

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Seventh 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 seventh report in the series, covering the period from October 2004 to March 2005.

PROGRESS

Courses

2. As at 31 March 2005, 5 514 classes benefiting a total of 114 511 workers were launched since the commencement of the Scheme in September 2001. Of these, 94 204 trainees of 5 386 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 31.3.2005	From 1.10.2004 to 31.3.2005	Cumulative up to 31.3.2005	From 1.10.2004 to 31.3.2005	Cumulative up to 31.3.2005	From 1.10.2004 to 31.3.2005	Cumulative up to 31.3.2005	From 1.10.2004 to 31.3.2005
Printing	417	44	6 275	639	398	38	4 968	457
Chinese Catering	346	54	8 337	1 239	335	43	6 949	872
Import / Export Trade	293	53	6 732	1 134	272	48	4 406	729
Wearing Apparel / Textile	188	24	3 963	428	185	27	2 697	339
Transport	125	11	3 259	295	123	15	2 784	363
Retail	819	67	18 511	1 336	811	77	16 567	1 227
Tourism	418	50	10 014	1 160	414	49	8 510	987
Hairdressing	511	46	7 471	653	510	45	5 829	512
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering	774	105	15 893	2 007	766	100	12 956	1 572
Property Management	281	54	6 397	1 231	278	51	5 790	1 062

/Insurance

Industry	No. of classes started		No. of trainees enrolled		No. of classes completed		No. of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 31.3.2005	From 1.10.2004 to 31.3.2005	Cumulative up to 31.3.2005	From 1.10.2004 to 31.3.2005	Cumulative up to 31.3.2005	From 1.10.2004 to 31.3.2005	Cumulative up to 31.3.2005	From 1.10.2004 to 31.3.2005
Insurance	229	34	6 072	926	225	30	5 082	724
Beauty Care	452	112	7 634	1 844	436	96	6 067	1 287
Building Maintenance & Decoration	209	19	3 817	285	198	10	2 974	119
Hotel	114	5	2 545	93	112	3	2 230	50
Real Estate Agents	21	1	471	17	20	0	197	9
Road Passenger Transport	54	16	1 212	360	53	17	1 051	340
Elderly Care	141	45	3 425	1 044	141	48	3 252	1 073
Films, TV & Entertainment	82	39	1 631	757	72	37	1 200	602
Sports & Recreation	40	40	852	852	37	37	695	695
Horticulture & Floral Art ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watches, Clocks & Jewellery ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medical & Health Care ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5 514	819	114 511	16 300	5 386	771	94 204	13 019

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate⁴, course retention rate⁵ and passing rate⁶ up to March 2005 were 94.6%, 83.5% 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 92.1%) and the performance of the trainers (about 97.1%).

/Quality

1 The Horticulture & Floral Art industry joined SUS in mid June 2004. The first batch of courses will be launched in July 2005.

2 The Watches, Clocks & Jewellery industry joined SUS in January 2005. The first batch of courses will be launched in late December 2005.

3 The Medical & Health Care industry joined SUS in January 2005. The first batch of courses will be launched in late December 2005.

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

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

6 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 31.3.2005	From 1.10.2004 to 31.3.2005
(a) Administrative inspections ⁷	3 837	148
(b) Academic inspections ⁸	2 096	141
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments ⁹	5 386	771

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 October 2004 to March 2005, the performance of the course providers and the respective trainers were generally satisfactory.

ADDITIONAL INDUSTRY

6. Two new industries, namely the Watches, Clocks & Jewellery industry, and Medical & Health Care industry joined SUS in January 2005. The industry working groups were subsequently set up to follow up on the course development work.

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7 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.

8 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.

9 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.