

**Legislative Council Panel on Manpower
(meeting on 16 December 2004)**

Review of Financial Provision for Project Yi Jin

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' views on our proposal to continue the funding scheme for Project Yi Jin (PYJ).

Background

2. PYJ was launched in October 2000 as a bridging programme to provide an alternative route and to expand the continuing education opportunities for secondary school leavers and adult learners. The Programme is run by the Federation for Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions (FCE) on a self-financing basis.

3. PYJ aims to upgrade students' knowledge through combining academic and practical skills training, with emphasis on biliteracy, trilingualism and information technology application. Students may take a one-year full-time programme or a part-time programme of at least two years. The Programme consists of a total of 600 contact hours, including 420 contact hours for core modules and 180 contact hours for electives. The core modules include Chinese, English I, English II, Mathematics, Information Technology, Putonghua and Communication Skills. As for electives, a wide range of practical subjects are offered to cater for students' interest. A list of electives offered in 2004/05 academic year is at **Annex 1**.

4. A student who has successfully completed the 7 core modules and 3 electives will be awarded a full certificate. This certificate has been assessed by the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA) as comparable to five passes in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) for continuing education and employment purposes. Holders of the full certificate can further their studies in the member institutions of FCE (such as Higher Diploma, Associate Degree programmes.) They are also accepted by Government as meeting the entry requirement of more than 30 civil service posts which require five passes (including English and Chinese) in HKCEE.

Financial Assistance under the Programme

5. With an allocation of \$200 million approved by the Finance Committee in May 2000, the Government provided funding for the reimbursement of tuition fees to students for three academic years from 2000/01 to 2002/03, as well as student support activities and publicity. The reimbursement arrangement is to provide an additional incentive for students to work hard and to complete the modules. Having regard to the success of the Programme and the uncommitted balance of about \$93 million in the approved commitment, the Finance Committee in April 2003 approved extension of the scheme for another two academic years, i.e. 2003/04 and 2004/05.

6. The Programme comprises ten modules. The cost of each module varies depending on its contact hours, with the total cost standing at about \$30,000. As approved by the Finance Committee in May 2000, students who have successfully completed each module will be reimbursed 30% of the tuition fee paid for that module. In July 2002, the Finance Committee further approved the reimbursement of tuition fee in full to needy students upon their successful completion of each module. Needy students are defined as those who are eligible for full assistance under the means test for the secondary school sector administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency (SFAA).

7. According to our record, some 15% of the students admitted in 2002/03 and 2003/04 academic years have received full reimbursement of tuition fee as needy students and on average, they could successfully complete and claim reimbursement for eight modules. As for the other students, they could successfully complete and claim reimbursement for an average of seven modules.

8. The intake of students since the introduction of the Programme is at **Annex 2**. Due to the substantial increase in the number of students enrolled in 2004/05 academic year, it is estimated that the approved commitment may fall short of meeting the funding requirement by about \$10.4 million. The projected cashflow requirement for PYJ is at **Annex 3**.

Review of Project Yi Jin

9. When the proposal for extending the funding support for the Programme was put to the Finance Committee in April 2003, we undertook to review the scheme in 2005 to examine the readiness of PYJ to be run on a fully self-financing basis. To allow ample time for FCE and the parents/students to plan for their participation in PYJ in 2005/06 academic year, we advanced the review to the last quarter of 2004. The results of the review are set out in paragraphs 10 to 13 below.

10. The average number of student intake for the first four years was 3,659. However, as shown in Annex 2, the intake for 2004/05 academic year substantially increased to 5,381. The majority of PYJ students were young people who did not achieve five passes in HKCEE and some twenty percent were adult learners. For the first four academic years, out of a total of 12,220 students who have completed PYJ, 6,980 (57%) obtained passes in 10 modules and were awarded full certificates. Those students who obtained passes in less than 10 modules could eventually obtain full certificates when they successfully complete the remaining modules.

