

## NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Diploma Yi Jin Programme

#### PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of the Government's plan to continue the Diploma Yi Jin (DYJ)<sup>1</sup> programme for a further five years from the 2017/18 academic year (AY) by using the remaining balance of the relevant non-recurrent commitment approved under FCR(2012-13)23.

#### BACKGROUND

2. In May 2012, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (LegCo) approved vide FCR(2012-13)23 a new commitment of \$1 billion for implementing the DYJ programme for an initial period of five years from the 2012/13 AY. The objectives of the DYJ programme are as follows –

- (a) provide an alternative pathway for secondary 6 school-leavers as well as adult learners to obtain a formal qualification for the purposes of employment and further study;
- (b) equip students with an array of generic skills and general knowledge including basic language skills, information technology skills, mathematical reasoning skills and interpersonal skills, thereby enabling students to build a firm foundation in these aspects; and
- (c) strengthen students' motivation to study and facilitate students in developing self-learning skills for the pursuit of further study independently.

**/EXTENDING .....**

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<sup>1</sup> Formerly known as Yi Jin Diploma, the programme was retitled as DYJ (in English) from January 2016 in compliance with the Award Title Scheme under the Qualifications Framework (QF).

**EXTENDING OPERATION OF DYJ PROGRAMME****Existing Programme Structure and Enrolment**

3. The DYJ programme comprises five core courses (i.e. Chinese, English, Mathematics, Liberal Studies and Communication Skills) and a choice of three elective courses of practical nature to cater for different interests and aptitudes of students. The curricular of these elective courses are developed by the respective provider institutions and those offered by the seven provider institutions<sup>2</sup> in the 2016/17 AY include business and accounting studies, child and elderly care, hospitality and tourism, airline and logistic services, language, design and music studies, etc.

4. The DYJ programme can be studied either full-time or part-time. Since its launch in the 2012/13 AY, four cohorts of full-time students have completed their study and the cohort commenced study in September 2016 will graduate in the summer of 2017. Enrolment of part-time classes is on an on-going basis. The enrolment for the DYJ programme is consistent and sustained over the years as set out in the table below –

AY	Enrolment of DYJ programme (Full-time equivalent)		
	Full-time	Part-time <sup>3</sup>	Total
2012/13	5 040	970	<b>6 010</b>
2013/14	4 597	1 164	<b>5 761</b>
2014/15	4 910	1 100	<b>6 010</b>
2015/16	4 235	1 126	<b>5 361</b>
2016/17 <sup>4</sup>	4 078	1 130	<b>5 208</b>

/Value .....

<sup>2</sup> The seven provider institutions are as follows –

- (a) Caritas Institute of Community Education;
- (b) Hong Kong College of Technology;
- (c) Hong Kong Institute of Technology;
- (d) Li Ka Shing Institute of Professional and Continuing Education, The Open University of Hong Kong;
- (e) Lingnan Institute of Further Education;
- (f) School of Business and Information Systems, Vocational Training Council; and
- (g) School of Continuing Education, Hong Kong Baptist University.

<sup>3</sup> To avoid duplication in counting, part-time enrolment is presented in full-time-equivalent terms by dividing the product of the total part-time enrolment headcount and the contact hours of the courses under the DYJ programme enrolled by these students by the total hours of study required for graduation under the DYJ programme, i.e. 600 hours.

<sup>4</sup> The figures for part-time enrolment and total enrolment are provisional as part-time enrolment is ongoing throughout the year and the 2016/17 AY has not yet completed.

### Value and Effectiveness

5. To track the articulation and employment status of DYJ graduates, a graduate tracking survey is conducted annually by the Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education (FSTE)<sup>5</sup> around six months from their graduation. For the DYJ students graduated from 2013 to 2016, over 85% of the respondents are engaged in either employment or furthering their studies in the first year after completing the DYJ programme. The Education Bureau (EDB) considers that the DYJ programme has fulfilled its mission in providing an alternative pathway to secondary school-leavers and adult learners to obtain a formal qualification for employment and study. Findings of the above mentioned annual surveys are summarised below for easy reference –

<b>Year of graduation</b>	<b>Percentage of graduates in employment</b>	<b>Percentage of graduates furthering their studies</b>
2013	54%	33%
2014	52%	36%
2015	46%	40%
2016	49%	40%

6. To further gauge feedback on the effectiveness of the DYJ programme, EDB conducted in 2016 a survey with employers of the DYJ graduates, teachers of articulation programmes and the DYJ graduates. The survey found that employers and teachers of articulation programmes were satisfied with the performance of DYJ graduates in respect of their language proficiency, numeric and information technology competence, critical reflection ability, attitude towards work and learning, problem solving ability and sense of responsibility, etc. DYJ graduates surveyed were also positive about their experience in and their gain from the DYJ programme. They all saw improvement and growth in themselves after joining the DYJ programme in terms of their personal attitude, sense of responsibility, social skills, and problem-solving ability, etc. They also confirmed that through their successful completion of the DYJ programme, they had obtained a formal qualification for furthering their studies or employment. In sum, the findings of the survey with all three categories of stakeholders corroborate that the DYJ programme has attained its objectives in providing a viable alternative pathway for secondary school-leavers and adult learners to attain a qualification for study and employment.

