

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)139/04-05(03)

Ref : CB2/BC/1/04

**Bills Committee on
Vocational Training Council (Amendment) Bill 2004**

Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat

Vocational Training Council (Amendment) Bill 2004

Purpose

This paper gives a summary of issues and concerns raised by members of the Panel on Manpower on the Administration's proposals to amend the Vocational Training Council Ordinance (VTCO) (Cap. 1130).

The Administration's proposals

2. At its meeting on 20 November 2003, the Panel on Manpower was consulted on the Administration's proposals to amend VTCO. The Administration informed the Panel that its proposal sought to -

- (a) enable the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to perform its statutory functions outside Hong Kong;
- (b) replace the existing terminology of "disabled person" used in the VTCO by "person with a disability"; and
- (c) provide that any one of the Deputy Chairmen of VTC could sign the statement of income and expenditure and balance sheet if the Chairman was absent from Hong Kong or when the Chairman was unable to act.

Issues raised by Panel members

3. At the Panel meeting on 20 November 2003, members did not raise specific concerns about the policy aspects of the Administration's proposals. However, a member requested for information to support the need for the proposed amendment to VTCO. The information requested was the number of Hong Kong based firms which operated in the Mainland, the number of Hong Kong people employed there and their length of stay in the Mainland, the number of trips made by the workers to Hong Kong, and whether they were on permanent or short-term contracts.

4. The Administration informed members that according to a research study "Made in Pearl River Delta – the Changing Face of Hong Kong Manufacturers" conducted by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, there were about 63 000 Hong Kong based firms engaging in manufacturing activities in the Mainland, with about 53 000 Hong Kong based companies operating factories in Guangdong and about 83 000 Hong Kong employees working in Guangdong. According to Government statistics, over 190 000 people were working in the Mainland. However, the Administration did not have information on the number of these workers who were engaged on permanent or short-term contracts.

5. The extract from the minutes of the Panel meeting on 20 November 2003 is in the **Appendix** for members' reference.

EXTRACT

立法會
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Ref : CB2/PL/MP/1

LC Paper No. CB(2)655/03-04

(These minutes have been seen by the
Administration)

Panel on Manpower

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 20 November 2003 at 2:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP (Chairman)
Hon Kenneth TING Woo-shou, JP
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon SZETO Wah
Hon LI Fung-ying, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee
- Members absent** : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
- Public Officers attending** : Item III
Mr Raymond YOUNG
Deputy Secretary for Commerce Industry and Technology
(Commerce and Industry) 1

Mr K Y TANG
Government Economist

Mr Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung, JP
Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and
Labour (Labour)

Mrs DO PANG Wai-yee
Assistant Commissioner for Labour
(Policy Support and Strategy Planning)

Item IV

Mr Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung, JP
Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and
Labour (Labour)

Mr CHOW Tung-shan
Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Labour Relations)

Mrs Clare SIU HO Kar-yuk
Chief Labour Officer
Labour Department

Item V

Mr Byron LAM
Principal Assistant Secretary for Education and Manpower

Mrs Carrie WILLIS, JP
Executive Director (Acting)
Vocational Training Council

Clerk in attendance : Mrs Sharon TONG
Chief Assistant Secretary (2) 1

Staff in attendance : Ms Amy WONG
Senior Assistant Secretary (2) 1

Action

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Action

V. Amendment of the Vocational Training Council Ordinance
(LC Paper No. CB(2)332/03-04(05))

39. Ms LI Fung-ying agreed that there was a growing number of Hong Kong firms engaging in cross-border activities and employing workforce from Hong Kong. However, she requested the Administration to provide further information, such as the number of firms operating business in the Mainland, the number of Hong Kong workers employed, the workers' length of stay in the Mainland, the number of trips made by the workers to Hong Kong, and whether the workers were on permanent or short-term contracts, to support the need for the proposed amendment to the Vocational Training Council Ordinance (VTCO).

40. Principal Assistant Secretary for Education and Manpower (PAS/EM) responded that in view of the rapid economic development of the Pearl River Delta in the coming years, the amendment to the VTCO would allow the Vocational Training Council to help equip our workforce and thereby maintaining the competitiveness and employment prospects of our workers. He said that according to the research "Made in Pearl River Delta - the Changing Face of Hong Kong Manufacturers" conducted by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, there were about 63 000 Hong Kong based firms engaging in manufacturing activities in the Mainland. There were about 53 000 Hong Kong based companies operating factories in Guangdong and about 83 000 Hong Kong employees working in Guangdong. According to Government statistics, over 190 000 people were working in the Mainland. PAS/EM agreed to provide the report conducted by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries for members' reference. He added that he did not have information on the number of workers engaged on permanent and short-term contracts.

Admin

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Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
17 December 2003