11. A tracking survey on the graduates of the first three academic years was conducted in early 2004 to evaluate the effectiveness of the Programme. It was found that at the time of the survey, 37% of the respondents were pursuing further studies, 36% were working and 17% were working and studying at the same time. For those who were pursuing further studies, over 90% were taking full-time Associate Degree, Pre-Associate Degree, Higher Diploma, Diploma and Certificate courses. The survey also revealed that the respondents generally found that their capabilities for self-learning and lifelong learning had improved after attending PYJ. For those who were working, 89% managed to secure a job within six months of completion of PYJ. The survey also captured feedback from parents, employers and teachers of PYJ graduates in Associate Degree and other programmes. The majority expressed a positive view towards the Programme. The major findings of the survey are presented at **Annex 4**.

12. The results of the survey show that PYJ has performed an effective role as a bridging programme and has fulfilled its purpose of providing an alternative educational pathway and expanding the continuing education opportunities for low achievers in HKCEE. In fact, a number of graduates of 2000/01 cohort have gained acceptance into undergraduate programmes in 2004/05 academic year by local and overseas universities. The substantial increase in the number of

enrolment for 2004/05 academic year to a certain extent reflects the improved level of acceptance of PYJ by students and parents. We consider that PYJ has established its status as a practical alternative pathway for continuing education for those who are not suitable for pursuing the traditional academic curriculum and there is popular demand for its continuation.

13. We propose to seek fund to carry on with the project for three more academic years as the long term future of the project would have to be reviewed in the light of the proposed reform of the academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education. It is premature to decide whether PYJ should continue under the new academic structure and if so, in what form. The proposed funding for continuation of the project will help sustain it before the government and the community have reached a policy decision on the future senior secondary school structure.

The Proposal

14. Given the success of PYJ, we propose to continue the funding scheme to support admissions for at least three academic years from 2005/06 to 2007/08. Separately, we have requested FCE to reduce the level of course fees for the Programme. Having regard to the improved level of student enrolment which has enabled the institutions to benefit from the economy of scale, FCE has indicated that the course fee can be reduced from \$30,000 to \$28,000 in 2005/06 academic year. We shall continue to explore with FCE on the possibility of further lowering the level of course fees.

Financial Implication

15. We estimate that an additional expenditure of \$235 million will be required over a period of about five years. The expenditure will include –

- (a) additional reimbursement of tuition fee to cater for the substantial increase in student intake for 2004/05 academic year \$10.4 million
- (b) extension of the existing tuition fee reimbursement arrangement for three academic years from 2005/06 to 2007/08 \$200.7 million

- (c) support activities (such as student support activities, publicity, etc.) \$23.9 million

The projected cashflow requirement is at **Annex 5**.

16. The exact amount of additional expenditure will depend on the actual size of student intake, the percentages of students eligible for full-fee assistance under the means test, and the number of modules which the students can successfully complete. We shall seek the approval of the Finance Committee to increase the commitment by \$235 million. As the expenditure of the scheme is affected by various factors mentioned above, we shall extend the scheme if there is sufficient unspent balance to support further admissions beyond 2007/08 academic year.

