

For information on
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LegCo Panel on Manpower

Latest Progress and Enhanced Promotional Efforts of the Labour Department's Youth Employment and Training Programmes

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the latest progress of the 2006/07 Programme of the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme (YPTP) and the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme (YWETS) offered by the Labour Department (LD) as well as the enhanced promotional efforts for the upcoming 2007/08 Programme.

PROGRESS OF THE 2006/07 PROGRAMME

2. The YPTP and YWETS together provide co-ordinated and 'through-train' pre-employment and on-the-job training to young people aged 15 to 24. During a programme year, each trainee is assigned with the same case manager (a registered social worker) who helps to ensure that the trainee receives the right training and employment assistance under the two programmes. Through cross-sector collaboration of training bodies, trade unions, employers and the Government, YPTP and YWETS have become respectively the largest pre-employment and on-the-job training-cum-employment programmes for youths in Hong Kong.

3. The 2006/07 Programme of YPTP and YWETS commenced in September 2006 and runs till August this year. Under Phase II of the Joint Application from 24 February to end-April, the two programmes together received 5 110 applications, surpassing the corresponding figure of 4 855 applications last year by 5.3%. For the entire 2006/07 Programme, over 18 800 applications were received. Of these, 8 700 were streamed to YPTP and 10 100 to YWETS.

Pre-employment Training of YPTP

4. The YPTP provides a wide range of modular training on leadership, interpersonal, computer and job-specific skills. For the 2006/07 Programme, 5 800 young people were trained as at end-May 2007. The most popular courses attended by trainees are catering, beauty culture, clerical support, hotel services and information technology. Since the inception of YPTP in 1999, it has trained more than 80 000 young people.

5. In collaboration with training bodies, the 2006/07 YPTP has offered new training courses on audio and lighting system engineering, artist assistant and programme assistant to better cater for trainees' interests.

On-the-job Training of YWETS

6. To complement YPTP, YWETS provides real job opportunities to young people in the form of six to 12 months' on-the-job training. A 40-hour Induction Course is also available to those without prior training on interpersonal, communication and job-search skills.

7. For the 2006/07 Programme, 4 200 young people were placed into training vacancies under the Scheme and another 1 700 found employment in the open market with the assistance of their case managers as at end-May 2007. Since the launching of YWETS in 2002, over 33 300 young people were employed under the Scheme and another 16 800 secured jobs in the open market.

Tailor-made Training-cum-employment Projects

8. Tailor-made training-cum-employment projects are organised to capitalise on the combined benefits of YPTP and YWETS. Under such projects, trainees attend pre-employment training specifically designed for the participating companies and on completion of such training receive on-the-job training at the same companies under YWETS. For the 2006/07 Programme, 17 such projects were organised as at end-May 2007 for employers in the tourism, catering, retail, telemarketing, healthcare and real estate trades.

9. In addition, YWETS regularly launches major employment projects in collaboration with training bodies and employers including the 'IT Seeds Project', 'Airport Ambassadors Programme', 'Action S4 Project', and 'Pilot Project for Tradesman Trainees'.

ENHANCED PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS FOR THE 2007/08 PROGRAMME

10. To tie in with the entry of new school leavers into the employment market, Phase I Joint Application of the 2007/08 Programme will commence on 25 July 2007.

Territory-wide Promotion of Joint Application

11. To raise the awareness of young people and the community at large, LD will stage a Kick-off Ceremony for the 2007/08 Programme on 25 July 2007, followed by territory-wide publicity through television and radio announcements, newspaper advertisements, posters for display at the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) Stations and on the Light Rail Transit (LRT) trains, TV announcements on bus fleets and Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR) trains, as well as wall and street banners, etc. Two new television and radio announcements in the public interest to publicise the Joint Application and appeal for employers' support will be broadcast.

12. To reach out to youths and facilitate their submission of applications online, we will for the first time invite 460 secondary schools, 25 popular websites of youths, 46 training bodies of YPTP and YWETS as well as the relevant Government bureaux/departments to set up hyperlinks to our dedicated homepage on Joint Application.

“The Most Improved Trainees of YPTP and YWETS” Award

13. To showcase the benefits to trainees after attending YPTP and YWETS as well as to commend the caring efforts of training bodies and employers, LD is organising for the first time “The Most Improved Trainees of YPTP and YWETS” Award for the 2006/07 Programme. The response is encouraging. Training bodies and employers have nominated 110 exemplary trainees to participate in the event.

14. To recognise trainees' unfailing efforts and encourage their further development, all nominees will receive a Certificate of Appreciation issued by the Commissioner for Labour and the 12 distinguished performers will receive a trophy at the upcoming Kick-off Ceremony on 25 July. The stories of trainees will provide the best encouragement to their peers and exemplify the achievements of training bodies, employers and the Government in nurturing the development of our young generation.

Strengthened Efforts on Organisation of Tailor-made Projects

15. For the 2007/08 Programme, YWETS will continue to offer diversified tailor-made projects in collaboration with training bodies and employers. Major ones include:

- (i) 'IT Seeds Project' expecting to offer 700 training vacancies of I.T. Teaching Support, Technical Support, School Activities and Administration Support at various schools;
- (ii) 'Airport Ambassadors Programme' offering 100 training vacancies of customer service and clerical support at the Hong Kong International Airport;
- (iii) 'Action S4 Project' offering 150 training vacancies at training bodies of YPTP and YWETS; and
- (iv) 'Pilot Project for Tradesman Trainees' expecting to benefit 750 graduates of the Vocational Training Council in various industries.

16. Tailor-made training-cum-employment projects organised under YWETS and YPTP could better meet employers' recruitment needs and enable trainees to secure jobs upon completion of pre-employment training. To facilitate training bodies to develop such projects with prospective employers, LD is producing a promotional kit on the features and advantages of such projects. The kit will be disseminated to training bodies within the 2007/08 Programme for their liaison with employers.

CONCLUSION

17. Building on the 'tripartite plus' cooperation among employers, employees, training bodies and the Government, we will continue to improve and reinforce the delivery of YPTP and YWETS, with a view to providing quality and customised employment assistance to our young people.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
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