

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Eighth 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 eighth report in the series, covering the period from April 2005 to September 2005.

PROGRESS

Courses

2. As at 30 September 2005, 6 332 classes benefiting a total of 130 983 workers had been launched since the commencement of the Scheme in September 2001. Of these, 108 459 trainees of 6 198 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 30.9.2005	From 1.4.2005 to 30.9.2005	Cumulative up to 30.9.2005	From 1.4.2005 to 30.9.2005	Cumulative up to 30.9.2005	From 1.4.2005 to 30.9.2005	Cumulative up to 30.9.2005	From 1.4.2005 to 30.9.2005
Printing	449	32	6 687	412	442	44	5 454	486
Chinese Catering	400	54	9 569	1 232	393	58	8 134	1 185
Import / Export Trade	339	46	7 714	982	324	52	5 173	767
Wearing Apparel / Textile	193	5	4 063	100	193	8	2 801	104
Transport	142	17	3 738	479	137	14	3 140	356
Retail	896	77	20 125	1 614	882	71	17 910	1 343
Tourism	471	53	11 266	1 252	468	54	9 664	1 154
Hairdressing	537	26	7 859	388	528	18	6 060	231
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering	782	8	16 045	152	781	15	13 211	255
Property Management	350	69	7 892	1 495	341	63	7 086	1 296

Insurance

Industry	No. of classes started		No. of trainees enrolled		No. of classes completed		No. of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 30.9.2005	From 1.4.2005 to 30.9.2005	Cumulative up to 30.9.2005	From 1.4.2005 to 30.9.2005	Cumulative up to 30.9.2005	From 1.4.2005 to 30.9.2005	Cumulative up to 30.9.2005	From 1.4.2005 to 30.9.2005
Insurance	303	74	7 941	1 869	297	72	6 681	1 599
Beauty Care	592	140	9 826	2 192	580	144	7 989	1 922
Building Maintenance & Decoration	247	38	4 454	637	243	45	3 561	587
Hotel	116	2	2 585	40	116	4	2 304	74
Real Estate Agents	24	3	534	63	24	4	236	39
Road Passenger Transport	81	27	1 797	585	81	28	1 619	568
Elderly Care	208	67	4 929	1 504	187	46	4 251	999
Films, TV & Entertainment	107	25	2 138	507	103	31	1 820	620
Sports & Recreation	60	20	1 285	433	57	20	1 071	376
Horticulture & Floral Art	35	35	536	536	21	21	294	294
Watches, Clocks & Jewellery ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medical & Health Care ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Automobile ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6 332	818	130 983	16 472	6 198	812	108 459	14 255

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate⁴, course retention rate⁵ and passing rate⁶ up to September 2005 were 94.3%, 84.1% and 93.3% 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 93.9%) and the performance of the trainers (about 96.0%).

/Quality

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

2 The Medical & Health Care industry joined SUS in January 2005. The first batch of courses will be launched in November 2005.

3 The Automobile industry joined SUS in early September 2005. The first batch of courses will be launched in late March 2006.

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 of the completed classes.

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 30.9.2005	From 1.4.2005 to 30.9.2005
(a) Administrative inspections ⁷	4 000	163
(b) Academic inspections ⁸	2 231	135
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments ⁹	6 198	812

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 2005 to September 2005, the performance of the course providers and the respective trainers was generally satisfactory.

ADDITIONAL INDUSTRY

6. A new industry, namely the Automobile industry, joined SUS in early September 2005. An industry working group was 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.