

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sixth Half-yearly Progress Report on the Skills Upgrading Scheme

PURPOSE

When approving the \$400 million commitment for the launch of the Skills Upgrading Scheme (SUS) on 1 June 2001, Members requested the Administration to provide half-yearly reports on the implementation of the scheme. This is the sixth report in the series, covering the period from April 2004 to September 2004.

PROGRESS

Courses

2. As at 30 September 2004, 4 695 classes benefiting a total of 98 211 workers had been launched since the commencement of the Scheme in September 2001. Of these, 81 185 trainees of 4 615 classes had completed training. Details of the courses, broken down by industries, are as follows –

Industry	No. of classes started		No. of trainees enrolled		No. of classes completed		No. of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 30.9.2004	From 1.4.2004 to 30.9.2004	Cumulative up to 30.9.2004	From 1.4.2004 to 30.9.2004	Cumulative up to 30.9.2004	From 1.4.2004 to 30.9.2004	Cumulative up to 30.9.2004	From 1.4.2004 to 30.9.2004
Printing	373	56	5 636	868	360	61	4 511	764
Chinese Catering	292	17	7 098	427	292	19	6 077	442
Import/Export Trade	240	71	5 598	1 540	224	84	3 677	1 264
Wearing Apparel/ Textile	164	25	3 535	446	158	19	2 358	244
Transport	114	30	2 964	830	108	33	2 421	802
Retail	752	111	17 175	2 183	734	109	15 340	1 894

/Tourism

Industry	No. of classes started		No. of trainees enrolled		No. of classes completed		No. of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 30.9.2004	From 1.4.2004 to 30.9.2004	Cumulative up to 30.9.2004	From 1.4.2004 to 30.9.2004	Cumulative up to 30.9.2004	From 1.4.2004 to 30.9.2004	Cumulative up to 30.9.2004	From 1.4.2004 to 30.9.2004
Tourism	368	63	8 854	1 485	365	64	7 523	1 314
Hairdressing	465	143	6 818	2 048	465	153	5 317	1 673
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering	669	213	13 886	4 172	666	245	11 384	4 008
Property Management	227	17	5 166	445	227	25	4 728	536
Insurance	195	79	5 146	1 871	195	83	4 358	1 638
Beauty Care	340	68	5 790	1 070	340	78	4 780	1 002
Building Maintenance & Decoration	190	24	3 532	336	188	26	2 855	304
Hotel	109	22	2 452	413	109	22	2 180	360
Real Estate Agents	20	8	454	173	20	10	188	76
Road Passenger Transport	38	30	852	652	36	28	711	559
Elderly Care	96	96	2 381	2 381	93	93	2 179	2 179
Films, TV & Entertainment	43	43	874	874	35	35	598	598
Sports & Recreation ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horticulture & Floral Art ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4 695	1 116	98 211	22 214	4 615	1 187	81 185	19 657

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate³, course retention rate⁴ and passing rate⁵ up to September 2004 are 94.9%, 83.4% and 93.1% respectively. The latest feedback collected from trainees at the end of the courses indicated that the vast majority of the trainees were satisfied with the course contents (about 92.2%) and the performance of the trainers (about 97.2%).

/Quality

1 The Sports & Recreation sector joined the SUS in late February 2004. The first batch of courses was provided in mid-October 2004.

2 The Horticulture & Floral Art sector joined the SUS in mid-June 2004. The first batch of courses will be provided in February 2005.

3 This is the percentage of the total number of trainees enrolled against the total number of planned training places.

4 This is the percentage of the total number of trainees completing the course against the total number of trainees enrolled.

5 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.

Quality Assurance

4. To monitor the quality of training offered by the course providers, the SUS Secretariat and the respective industry working groups continued to arrange for representatives to pay three types of regular visits to these course providers. Figures of these visits are summarised below –

	Cumulative up to 30.9.2004	From 1.4.2004 to 30.9.2004
(a) Administrative inspections ⁶	3 689	122
(b) Academic inspections ⁷	1 955	127
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments ⁸	4 615	1 187

5. 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 2004 to September 2004, the performance of the course providers and the respective trainers were generally satisfactory.

ADDITIONAL INDUSTRY SECTORS

6. A new industry sector, namely, the Horticulture & Floral Art sector, joined the SUS in June 2004. An industry working group has been set up to follow up on the course development work.

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6 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, and location of the training site.

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

8 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.