

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Fourteenth 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 fourteenth report in the series, covering the period from April to September 2008.

PROGRESS

Courses

2. As at 30 September 2008, 11 087 classes benefiting a total of 219 688 workers were launched since the commencement of SUS in September 2001, of which 184 788 from 10 964 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 30.9.2008	From 1.4.2008 to 30.9.2008	Cumulative up to 30.9.2008	From 1.4.2008 to 30.9.2008	Cumulative up to 30.9.2008	From 1.4.2008 to 30.9.2008	Cumulative up to 30.9.2008	From 1.4.2008 to 30.9.2008
Printing	675	35	9 828	510	664	37	7 993	468
Chinese Catering	678	43	15 494	887	674	49	13 200	807
Import / Export Trade	645	53	13 722	1 037	633	52	9 454	738
Wearing Apparel / Textile	229	8	4 627	126	227	9	3 201	103
Transport	221	12	5 878	356	219	11	5 185	298
Retail	1 330	76	28 800	1 481	1 310	69	25 349	1 212
Tourism	553	11	13 083	235	552	13	11 281	257
Hairdressing	997	67	14 436	946	986	62	11 453	713
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering	1 338	71	26 429	1 307	1 329	77	22 003	1 223
Property Management	543	27	11 984	550	537	29	10 804	524
Insurance	614	74	15 538	1 859	612	77	13 593	1 732

/Beauty

Industry	No. of classes started		No. of trainees enrolled		No. of classes completed		No. of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 30.9.2008	From 1.4.2008 to 30.9.2008	Cumulative up to 30.9.2008	From 1.4.2008 to 30.9.2008	Cumulative up to 30.9.2008	From 1.4.2008 to 30.9.2008	Cumulative up to 30.9.2008	From 1.4.2008 to 30.9.2008
Beauty Care	970	69	15 662	1 009	970	76	12 995	930
Building Maintenance & Decoration	341	23	5 832	365	340	22	4 726	294
Hotel	193	34	3 990	586	190	31	3 435	457
Real Estate Agents	60	16	1 095	207	58	14	639	121
Road Passenger Transport	113	7	2 502	147	113	7	2 293	142
Elderly Care	404	21	9 381	477	399	20	8 795	439
Films, TV & Entertainment	142	8	2 748	117	137	7	2 317	96
Sports & Recreation	134	8	2 823	167	132	6	2 510	116
Horticulture & Floral Art	383	53	5 634	703	380	56	5 067	697
Watches, Clocks & Jewellery	183	30	3 498	511	174	23	2 818	372
Medical & Health Care	288	45	5 665	904	277	51	4 814	860
Automobile	36	2	700	39	36	2	591	33
Market Vending	11	5	246	113	11	5	214	101
Environmental Hygiene	6	6	93	93	4	4	58	58
Total	11 087	804	219 688	14 732	10 964	809	184 788	12 791

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate¹, course retention rate² and passing rate³ up to September 2008 were 93%, 84.6% and 93.5% 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 (94%) and the performance of the trainers (96.6%).

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)

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 30 September 2008	From 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008
(a) Administrative inspections ⁴	5 771	454
(b) Academic inspections ⁵	3 951	454
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments ⁶	10 995	809

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 April to September 2008, 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.