

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tenth 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 tenth report in the series, covering the period from April to September 2006.

PROGRESS

Courses

2. As at 30 September 2006, 8 172 classes benefiting a total of 165 767 workers were launched since the commencement of SUS in September 2001, of which 138 289 from 8 028 classes had completed training. Details of the courses, broken down by industry, are as follows –

Industry	No. of classes started		No. of trainees enrolled		No. of classes completed		No. of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 30.9.2006	From 1.4.2006 to 30.9.2006	Cumulative up to 30.9.2006	From 1.4.2006 to 30.9.2006	Cumulative up to 30.9.2006	From 1.4.2006 to 30.9.2006	Cumulative up to 30.9.2006	From 1.4.2006 to 30.9.2006
Printing	520	40	7 653	528	511	39	6 200	417
Chinese Catering	522	95	12 266	2 048	509	97	10 371	1 828
Import / Export Trade	442	71	9 764	1 436	423	60	6 611	882
Wearing Apparel / Textile	215	8	4 406	127	214	14	3 049	169
Transport	171	26	4 536	726	166	21	3 876	527
Retail	1 038	77	22 965	1 512	1 019	73	20 351	1 278
Tourism	497	16	11 868	361	488	8	10 124	164
Hairdressing	725	90	10 569	1 278	722	89	8 398	1 096
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering	1 090	166	21 881	3 091	1 072	191	17 990	3 111
Property Management	424	38	9 467	804	419	34	8 595	667
								/Insurance

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Insurance	406	61	10 417	1 490	402	60	8 941	1 351
Beauty Care	744	51	12 260	807	743	57	10 142	786
Building Maintenance & Decoration	282	15	4 947	204	281	17	3 988	188
Hotel	149	4	3 216	74	147	6	2 784	94
Real Estate Agents	37	7	768	115	35	7	394	103
Road Passenger Transport	97	7	2 147	150	97	9	1 955	194
Elderly Care	274	18	6 405	420	268	17	5 953	362
Films, TV & Entertainment	123	7	2 439	123	122	6	2 113	82
Sports & Recreation	77	7	1 630	139	75	9	1 396	160
Horticulture & Floral Art	144	68	2 201	1 028	140	68	1 920	927
Watches, Clocks & Jewellery	82	32	1 631	646	75	39	1 280	648
Medical & Health Care	109	66	2 243	1 355	99	70	1 842	1 283
Automobile	4	4	88	88	1	1	16	16
Total	8 172	974	165 767	18 550	8 028	992	138 289	16 333

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate¹, course retention rate² and passing rate³ up to September 2006 were 93.6%, 84.5% and 93.6% 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 92.4%) and the performance of the trainers (about 97.5%).

Quality Assurance

4. To monitor the quality of training offered by course providers, the SUS Secretariat and the respective Industry Working Groups (IWGs) continued to arrange for representatives to pay three types of regular visits to these course providers. Figures of these visits are summarised below –

/(a)

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- 1 This is the percentage of the total number of trainees enrolled against the total number of planned training places.
 - 2 This is the percentage of the total number of trainees completing the course against the total number of trainees enrolled of the completed classes.
 - 3 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.

	Cumulative up to 30.9.2006	From 1.4.2006 to 30.9.2006
(a) Administrative inspections ⁴	4 498	315
(b) Academic inspections ⁵	2 678	284
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments ⁶	8 059	1 023

5. The SUS Secretariat continued to prepare investigation and assessment reports and to submit regularly to the respective IWGs for monitoring purpose. During the period from April to September 2006, performance of course providers and the respective trainers remained generally satisfactory.

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4 Administrative inspections are conducted to check whether class arrangements conform to 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.

5 Academic inspections are conducted by IWG representatives with relevant background. Inspectors will sit in the class to observe how trainers conduct classes.

6 The IWGs arrange representatives to invigilate end-of-course assessments to ensure that training bodies are conducting assessments strictly in accordance with approved procedures.