

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Education
Session No. 18**

| Reply Serial No. | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| S-EDB01 | S080 | WONG Kwok-hing | 156 | Primary Education Secondary Education Special Education Other Educational Services and Subsidies Vocational Education |
| S-EDB02 | S081 | WONG Kwok-kin | 156 | Primary Education Secondary Education |
| S-EDB03 | S083 | PAN Pey-chyou | 156 | Vocational Education |
| S-EDB04 | S059 | CHEUNG Kwok-che | 173 | Student Assistance Scheme |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EDB01

Question Serial No.

S080

Head : 156 Government Secretariat:
Education Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Primary Education
(3) Secondary Education
(4) Special Education
(5) Other Educational Services and Subsidies
(6) Vocational Education

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Education

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Education

Question :

Reply Serial No. EDB058 (asked by Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong)

The share of Gross Domestic Product for vocational education has dropped from 0.14% in 2004-05 to 0.11%. What are the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The expenditure on vocational education (rounded to the nearest \$5 million) and its share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2004-05 to 2008-09 are as follows:

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 (Revised Estimate) |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Vocational Education (\$million) (a) | 1,825 | 1,755 | 1,660 | 1,725 | 1,840 |
| GDP (\$million) (b) | 1,305,111 | 1,410,308 | 1,499,893 | 1,652,017 | 1,678,514 |
| Share of GDP (%) (a)/(b) | 0.14 | 0.12 | 0.11 | 0.10 | 0.11 |

The decrease in expenditure on vocational education during 2004-05 to 2006-07 was mainly due to the implementation of productivity enhancement measures by the Vocational Training Council (VTC). The expenditure started to increase in 2007-08 and 2008-09 mainly because of the impact of the 2007 and 2008 civil service pay rise as well as the implementation of new initiatives, such as implementing free full-time vocational education programmes for secondary 3 school leavers with effect from the 2008/09 academic year and the whole person development programmes for VTC's full-time students.

While the expenditure on vocational education has been increasing in the last two years, the GDP has been on a sharp rise as a result of the strong economic growth during the same period. This has led to the reduction in its share of GDP.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Raymond H C Wong
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Education
Date 30 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EDB02

Head : 156 Government Secretariat:
Education Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

S081

Programme : (2) Primary Education
(3) Secondary Education

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Education

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Education

Question : Under the contracting out of janitor services, whether the Administration would require service providers to set minimum wage for their staff? If 'yes', what is the level of the minimum wage? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply :

All government schools have to comply with the Government's requirements on service contracts which involve the employment of non-skilled workers. Specifically, there is a provision in the tendering conditions stipulating that a tender offer shall not be considered if the monthly wages offered to non-skilled workers by the tenderer are less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as indicated in the latest Quarterly Report on Wages and Payroll Statistics issued by the Census and Statistics Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Raymond H C Wong _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Education _____

Date _____ 30 March 2009 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EDB03

Question Serial No.

S083

Head : 156 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Education Bureau

Programme : (6) Vocational Education

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Education

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Education

Question :

Among the part-time vocational education student places offered by the Vocational Training Council (VTC), about 35% are programmes recognized under the Qualifications Framework (QF). Is there a plan to increase the percentage of part-time programmes recognized under QF? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply :

Part-time Higher Diploma, Diploma, and Certificate courses offered by VTC are recognized under QF and placed in the Qualifications Register. As part of its ongoing course rationalization exercise to align with the new senior secondary academic structure and QF, VTC aims to have as many courses recognized under QF as possible. At present, VTC is planning for the accreditation of its part-time Professional Diploma and Professional Certificate courses by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications in 2010.

Signature _____
Name in block letters Raymond H C Wong
Post Title Permanent Secretary for Education
Date 30 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EDB04

Question Serial No.