Advice Sought

17. Members are invited to comment on our proposal to continue the funding scheme for PYJ as set out in the paper.

Education and Manpower Bureau
December 2004

**Project Yi Jin 2004-2005
Elective Modules Offered by FCE Institutions**

<p>Caritas Adult & Higher Education Service (55)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bookkeeping and Accounts ▪ Computer Accounting ▪ China Accounting ▪ Hardware Support & System Setup and Maintenance ▪ Internet and Office Application – Advanced Level ▪ Network Installation and Management OR Multimedia design ▪ Principles of Logistics Management ▪ Transportation and Warehousing ▪ Purchasing ▪ Introduction to Social Service ▪ Group Work ▪ Social Service Practice ▪ Current Social Issues ▪ Food Service ▪ Beverage Service ▪ Shop Management ▪ English for Tourism ▪ Putonghua for Tourism ▪ Outbound Escort Practice ▪ Local Guide Practice ▪ Food Theory Production ▪ Purchasing and Costing ▪ Japanese Food ▪ Japanese ▪ Customer Service ▪ Beverage and Housekeeping ▪ Introduction to Psychology ▪ Mediation Techniques and Law ▪ Basic Management ▪ Music Reading and Appreciation ▪ MIDI and Music Arranging ▪ Digital Recording/Mixing and Software Applications ▪ Photoshop Image Design ▪ Digital Photography ▪ Visual Design Artwork ▪ Foundation in property management ▪ Quality customer service ▪ Computerised financial management ▪ Electronic security & communication ▪ Pastry foundation ▪ Dessert ▪ Pastes and yeast goods ▪ Safety and management in recreational activities ▪ Introduction to camp service ▪ Campground and outdoor activities practice ▪ Cultural and Travel Japanese ▪ Introduction to leisure and recreation management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning and promotion ▪ Practical management skills ▪ The art of public speaking ▪ Broadcasting techniques ▪ The art of performance ▪ Beauty care ▪ Nutrition ▪ Health and diet design <p>SCOPE, City University of H.K. (22)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arts & Design ▪ Multimedia Design ▪ 3D Animation & Modeling ▪ Networking Support ▪ Hotel Management ▪ Tourism Practices ▪ Logistic Management ▪ Marketing - A New Approach to Create Business Opportunity ▪ Property Management ▪ Quality Service Management ▪ Banking Practices ▪ Physical & Fitness Training ▪ Health & Fitness – Nutrition, Exercise & Weight Control ▪ Beauty Therapy Practices ▪ Food Safety & Management ▪ Small Business Practices in Hong Kong ▪ Personal Financial Planning ▪ Accounting and Book-keeping ▪ Computerized Account ▪ Training on First Aid and Home Nursing ▪ Organic Agriculture and Ecological Management ▪ Insurance Professional and Marketing Practice <p>SPEED, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fundamental Logistics Management ▪ Sales and Retailing Management: Principles and Practices ▪ Fundamental Marketing ▪ Basic Knowledge in Travel and Tourism ▪ Culture Tourism ▪ Quality Customer Service ▪ Fundamental Skin Care ▪ Introduction to Hair Dressing and Salon Management ▪ Make-up Techniques ▪ Sport Facilities Management ▪ Fitness Instructors Training ▪ Trainers Training: Yujia and Hydro Therapy ▪ Office Management ▪ Office Software and Internet ▪ Information Technology Management : Principles and Practices
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<p>LiPACE, The Open University of H.K. (16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practising Healthy Lifestyle ▪ Web Page and Multimedia Design ▪ Tourism and Customer Services ▪ Practical Arts of Speaking ▪ Foundations in Accounting ▪ Understanding the Hong Kong Economy ▪ Hotel Services and Operations ▪ Introduction to Tourism Studies ▪ Understanding Health Issues in Ageing ▪ Introduction to Occupational Health and Safety ▪ Basic Logistics Operations ▪ Introduction to Transportation Studies ▪ Introduction to Design Studies ▪ Desktop Publishing and Computer Graphics ▪ Nutrition and Weight Management ▪ Sports and Fitness 	<p>CPE, The H.K. Institute of Education (34)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Studies ▪ Intensive English ▪ Chinese Practical Skills ▪ Tourism - the basic concepts ▪ Operations and Management in Travel Industry ▪ Practical Skills for Tour Escort and Tour Co-ordinator ▪ Introductory Korean ▪ Elementary Japanese ▪ Intensive Putonghua ▪ Spanish One ▪ Elementary French ▪ Introduction to Computer Networking ▪ Facility Management Introductory Course ▪ Office Management ▪ Marketing Management ▪ Financial Services ▪ Business Chinese ▪ Business Fundamentals ▪ Sales and Retail ▪ Introduction to Music ▪ Foundation of Art and Design ▪ Introduction to Music Technology ▪ Use of Digital Imaging Software ▪ Basic Multimedia and Animation Design ▪ Illustration Design ▪ Meal Planning and Chinese Cooking Fundamentals ▪ Foundational Nutrition and Introductory Western Cuisine ▪ Quality Life Management and Social Etiquette Nurturing ▪ Creative Use of Textiles ▪ Foundation in Adventure Education ▪ Training in Racket Games - An Introduction from Theory to Practice ▪ Training in Team Ball Games - An Introduction from Theory to Practice ▪ Training in Aquatic Sports - An Introduction from Theory to Practice ▪ Foundation in Physical Training for Sports Performance and Health
<p>LIFE, Lingnan University (19)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine ▪ Basic Chinese Herbal Medicine ▪ Traditional Chinese Medicine and Dietetics ▪ Introduction to the Hotel, Restaurant and Travel Industries ▪ Hong Kong & Worldwide Tourist Attractions ▪ Quality Services in Tourism ▪ Social Welfare and Services in Hong Kong ▪ Practical Psychology ▪ Psychology in Children Development ▪ Foundation in Youth Work ▪ Introduction to Principles of Design ▪ Multi-media and Animation Production ▪ Computer Graphics and Image Processing ▪ Webpage and Commercial Website Design ▪ Elementary Logistics Management ▪ Introduction to China Trade ▪ Business Skills and Entrepreneurship ▪ Workplace English ▪ Application of OFFICE and E-commerce 	
<p>Vocational Training Council Continuing Professional Development Centre (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hospitality ▪ Computing ▪ 3D Game and Mobile Game Design and Development ▪ Logistics 	

