

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thirteenth 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 thirteenth report in the series, covering the period from October 2007 to March 2008.

PROGRESS

Courses

2. As at 31 March 2008, 10 283 classes benefiting a total of 204 956 workers were launched since the commencement of SUS in September 2001, of which 171 997 from 10 155 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 31.3.2008	From 1.10.2007 to 31.3.2008	Cumulative up to 31.3.2008	From 1.10.2007 to 31.3.2008	Cumulative up to 31.3.2008	From 1.10.2007 to 31.3.2008	Cumulative up to 31.3.2008	From 1.10.2007 to 31.3.2008
Printing	640	37	9 318	508	627	35	7 525	396
Chinese Catering	635	29	14 607	593	625	23	12 393	389
Import / Export Trade	592	42	12 685	823	581	46	8 716	588
Wearing Apparel / Textile	221	5	4 501	80	218	2	3 098	27
Transport	209	3	5 522	77	208	7	4 887	158
Retail	1 254	87	27 319	1 740	1 241	85	24 137	1 382
Tourism	542	12	12 848	246	539	13	11 024	220
Hairdressing	930	75	13 490	1 061	924	69	10 740	808
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering	1 267	43	25 122	815	1 252	38	20 780	605
Property Management	516	37	11 434	769	508	33	10 280	602

/Insurance

Industry	No. of classes started		No. of trainees enrolled		No. of classes completed		No. of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 31.3.2008	From 1.10.2007 to 31.3.2008	Cumulative up to 31.3.2008	From 1.10.2007 to 31.3.2008	Cumulative up to 31.3.2008	From 1.10.2007 to 31.3.2008	Cumulative up to 31.3.2008	From 1.10.2007 to 31.3.2008
Insurance	540	37	13 679	824	535	38	11 861	734
Beauty Care	901	69	14 653	1 022	894	79	12 065	959
Building Maintenance & Decoration	318	10	5 467	153	318	11	4 432	138
Hotel	159	1	3 404	21	159	1	2 978	17
Real Estate Agents	44	3	888	46	44	3	518	39
Road Passenger Transport	106	1	2 355	25	106	1	2 151	25
Elderly Care	383	27	8 904	612	379	32	8 356	682
Films, TV & Entertainment	134	5	2 631	88	130	5	2 221	59
Sports & Recreation	126	6	2 656	125	126	12	2 394	209
Horticulture & Floral Art	330	73	4 931	1 027	324	71	4 370	905
Watches, Clocks & Jewellery	153	10	2 987	178	151	19	2 446	278
Medical & Health Care	243	46	4 761	826	226	36	3 954	554
Automobile	34	3	661	59	34	3	558	52
Market Vending	6	6	133	133	6	6	113	113
Total	10 283	667	204 956	11 851	10 155	668	171 997	9 939

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate¹, course retention rate² and passing rate³ up to March 2008 were 93%, 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 (93.8%) and the performance of the trainers (96.8%).

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 in 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 31 March 2008	From 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008
(a) Administrative inspections ⁴	5 317	261
(b) Academic inspections ⁵	3 497	261
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments ⁶	10 186	668

5. The SUS Secretariat continued to prepare investigation and assessment reports and to submit them regularly to the respective IWGs for monitoring purpose. During the period from October 2007 to March 2008, performance of course providers and the respective trainers remained generally satisfactory.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
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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.