

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Twentieth 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 twentieth and final report in the series, covering the period from April to July 2011. All courses under SUS have been completed by 31 July 2011.

PROGRESS

Training Activities

2. As at 31 July 2011, 13 567 classes had been launched and completed since the commencement of SUS in September 2001. These classes benefited a total of 262 081 workers, of whom 224 116 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 31.7.2011	From 1.4.2011 to 31.7.2011	Cumulative up to 31.7.2011	From 1.4.2011 to 31.7.2011	Cumulative up to 31.7.2011	From 1.4.2011 to 31.7.2011	Cumulative up to 31.7.2011	From 1.4.2011 to 31.7.2011
Printing	809	0	11 526	0	809	8	9 615	93
Chinese Catering	772	0	17 427	0	772	1	14 955	11
Import / Export Trade	708	0	14 874	0	708	1	10 377	7
Wearing Apparel / Textile	258	0	5 044	0	258	2	3 556	21
Transport	258	0	6 716	0	258	0	6 018	0
Retail	1 640	0	34 588	0	1 640	11	30 788	202
Tourism	732	0	16 397	0	732	4	14 484	96
Hairdressing	1 203	0	17 260	0	1 203	3	13 950	32
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering	1 543	0	30 075	0	1 543	0	25 315	0
Property Management	639	0	13 659	0	639	3	12 386	37

/Insurance

Industry	Number of classes started		Number of trainees enrolled		Number of classes completed		Number of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 31.7.2011	From 1.4.2011 to 31.7.2011	Cumulative up to 31.7.2011	From 1.4.2011 to 31.7.2011	Cumulative up to 31.7.2011	From 1.4.2011 to 31.7.2011	Cumulative up to 31.7.2011	From 1.4.2011 to 31.7.2011
Insurance	715	0	17 999	0	715	0	15 865	0
Beauty Care	1 085	0	17 252	0	1 085	0	14 356	0
Building Maintenance & Decoration	404	0	6 772	0	404	3	5 588	39
Hotel	241	0	4 723	0	241	3	4 061	31
Real Estate Agents	121	0	1 879	0	121	1	1 214	9
Road Passenger Transport	137	0	2 879	0	137	0	2 658	0
Elderly Care	496	0	11 291	0	496	0	10 696	0
Films, TV & Entertainment	154	0	2 920	0	154	0	2 503	0
Sports & Recreation	180	0	3 592	0	180	7	3 240	92
Horticulture & Floral Art	569	0	8 212	0	569	2	7 546	24
Watches, Clocks & Jewellery	264	0	4 835	0	264	4	4 105	50
Medical & Health Care	366	0	7 010	0	366	0	6 201	0
Automobile	70	0	1 477	0	70	0	1 291	0
Market Vending	21	0	412	0	21	0	362	0
Environmental Hygiene	67	0	1 105	0	67	0	1 017	0
Domestic & Personal Services	115	0	2 157	0	115	8	1 969	120
Total	13 567	0	262 081	0	13 567	61	224 116	864

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate¹, course retention rate² and passing rate³ of SUS up to July 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%).

4. To ensure continuity in service provision, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) began taking over SUS in phases by launching the “Skills Upgrading Scheme Plus” (SUS Plus)⁴ in 2009. Since 1 April 2011, training activities of all 26 industries under SUS have been taken over by ERB under SUS Plus. By 31 July 2011, all SUS classes which started before 1 April 2011 were completed. The total funding expended under SUS amounted to \$388 million, against the entire provision of \$400 million.

/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.

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.

Quality Assurance

5. To monitor the quality of training offered by course providers, the SUS Secretariat and the respective Industry Working Groups (IWGs) arranged for representatives to pay three types of regular visits to these course providers. Figures of these visits are summarised below –

	Cumulative up to 31 July 2011	From 1 April 2011 to 31 July 2011
(a) Administrative inspections ⁵	7 080	5
(b) Academic inspections ⁶	5 260	5
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments ⁷	13 597	61

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

Administration

7. Since all SUS classes were completed and the related accounting matters settled by 31 July 2011, the SUS Steering Committee and the SUS Secretariat ceased operation with effect from 1 August 2011.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
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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.