**Enrolment to Project Yi Jin (PYJ)
from 2000/01 to 2004/05 Academic Years**

The intake of full-time and part-time PYJ students since the introduction of the Programme is as follows :

Academic Year	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Increase/Decrease
2000/01	3,267 (77%)	985 (23%)	4,252	
2001/02	2,085 (63%)	1,223 (37%)	3,308	-22%
2002/03	2,804 (81%)	647 (19%)	3,451	+4%
2003/04	2,880 (79%)	746 (21%)	3,626	+5%
2004/05	4,363 (81%)	1,018 (19%)	5,381	+ 48%
Total	15,399 (77%)	4,619 (23%)	20,018	

**Estimated Cash Flow Requirement for Project Yi Jin
for Admission up to 2004/05 Academic Year**

Item	Accumulated Expenditure as at 31.3.2004	Estimated Expenditure			Total funds required	Shortfall over approved commitment
		2004-05 financial year	2005-06 financial year	2006-07 financial year		
	\$ M	\$ M	\$ M	\$ M	\$ M	\$ M
Reimbursement of tuition fee	75.7	37	58	5.3	176	—
Support (such as student support activities, publicity etc.)	23.6	5.8	3	2	34.4	—
Total	99.3	42.8	61	7.3	210.4	10.4

Note:

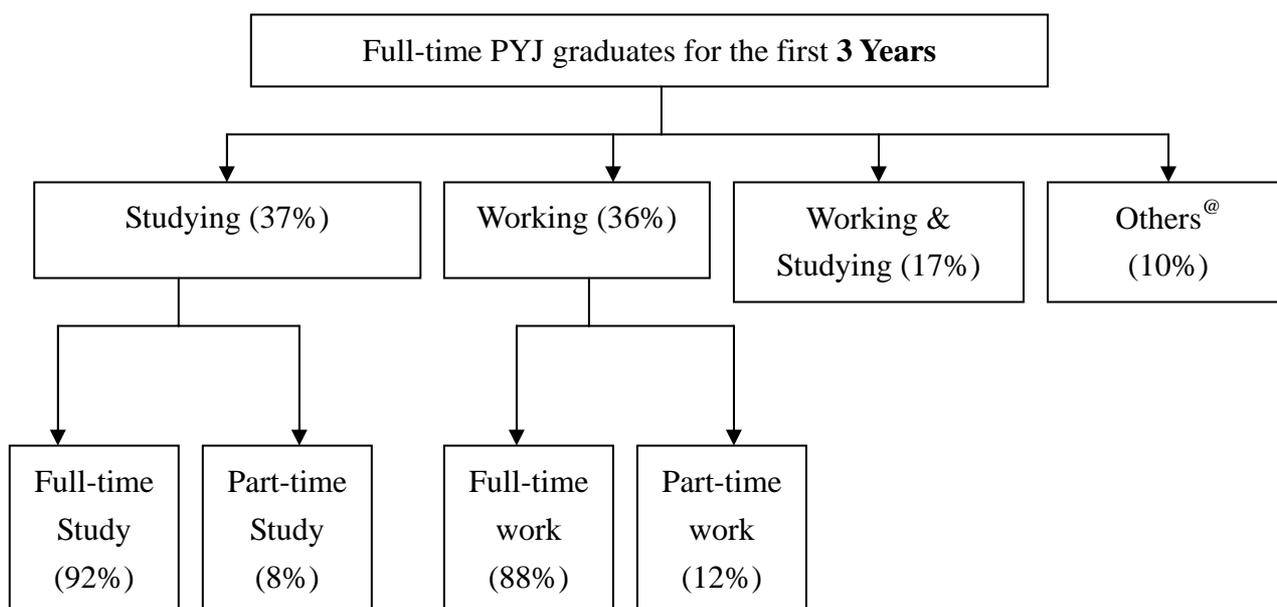
1. The Finance Committee in May 2000 approved a total commitment of \$200 million for Project Yi Jin.
2. Reimbursement of tuition fee and student support activities for an academic year will normally be reflected in the subsequent financial year.
3. Full-time students normally take one year to complete the Programme and part-time students take at least two years. The projected expenditure for 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years includes reimbursement of fee for all current full-time and part-time students. The latter are expected to graduate in July 2006 which falls within 2006-07 financial year.

