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Mrs Sharon Tong  
Clerk to LegCo Panel on Manpower  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
3/F, Citibank Tower  
No. 3 Garden Road, Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Tong,

**LegCo Panel on Manpower**

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Manpower held on 30 March 2000, Members asked the Administration to provide information on the employment rate of trainees of the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme.

As at 15 April 2000, over 3,800 trainees have secured permanent employment. According to the Labour Department, as the reporting of employment status was voluntary, the actual number of trainees who have secured employment is believed to be higher than this figure.

It is relevant to point out that the Youth Pre-employment Programme was launched at a time when the unemployment rate of young people aged between 15 and 19 reached 29%. Taking into

account the difficulties faced by many young school leavers in seeking jobs, the Administration devised this Programme with the objective of providing young school leavers with a wide range of employment-related training and attachment opportunities so as to enhance their employability and competitiveness. The intention is to better equip young school leavers so that they would be in a better position to find employment as the economy recovers.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Erica Ng)  
for Secretary for Education and Manpower