



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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8 July 2013

Ms Annette LAM
Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Lam,

**Public Works Subcommittee
Follow-up to Meeting on 24 June 2013**

**Supplementary Information on
PWSC(2013-14)17 – Development of the Vocational Training Council
International Culinary College**

I refer to your letter dated 25 June 2013 to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury. At the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee on 24 June 2013, Members requested the Administration to (a) co-ordinate a reply from the relevant bureaux on the overall policies and measures to improve the employment opportunities for graduates of the proposed International Culinary College (ICC); and (b) provide more information on the outlook for the development of the hospitality and catering industry. In consultation with the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Vocational Training Council (VTC), our reply is set out below.

Overall policies and measures to improve the employment opportunities of ICC graduates

VTC is committed to enhancing the employability of ICC graduates using a multi-pronged approach. First, VTC has been working closely with its Hotel, Catering and Tourism Training Board to advise on ICC's curriculum design, manpower trends and industry development needs. This Training Board comprises representatives from the industries, public bodies, training institutions, Labour Department and the Tourism Commission under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. Secondly, all ICC students will be provided with real-life practice in training restaurant and kitchens in the purpose-designed and built ICC building so as to apply their trade-specific knowledge and let them practise interactions with patrons in an authentic environment. Thirdly, the ICC will collaborate with a wide variety of industry partners and the Government to broaden the exposure of ICC students and learn more about culinary skills through hands-on experience and internship. In this connection, the VTC has established a very strong network with employers of the catering industry. To further enhance the practical skills and employability of the ICC graduates, students of the Higher Diploma (HD) programmes at ICC, like students in other VTC HD programmes, will need to take up industrial attachment to acquire work-related learning experiences. It is also worthy to note that the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau has been providing opportunities for trainees at the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute (CCTI) of the VTC to take part in international and local food and wine events. Similar opportunities can be offered to trainees at the future ICC.

Building on the success of the placement services currently provided to graduates of the Hospitality Industry Training and Development Centre (HITDC) and the CCTI, the VTC will provide the same placement services to ICC graduates. In fact, graduates of the HITDC and CCTI are well sought after by the catering industry. Their employment rate has been consistently over 90%. Many of them have joined renowned hotels and catering outlets, obtained valuable credentials and some eventually started their own businesses. With similar, if not more, training opportunities and exposures to be provided to ICC students, we trust that the ICC will well prepare them either for employment or to start their own businesses in the catering industry. On top of the

comprehensive employment services provided by VTC, ICC students may also make use of the Recruitment Centre for the Catering Industry of the Labour Department. For those who wish to start their own business, there is also a whole range of talks and workshops offered by public bodies such as the Trade Development Council.

Outlook for the development of the hospitality and catering industry

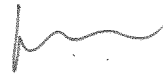
The Hotel, Catering and Tourism Training Board of the VTC conducts biennial manpower surveys for the catering industry. The latest survey results were published in 2011. There has been a steady increase in the manpower of the catering industry in recent years. A total of 182 721 persons were employed in the catering industry in Hong Kong in 2011 as compared to 164 940 in 2009, representing an increase of 10.8%. There is a projected further increase in demand of manpower in the catering industry in 2014 by 10.7% to 202 216.

By the end of 2011, Hong Kong had 190 hotels with 62 830 rooms. The average hotel occupancy rate across all categories of hotels in 2011 was 89%, which was 2% higher than that in 2010. There is a projected increase in the number of hotels from 190 in 2011 to 243 in 2015, with the number of hotel rooms increased from 62 830 to 72 508. These new hotel developments reflect a positive projection of potential visitors and indicate a possible surge in manpower requirements in the food production and catering industries in the years to come as well as for supporting the dining establishments in these new hotel projects.

The future of the catering industry will depend largely on the availability of qualified staff to deliver the quality products and service that has earned Hong Kong a reputation as the Gourmets' Paradise. Other than technical competencies, catering practitioners equipped with a high standard of work ethics, problem solving skills, excellent guest communication skills and high level of motivation are some of the essential qualities for industry's continued success. With competition for skilled catering practitioners from neighboring areas, the demand for well-trained catering practitioners will be significant in the coming years.

The proposed ICC will provide quality training for students and in-service practitioners in Hong Kong aspiring to become professional chefs proficient in international cuisines. At a steady state, the ICC will provide some 2 000 study places annually for secondary graduates and in-service personnel, leading to qualification awards at different levels, including certificate, diploma, higher diploma and beyond. The VTC will make reference to the results of the manpower surveys conducted by the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Training Board in course planning and curriculum development so as to ensure that the programmes to be offered in the ICC will meet the manpower requirements and training needs of the catering industry.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Pecvin YONG)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn: Ms Joyce HO)

Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Attn: Mr Andrew TSANG)

Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Attn: Mr Francis CHENG)