

政制及內地事務局
政府總部

香港下亞厘畢道



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CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS BUREAU
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29 July 2009

Ms Flora Tai
Clerk to Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central Hong Kong

Dear Flora,

**Updates on vocational training
catering for the training needs of ethnic minorities**

At the meeting of the Subcommittee on Race Discrimination (Formal Investigations) Rules, Race Discrimination (Investigation and Conciliation) Rules and Code of Practice on Employment under the Race Discrimination Ordinance held on 19 June 2009, as requested by Members, the Administration agreed to provide updated information, outside the context of the Subcommittee, on support measures taken by the vocational training institutions to cater to the training needs of ethnic minorities. We have consulted the relevant organisations and now provide the following consolidated response.

With a view to enhancing the employability of ethnic minorities and facilitating their integration into the local community, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) provides a series of dedicated training courses that cater to the training needs of ethnic minorities. These courses mainly include full-time placement-tied vocational skills training courses, part-time generic skills (e.g. information technology) training courses and part-time "Employment Set Sail" courses conducted

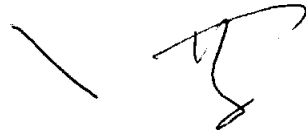
in English, as well as modular-based Cantonese training courses offered under the pilot “Workplace Chinese Communication” programme developed in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research and the Vocational Training Council (VTC). For 2009-10, the ERB has reserved a total of 2 000 training places for the provision of dedicated courses for ethnic minorities.

The VTC also provides dedicated vocational education and training courses for ethnic minorities having regard to their special needs. These courses include full-time certificate / diploma courses for the secondary school leavers, part-time certificate courses for working adults, applied learning programmes for senior secondary students as well as preparatory courses for trade tests for in-service personnel, Vocational Development Programmes for non-engaged youth and basic vocational Chinese short courses. Together with the 60 training places offered under the “Workplace Chinese Communication” programme funded by ERB as mentioned in the last paragraph, a total of about 600 places are offered under these courses in the 2008/09 academic year (which covers the period from 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009).

The Construction Industry Council Training Academy (CICTA) offers nine safety related courses and one part-time skill enhancement course. These courses are specifically targeted at ethnic minorities and are all conducted in English. The nine safety related courses include a green card course that helps ethnic minorities to acquire qualification for registration as Registered General Workers under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance. In March 2009, CICTA offered the first full-time adult short course in Metal Scaffolding (Civil Engineering and Building Construction) which is conducted in English. In addition, the CICTA is preparing for the establishment of a training centre in Tin Shui Wai, which is expected to be completed in September 2009. The centre will provide full-time adult short courses in bar bending and fixing, plastering, plumbing and metal scaffolding, etc. CICTA hopes to attract ethnic minorities in Tin Shui Wai to enroll in the courses offered by the centre.

ERB, VTC and CICTA will continue to maintain close liaison with ethnic minority organisations to gauge their views in developing suitable courses and services for ethnic minorities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. LAW', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Hubert LAW)
for Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs