

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Eighteenth 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 eighteenth report in the series, covering the period from April to September 2010.

PROGRESS

Courses

2. As at 30 September 2010, 13 281 classes benefiting a total of 257 471 workers had been launched since the commencement of SUS in September 2001, of whom 219 199 from 13 230 classes had completed training. Details of the courses, broken down by industry, are as follows –

Industry	Number of classes started		Number of trainees enrolled		Number of classes completed		Number of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 30.9.2010	From 1.4.2010 to 30.9.2010	Cumulative up to 30.9.2010	From 1.4.2010 to 30.9.2010	Cumulative up to 30.9.2010	From 1.4.2010 to 30.9.2010	Cumulative up to 30.9.2010	From 1.4.2010 to 30.9.2010
Printing	786	22	11 267	283	781	21	9 306	235
Chinese Catering	761	18	17 189	387	756	13	14 657	258
Import / Export Trade*	708	9	14 874	147	705	11	10 348	110
Wearing Apparel / Textile	251	3	4 948	45	251	6	3 475	70
Transport	256	8	6 658	180	255	7	5 944	155
Retail	1 589	75	33 621	1 373	1 584	78	29 794	1 312
Tourism	705	44	15 913	827	703	45	13 956	798
Hairdressing	1 168	18	16 816	254	1 163	15	13 500	178
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering^	1 543	4	30 075	66	1 543	7	25 315	103
Property Management	622	14	13 391	235	620	14	12 124	215

/Insurance^

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Insurance [^]	715	0	17 999	0	715	0	15 865	0
Beauty Care [^]	1 085	0	17 252	0	1 084	0	14 339	0
Building Maintenance & Decoration	398	8	6 693	157	399	10	5 525	173
Hotel	234	14	4 617	196	232	15	3 946	189
Real Estate Agents	99	21	1 595	283	97	19	1 021	206
Road Passenger Transport	134	16	2 842	251	134	16	2 622	242
Elderly Care*	489	13	11 138	266	485	10	10 466	178
Films, TV & Entertainment*	154	3	2 920	45	151	4	2 467	33
Sports & Recreation	168	10	3 396	170	165	9	3 027	138
Horticulture & Floral Art	564	29	8 159	426	559	28	7 420	389
Watches, Clocks & Jewellery	254	11	4 668	192	252	11	3 928	171
Medical & Health Care [^]	366	0	7 010	0	366	0	6 201	0
Automobile	67	8	1 416	171	67	8	1 242	153
Market Vending	21	1	412	22	21	1	362	21
Environmental Hygiene	56	8	938	118	56	8	861	109
Domestic & Personal Services	88	19	1 664	353	86	22	1 488	368
Total	13 281	376	257 471	6 447	13 230	378	219 199	5 804

[^] As at 30 September 2010, \$374.6 million had been spent. The remaining balance of \$25.4 million was also committed. With the imminent exhaustion of the \$400 million funding of SUS, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) began taking over SUS in phases by launching the "Skills Upgrading Scheme Plus" (SUS Plus) in 2009. SUS Plus includes courses for industries not covered under SUS as well as those for people planning to work in another industry. ERB took over the training activities of the industries of Insurance, Medical & Health Care, Beauty Care and Electrical & Mechanical Engineering under SUS from the SUS Secretariat in 2009-10. The reported figures have reflected the scaling down in the related training activities under SUS.

* The training activities of the industries of Elderly Care, Import / Export Trade and Films, TV & Entertainment will be handed over to ERB in 2010-11. The remaining 19 industries under SUS are scheduled for handing over to ERB by around mid-2011.

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate¹, course retention rate² and passing rate³ of SUS up to September 2010 were 92%, 85% 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 (96.4%).

/Quality

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.

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 –

	Cumulative up to 30 September 2010	From 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010
(a) Administrative inspections ⁴	6 928	126
(b) Academic inspections ⁵	5 108	126
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments ⁶	13 261	378

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 2010, 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.