

## NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Nineteenth 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 nineteenth report in the series, covering the period from October 2010 to March 2011.

#### PROGRESS

##### *Training Activities*

2. As at 31 March 2011, 13 567 classes benefiting a total of 262 081 workers had been launched since the commencement of SUS in September 2001, of whom 223 235 from 13 505 classes had completed training. Details of the SUS 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 31.3.2011	From 1.10.2010 to 31.3.2011	Cumulative up to 31.3.2011	From 1.10.2010 to 31.3.2011	Cumulative up to 31.3.2011	From 1.10.2010 to 31.3.2011	Cumulative up to 31.3.2011	From 1.10.2010 to 31.3.2011
Printing	809	23	11 526	259	801	20	9 522	216
Chinese Catering	772	11	17 427	238	771	15	14 944	287
Import / Export Trade*	708	0	14 874	0	707	2	10 370	22
Wearing Apparel / Textile	258	7	5 044	96	256	5	3 535	60
Transport	258	2	6 716	58	258	3	6 018	74
Retail	1 640	51	34 588	967	1 629	45	30 586	792
Tourism	732	27	16 397	484	728	25	14 388	432
Hairdressing	1 203	35	17 260	444	1 200	37	13 918	418
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering^	1 543	0	30 075	0	1 543	0	25 315	0
Property Management	639	17	13 659	268	636	16	12 349	225

/Insurance^ .....

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Insurance <sup>^</sup>	715	0	17 999	0	715	0	15 865	0
Beauty Care <sup>^</sup>	1 085	0	17 252	0	1 084	0	14 339	0
Building Maintenance & Decoration	404	6	6 772	79	401	2	5 549	24
Hotel	241	7	4 723	106	238	6	4 030	84
Real Estate Agents	121	22	1 879	284	120	23	1 205	184
Road Passenger Transport	137	3	2 879	37	137	3	2 658	36
Elderly Care*	496	7	11 291	153	496	11	10 696	230
Films, TV & Entertainment*	154	0	2 920	0	154	3	2 503	36
Sports & Recreation	180	12	3 592	196	173	8	3 148	121
Horticulture & Floral Art	569	5	8 212	53	567	8	7 522	102
Watches, Clocks & Jewellery	264	10	4 835	167	260	8	4 055	127
Medical & Health Care <sup>^</sup>	366	0	7 010	0	366	0	6 201	0
Automobile	70	3	1 477	61	70	3	1 291	49
Market Vending	21	0	412	0	21	0	362	0
Environmental Hygiene	67	11	1 105	167	67	11	1 017	156
Domestic & Personal Services	115	27	2 157	493	107	21	1 849	361
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 567</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>262 081</b>	<b>4 610</b>	<b>13 505</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>223 235</b>	<b>4 036</b>

<sup>^</sup> The Employees Retraining Board (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.

\* ERB took over the training activities of the industries of Elderly Care, Import/Export Trade and Films, TV & Entertainment in 2010-11. The reported figures have reflected the scaling down in the related training activities under SUS.

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate<sup>1</sup>, course retention rate<sup>2</sup> and passing rate<sup>3</sup> of SUS up to March 2011 were 92%, 85% and 94% 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 (97%).

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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.

4. As at 31 March 2011, \$385 million of the \$400 million funding of SUS had been spent. The remaining balance has also been committed. To ensure continuity in service provision, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) has begun taking over SUS in phases by launching the “Skills Upgrading Scheme Plus” (SUS Plus)<sup>4</sup> since 2009. Since 1 April 2011, ERB has taken over the training activities of all 26 industries under SUS while the SUS classes which started before 1 April 2011 will continue to operate until their scheduled completion in mid 2011. We will provide a final progress report then.

### *Quality Assurance*

5. 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 –

	<b>Cumulative up to 31 March 2011</b>	<b>From 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011</b>
(a) Administrative inspections <sup>5</sup>	7 075	147
(b) Academic inspections <sup>6</sup>	5 255	147
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments <sup>7</sup>	13 536	275

6. The SUS Secretariat prepared investigation and assessment reports and submitted them regularly to the respective IWGs for monitoring purpose. During the period from October 2010 to March 2011, performance of course providers and the respective trainers remained generally satisfactory.

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4 SUS Plus not only covers the 26 industries under the original SUS, but also includes courses for industries not covered under SUS as well as those for people planning to work in another industry.

5 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.

6 Academic inspections are conducted by IWG representatives with relevant background. Inspectors will sit in the class to observe how trainers conduct classes.

7 The IWGs arrange representatives to invigilate end-of-course assessments to ensure that training bodies are conducting assessments strictly in accordance with approved procedures.