11 476 trainees from 649 classes have completed training. Details of the courses, breakdown by industries, are as follows:

Industry	No. of classes started	No. of Trainees involved	No. of classes completed	No. of trainees completed training
<i>Phase 1*</i>				
Printing	139 (43)	2 126 (603)	127 (52)	1 618 (624)
Chinese catering	72 (32)	1 618 (724)	60 (21)	1 157 (413)
Import / Export trade	78 (33)	1 931 (801)	60 (32)	980 (551)
Wearing Apparel / textile	61 (27)	1 504 (652)	56 (36)	955 (578)
Transport	48 (28)	1 194 (690)	39 (25)	784 (499)
Retail	187 (166)	4 178 (3 689)	179 (163)	3 730 (3 397)

Phase 2**

Tourism	19	448	16	354
Hairdressing	58	910	45	570
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering	97	2 147	51	1 016
Property Management	27	543	16	312
Insurance [@]	-	-	-	-
Hotel [#]	-	-	-	-
Real Estate Agents [#]	-	-	-	-
Total	786 (530)	16 599 (11 207)	649 (457)	11 476 (8 314)

* The first batch of courses under first phase was launched in early September 2001.

** The first batch of courses under the second phase was offered in July 2002.

() Figures in bracket denote the progress between the period from April to September 2002.

@ Courses for the Insurance sector were launched in late October 2002 and figures are not included.

Courses for the Hotel sector are expected to be launched in early December 2002 while courses for the Real Estate Agents sector would be launched towards the end of the year.

4. The overall trainee enrolment rate¹ is 95%, course retention rate² is 84% and passing rate³ is 92%. According to the feedback collected from trainees at the end of the courses, the vast majority of the trainees (93%) were satisfied with the course contents, the performance of the trainers and the training providers. Comments from trainees, including suggestions on additional course content, class arrangements, etc., have been referred back to the respective industry working groups for consideration and suitable refinements were made accordingly.

Quality Assurance

5. The SUS Secretariat continued to pay three types of visits to training providers to monitor the quality of training. Figures of these visits are summarised below:

¹ This is the percentage of the total no. of trainees enrolled against the total no. of planned training places.

² This is the percentage of the total no. of trainees completing the course against the total no. of trainees enrolled.

³ All trainees are required to pass an end-of-course assessment before a certificate is awarded. This is the percentage of the total number of trainees passing the assessment against the total number of trainees completing the course.

	Up to 30 September 2002	(Position in First progress report)
(a) Administrative inspections ⁴	577	(120)
(b) Academic inspections ⁵	594	(322)
(c) Invigilation of end of course assessments ⁶	649	(192)

6. The Secretariat continued to prepare investigation and assessment reports and submitted them regularly to the respective industry working groups for monitoring purpose. During the period April 2002 to September 2002, the performance of most of the training providers and the respective trainers were found to be satisfactory. There was one case where the performance of a tutor was found to be unsatisfactory (in presentation, interaction with students and the use of teaching materials) and the training provider concerned was asked to take follow-up action on the tutor. Subsequent inspection found that the performance of the tutor concerned had improved.

Additional Industry Sectors

7. Two more industry sectors, namely decoration and building maintenance and beauty care, joined the SUS recently. Industry working groups for these two sectors have been set up to follow up on course developments and other related work.

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⁴ Administrative inspections are conducted to check whether the class arrangements conform to the approved conditions, e.g. proper keeping of attendance records, identity of trainers, commencement and finishing times of the classes, location of the training site, etc.

⁵ Academic inspections are conducted by industry working group's representatives with the relevant background to sit in the class to observe how the trainers are conducting their classes.

⁶ The industry working groups arrange representatives to invigilate the end of course assessments to ensure that training bodies are conducting the assessments strictly in accordance with the approved procedures.