S059

Head : 173 Student Financial Subhead (No. & title) :
 Assistance Agency 228 Student financial assistance

Programme : Student Assistance Scheme

Controlling Officer : Controller, Student Financial Assistance Agency

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Education

Question :

In the Estimates, resources have been earmarked to continue to provide fee subsidies directly to parents of children enrolled in eligible kindergartens. Please set out in detail the numbers of children attending half-day and whole-day classes in kindergartens who benefit from the fee remission scheme, total amount of fee remission disbursed, and the numbers and tuition fees of private independent and non-profit-making kindergartens in 2007/08 and 2008/09 using the table below.

| Item | 2007/08 | | | 2008/09 | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | 50% fee remission | 70% fee remission | 100% fee remission | 50% fee remission | 70% fee remission | 100% fee remission |
| Half-day kindergarten classes | | | | | | |
| Number of beneficiaries | | | | | | |
| Amount of fee remission disbursed | | | | | | |
| Number of private independent kindergartens | | | | | | |
| Number of private independent kindergartens with an annual tuition fee below \$16,000 per student | | | | | | |
| Total number of non-profit-making kindergartens | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total number of non-profit-making kindergartens with an annual tuition fee below \$16,000 per student | | | | | | |
| Whole-day kindergarten classes | 50% fee remission | 70% fee remission | 100% fee remission | 50% fee remission | 70% fee remission | 100% fee remission |
| Number of beneficiaries | | | | | | |
| Amount of fee remission disbursed | | | | | | |
| Number of private independent kindergartens | | | | | | |
| Number of private independent kindergartens with an annual tuition fee below \$25,400 per student | | | | | | |
| Number of non-profit-making kindergartens | | | | | | |
| Number of non-profit-making kindergartens with an annual tuition fee below \$25,400 per student | | | | | | |

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply :

The Government is currently operating the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme (KCFRS) which aims at providing fee remission to needy children attending kindergarten (KG) classes at three assistance levels, namely 50%, 75% and 100% fee remission. The number of KG children who benefitted from KCFRS, the fee remission amount involved and the total number of Private Independent (PI) KGs and Non-profit-making (NPM) KGs, including all KGs and kindergarten-cum-child care centres, in the 2007/08 and 2008/09 school years are as follows:

| Item | 2007/08 | | | 2008/09 | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | 50% fee remission | 75% fee remission | 100% fee remission | 50% fee remission | 75% fee remission | 100% fee remission |
| Half-day kindergarten classes | | | | | | |
| Number of beneficiaries [^] | 1 263 | 7 771 | 9 470 | 126 | 5 136 | 12 137 |
| Amount of fee remission disbursed (\$ million) [^] | 2.0 | 17.4 | 39.9 | 0.3 | 3.9 | 29.1 |
| Number of PI KGs | 164 | | | 129 | | |
| Number of PI KGs with an annual tuition fee at or below \$16,000 per student | 15 | | | 2 | | |
| Number of NPM KGs | 567 | | | 575 | | |
| Number of NPM KGs with an annual tuition at or below \$16,000 per student | 292 | | | 209 | | |
| Whole-day kindergarten classes | | | | | | |
| Number of beneficiaries [^] | 6 658 | 4 820 | 4 197 | 5 693 | 4 647 | 5 969 |
| Amount of fee remission disbursed (\$ million) [^] | 35.7 | 52.2 | 66.4 | 13.5 | 25.4 | 51.1 |
| Number of PI KGs | 89 | | | 66 | | |
| Number of PI KGs with an annual tuition fee at or below \$25,400 per student | 8 | | | 1 | | |
| Number of NPM KGs | 598 | | | 619 | | |
| Number of NPM KGs with an annual tuition fee at or below \$25,400 per student | 156 | | | 110 | | |

[^] As at 31 January 2009

Note 1: Since the fee subsidy from the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme (PEVS), which offset the fee remission from KCFRS, increased from \$10,000 per student per annum (pspa) in the 2007/08 school year to \$11,000 pspa in the 2008/09 school year, it is estimated that there will be a drop in the amount of subsidy disbursed under 50% and 75% fee remission in the 2008/09 school year.

Note 2: The substantial increase in the number of children eligible for full fee remission under KCFRS in the 2008/09 school year over the 2007/08 school year is mainly due to the extension of the scheme to children under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (whereby they have to apply under KCFRS for the top-up fee remission amount over fee subsidy under PEVS) on a trial basis.

Signature _____
Name in block letters LI Wing
Post Title Controller, Student Financial Assistance Agency
Date 30 March 2009