Tracking Survey of PYJ graduates

Students

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of PYJ, a tracking survey on around 9,000 full-time PYJ graduates of 2000/01, 2001/02 and 2002/03 cohorts was conducted in early 2004. The major findings include:

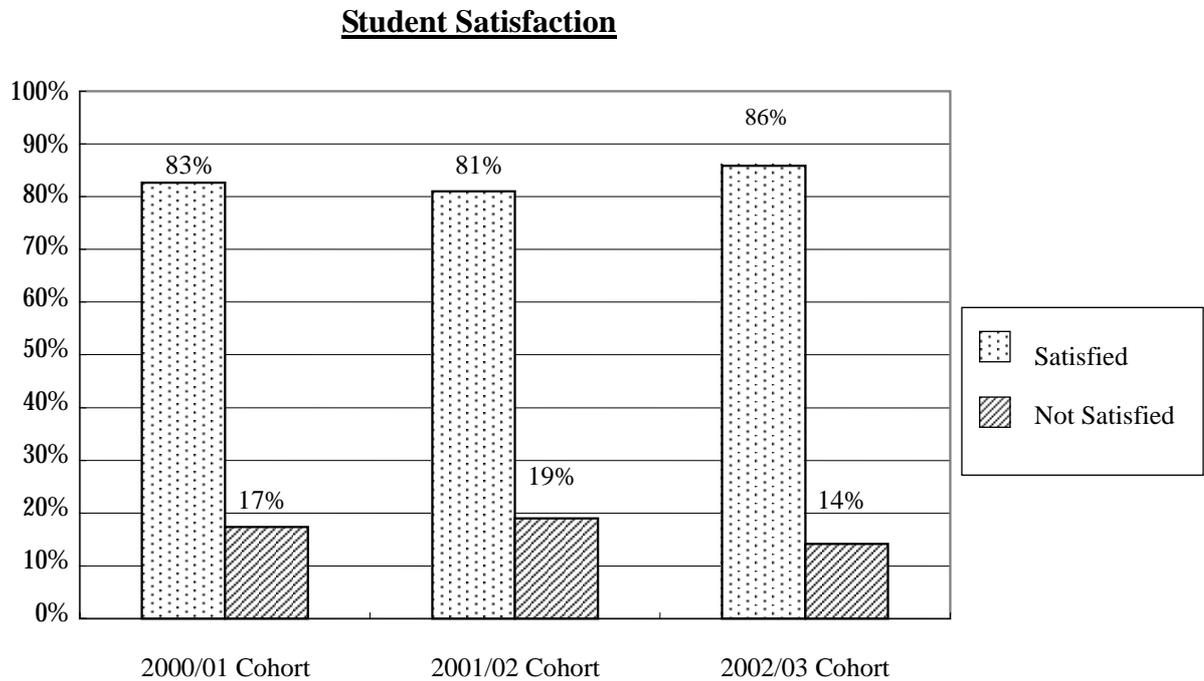
- (1) At the time of the survey, over 90% of the full-time graduates were gainfully engaged after completing PYJ, of which 37% were pursuing further studies, 36% were working, and 17% were working and studying at the same time. The results revealed that PYJ had provided a good stepping stone for students to further their studies and seek employment.



