



Labour Department (Headquarters)

勞工處 (總處)

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Our reference 本處檔案編號 : LD CR/1/814 Pt 71
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27 September 2007

Clerk to the Manpower Panel
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Mrs Sharon TONG)

Dear Mrs TONG,

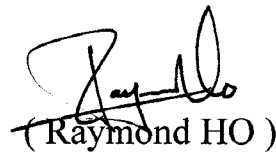
**Panel on Manpower meeting on 5 July 2007
Youth Employment**

The Panel on Manpower on 5 July 2007 discussed the latest progress and enhanced promotional efforts of the Labour Department's youth employment and training programmes. The Administration was requested to provide the following information:

- (i) the number of youngsters placed into training vacancies under the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme (YWETS) and those who secured employment in the open market by programme year;
- (ii) a complaint about a summer internship programme of the MTR Corporation Limited;
- (iii) statistics on trainees who participated in and completed the training under the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and YWETS, and the percentages of trainees securing jobs in the open market on completion of training; and
- (iv) different training schemes/ projects available for youths and the respective number of trainees/apprentices participating in these schemes.

The requested information is provided at Appendices 1 to 3 of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond HO', written in a cursive style.

(Raymond HO)
for Commissioner for Labour

**Statistics on the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme
and the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme**

Youth Pre-employment Training Programme (YPTP)

The YPTP was launched in 1999. The number of young people who participated in and received training of the YPTP in the past eight programme years is provided below:

Programme Year	Number of Young People Participated in and Received Training of YPTP
1999-2000	10 700
2000-2001	12 100
2001-2002	12 800
2002-2003	10 300
2003-2004	11 300
2004-2005	9 300
2005-2006	7 200
2006-2007	6 500
Total	80 200

2. Excluding those pursuing further studies, about 70% of the participants found jobs upon completion of training.

Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme (YWETS)

3. The YWETS was launched in 2002. The number of young people who participated in the scheme and placements in the past five programme years is provided below:

Programme Year	Number of Young People Participated in YWETS	Number of Placements		
		Placed in Training Vacancies	Placed in Other Jobs	Total
2002-03	19 000	6 600	5 500	12 100
2003-04	13 000	7 700	3 200	10 900
2004-05	19 000	8 700	4 000	12 700
2005-06	12 200	6 100	2 300	8 400
2006-07	10 600	5 200	1 900	7 100
Total	73 800	34 300	16 900	51 200

4. Commissioned by the Labour Department (LD), the Hong Kong Polytechnic University completed an 18-month longitudinal study in early 2006 on more than 800 trainees of YWETS to trace changes in their employability. The findings revealed that at the time of the study, 72.8% of the trainees were employed after joining YWETS for one year. The LD will conduct another survey on trainees' position upon their completion of YWETS by the end of 2007.

**Information Provided by the MTR Corporation Limited
on a Summer Internship Programme**

A newspaper in June 2007 reported on the arrangements for some associate degree students undergoing summer internship training at the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRC).

2. The report related to a summer internship/practice course “Practicum in Workplace” of the Hong Kong Community College (HKCC) of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. This was an elective course offered to year-one students of the Associate Degree Programmes. It aimed at providing opportunities for students to undergo training and practice at relevant organisations so that, through taking part in the daily operation and receiving relevant training of the hosting organisations, the students could, in addition to classroom learning, get exposure to the real-work environment, acquire work experience, put learning into practice and earn the required credits for completion of this elective course.

3. During June to August this year, 40 students of the above course were arranged to undergo practice and training at various departments of MTRC including finance, legal, property management and human resource management, with a view to gaining direct exposure to the business operations of the corporation. During the period of internship training, there was no employment relationship between the students and the MTRC, and each student was given a temporary ticket for riding MTR free of charge.

4. The MTRC is highly concerned about the newspaper report and has promptly contacted the HKCC on the internship arrangements. The HKCC has confirmed that prior to the commencement of the internship programme, all students had been provided with the necessary information for their selection of the most suitable work attachments, including particulars of the hosting organisations, job nature, and the availability of any allowances, etc. In addition, during the internship period, the course instructors of HKCC maintained regular contacts with the students and visited the MTRC to understand their internship/training conditions. Upon enquiry, students expressed positive feedback on the relevant arrangements and considered this internship programme a valuable learning opportunity.

5. The MTRC has promised to fulfill corporate social responsibility and provide different types of work attachment opportunities through active cooperation with various tertiary institutions, so as to better prepare students for their future careers.

Other Training Programmes/Projects for Youths

Project Yi Jin and Vocational Courses

Apart from the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme, young people may enrol in other training programmes/schemes including "Project Yi Jin" co-ordinated by the Education Bureau and run by members of the Federation of Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions; and subvented vocational education and training courses provided by the Vocational Training Council (VTC).

2. In addition, programmes/projects specifically target at the needs of non-engaged youths (NEY) are outlined in paragraphs 3 to 5 below.

Pilot projects funded by the Youth Sustainable Development and Engagement Fund

3. The Government and non-government organisations (NGOs) have invested significant resources in providing a wide variety of projects and activities targeted at NEY.

4. In 2004, the Government set up the Task Force on Continuing Development and Employment-related Training for Youth (Task Force) and earmarked \$50 million for the establishment of the Youth Sustainable Development and Engagement Fund (Fund). To promote opportunities for training, placement and employment for NEY, a substantial portion of the Fund has been used to support pilot projects and employment-related training programmes falling under the following five categories -

- (a) programmes that aim at motivating NEY to seek self-improvement and work;
- (b) modern apprenticeship schemes;
- (c) training for sports-related careers;
- (d) training for creative and cultural industries; and
- (e) training and employment programmes on the Mainland.

With the support of the Fund, 22 pilot projects including those mentioned in paragraph 5(a) below have been launched/are underway, providing around 5,600 training places for NEY since 2004.

Vocational Development Programme offered by the VTC

5. Since 2004, the VTC has introduced a Vocational Development Programme (VDP) with the purpose of helping NEY rebuild confidence and develop vocational interest and capability for gainful employment. The VDP comprises the following programmes -

- (a) Six projects were launched on a pilot basis with the support of the Fund (see para. 4 above), among which two have been developed into on-going programmes offering some 3,000 training places in the 2007/08 academic year; and
- (b) The Ethnic Minority Project targeting at non-engaged ethnic minority youths, offering 200 training places in the 2007/08 academic year.