**/Qualification .....**

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<sup>5</sup> FSTE aims to advance the quality of, promote collaboration among and share good practices in the self-financing tertiary education. FSTE members include the self-financing arm of all publicly-funded universities in Hong Kong and major non-profit-making institutions providing tertiary/continuing education in Hong Kong. All the seven provider institutions of DYJ programme in the 2016/17 AY are members of FSTE.

## Qualification Recognition

7. The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications has assessed that the DYJ qualification is comparable to the attainment of Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language and English Language subjects in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination. It meets the common descriptor for admission to associate degree and higher diploma or equivalent programmes. It is also accepted by the Government as meeting the academic entry requirement of over 30 civil service posts including Ambulanceman, Assistant Census and Survey Officer, Customs Officer, Fireman, Police Constable, Postal Officer, Social Security Assistant, Welfare Worker, etc. For students who have successfully completed the Maths Plus elective course, the qualification acquired under the DYJ programme is comparable to the attainment of Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics in the HKDSE Examination. In addition, DYJ is recognised as meeting the accreditation standards at QF Level 3.

## Expenditure

8. The funding approved for the DYJ programme has been used mainly for the reimbursement of tuition fees to eligible students. Under the existing arrangement, DYJ students may receive reimbursement of 30% of the tuition fees paid for each satisfactorily completed course<sup>6</sup>. Needy students who have passed the means test conducted by the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency may receive 100% or 50% reimbursement of the tuition fees paid for each satisfactorily completed course according to the assessed level of assistance.

9. We project that the total expenditure of the approved commitment of \$1 billion for the DYJ programme upon end of the first five years of implementation will be about \$460 million. This has included the provision for enhanced support services to students and teachers of the DYJ programme (e.g. activities to enhance the whole person development of students, professional development training to teachers, etc.) and other expenses on the DYJ programme (e.g. publicity, studies and surveys). A breakdown of the expenditure is set out below –

**/Expenditure .....**

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<sup>6</sup> A student is considered having satisfactorily completed a DYJ course if he/she has achieved 80% attendance or above and passed the assessment for the course.

	Expenditure by financial year (\$ million)						
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 <sup>7</sup>	Total
Tuition fee reimbursement	-	81	81	91	79	80	<b>412</b>
Enhanced support services for teachers and students and other expenses	9	8	8	8	10	8	<b>51</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>463</b>

### Extension and Review

10. In the light of the steady enrolment over the years and the positive feedback of the stakeholders as mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 6 above respectively, EDB sees a continual need for the DYJ programme at least in the short to medium term and plans to continue the DYJ programme for a further five years from the 2017/18 AY by using the remaining balance of the commitment. EDB will conduct a review on the implementation of the DYJ programme before end of the extension.

### Promotion and Publicity

11. With the extension, we will launch in May 2017 the promotion and publicity on the DYJ programme for the coming AY. Applicants can apply for admission through the DYJ website.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The tuition fee of the DYJ programme in 2016/17 AY ranges from \$35,000 to \$37,300. With the DYJ programme gaining greater recognition in the community, we expect the annual total enrolment will stay at a steady level of 5 400 to 5 800 full-time equivalent in the coming years. Assuming that the proportion of students receiving reimbursement of tuition fees at 100%, 50% and 30% respectively remains similar to the preceding years, we project that the cash flow requirement of extending the DYJ programme for a further five years will be as follows –

**/Projected .....**

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<sup>7</sup> Provisional figures.

	Projected cash flow by financial year (\$ million)							
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Tuition fee reimbursement <sup>8</sup>	-	85	85	85	85	85	5	430
Enhanced support services for teachers and students and other expenses <sup>9</sup>	4	12	12	12	12	12	4	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>498</b>

13. The above breakdown represents the projected cash flow requirements in broad terms for implementing the DYJ programme for a further five years. The exact amount required for each of the expenditure items in each year will depend on a number of factors, including the actual size of student intake, the percentage of students eligible for the different levels of assistance and the rate of students satisfactorily completing the DYJ programme.

14. As at March 2017, the remaining balance of the approved commitment is \$625 million. It is anticipated that this is sufficient to cover the cash flow requirements from 2017-18 to 2023-24 as set out in paragraphs 9 and 11 above. In case there are unexpended funds after the 2021/22 cohort, we may briefly extend DYJ programme until the funds are exhausted to benefit more students. No additional funding is required.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

15. We circulated an information paper to the LegCo Panel on Education in April 2017 and received no adverse comments from Members on the planned extension of the DYJ programme.

16. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

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Education Bureau  
May 2017

<sup>8</sup> Reimbursement of tuition fee for the 2017/18 cohort will be payable only in the 2018-19 financial year upon satisfactory completion of the DYJ programme by the students. Cash flow for 2023-24 is to cater for possible deferred cases, e.g. pending submission of requisite supporting documents by students.

<sup>9</sup> Cash flow for 2017-18 is for preparatory spending on publicity and teacher training, etc. and that for 2023-24 is to cater for the delayed settlement of payments to service providers pending their submission of requisite supporting documents.