@ Others = Those who did not report studying or working after PYJ.

- (2) For those who were pursuing further studies, over 90% were undertaking full-time Associate Degree, Pre-Associate Degree, Higher Diploma, Diploma and Certificate courses.

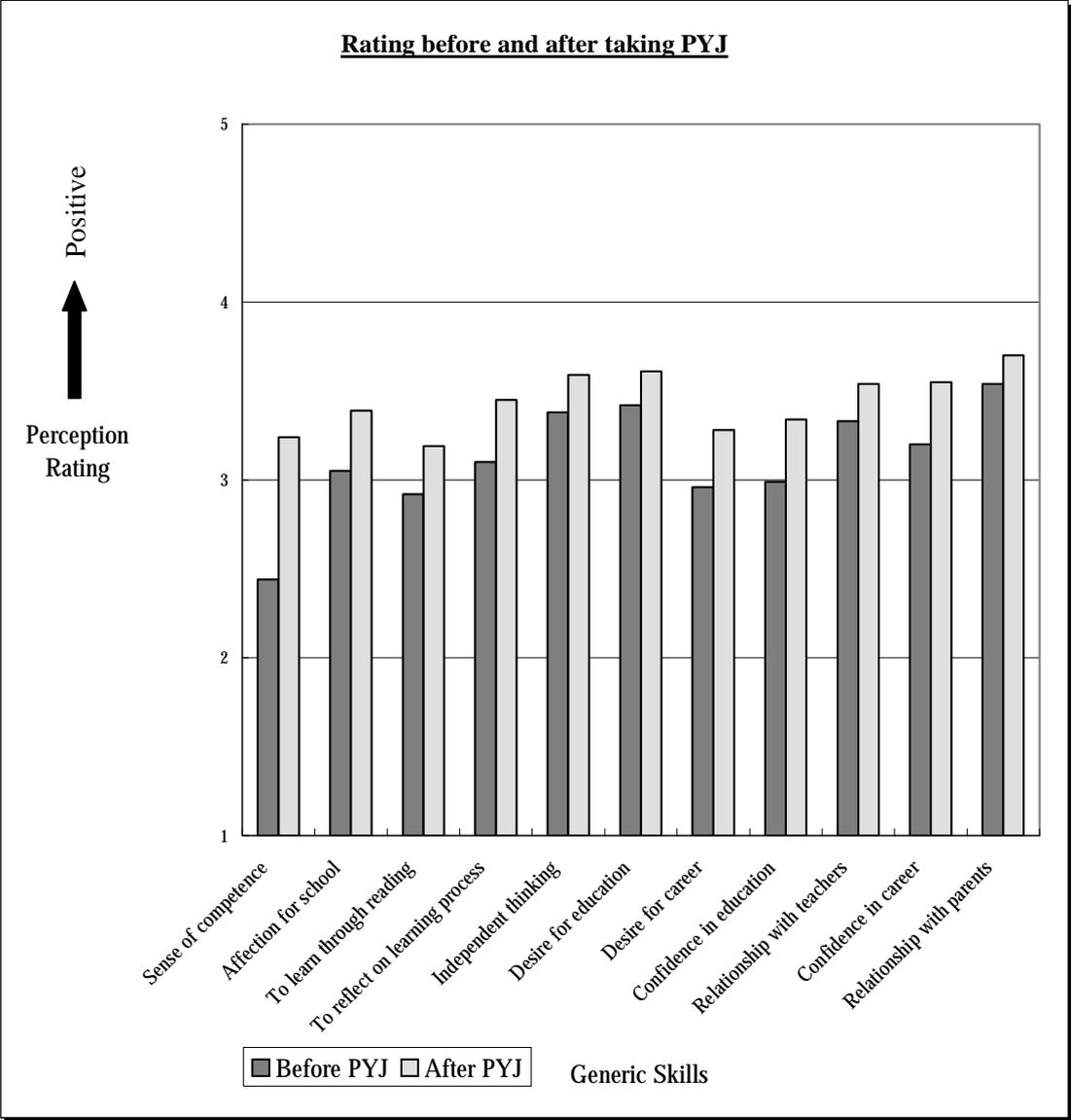
(3) Over 80% of the students were satisfied with the programme.



(4) Over 50% of the students indicated their preference for PYJ if they were then given a choice between PYJ and the conventional curriculum in secondary school.

(5) The following essential aspects indicating self-learning abilities and appreciation for lifelong learning were measured. Students generally demonstrated improvement in all of the aspects after attending PYJ.

- Sense of competence
- Affection for school
- To learn through reading
- To reflect on learning process
- Independent thinking
- Desire for education
- Desire for career
- Confidence in education
- Relationship with teachers
- Confidence in career
- Relationship with parents



(6) 70% could find their first job within 3 months after completing PYJ and 89% could do so within 6 months.

PYJ Students in Employment

2000 – 2003 Cohorts

	<u>Full Certificate Holder</u>	<u>Non-Full Certificate Holder</u>
1. Mode (overall 100%)		
Full-time employment	59.2%	30.8%
Part-time employment	7.4%	2.6%
2. Type (overall 100%)		
Government	6.4%	1.4%
Government-funded organization	5.5%	1.9%
Private: Commerce	13.9%	8.7%
Private: Manufacturing	4.8%	5.3%
Private: Service	27.1%	15.9%
Others	5.4%	3.7%
3. Nature (overall 100%)		
Manufacturing	4.0%	3.6%
Sales	8.7%	5.2%
Restaurant	5.0%	2.5%
Hotel and Boarding House	1.6%	0.8%
Transport	4.7%	2.9%
Finance	1.8%	0.4%
Real Estate	1.3%	0.7%
Service	22.9%	12.7%
Construction	1.9%	2.1%
Others	12.1%	5.1%
4. Job Title (overall 100%)		
Manager and Administrator	0.2%	0.1%
Professional and Associate Professional	3.6%	1.1%
Clerk	18.5%	10.4%
Service Worker	16.6%	10.3%
Shop Sales Worker	9.1%	4.8%
Craftsman	1.3%	0.4%
Machine Operator	1.9%	2.8%
Others	12.5%	6.4%

Other Stakeholders

The survey also captured feedback from 2,466 parents, 37 employers and 64 teachers teaching PYJ graduates in Associate Degree and other programmes. The findings were-

- 76% of the parents and 95% of the employers were satisfied with PYJ.
- 86% of the teachers found the programme recommendable.
- Over 70% of the parents favoured PYJ as an alternative to the conventional senior secondary curriculum.

**Estimated Cash Flow Requirement for Project Yi Jin
for Admission up to 2007/08 Academic Year**

Item	Accumulated Expenditure as at 31/3/2004 \$ M	Estimated Expenditure						Total funds required \$ M	Additional Requirement over approved commitment \$ M
		04-05 f.y.	05-06 f.y.	06-07 f.y.	07-08 f.y.	08-09 f.y.	09-10 f.y.		
Reimbursement of tuition fee	75.7	37	57	61	67	76	8	381.7	—
Support (such as student support activities, publicity etc.)	23.6	5.8	6	6	6	3	2.9	53.3	—
Total	99.3	42.8	63	67	73	79	10.9	435	235

Note:

1. The Finance Committee in May 2000 approved a total commitment of \$200 million for Project Yi Jin.
2. Reimbursement of tuition fee and student support activities for an academic year will normally be reflected in the subsequent financial year.
3. Full-time students normally take one year to complete the Programme and part-time students take at least two years. The projected expenditure for 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years includes reimbursement of fee for full-time and part-time students to be admitted in 2007/08 academic year. The latter are expected to graduate in July 2009 which falls within 2009-10 financial year.
4. f.y. : financial year.