

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Second Half-yearly Progress Report on the Skills Upgrading Scheme

PURPOSE

This paper presents the second half-yearly progress report on the Skills Upgrading Scheme (SUS) for the period April 2002 to September 2002 for Members' information.

BACKGROUND

2. On 1 June 2001, Members approved a new commitment of \$400 million for the implementation of the SUS. The first progress report on the Scheme from September 2001 to March 2002 was presented to Members vide information paper FCRI(2003-03)7. The progress for the period from April 2002 to September 2002 of the SUS is set out in the following paragraphs.

PROGRESS UP TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2002

Courses

3. As at 30 September 2002, a total of 786 classes have been launched for a total of 16 599 workers since the commencement of the Scheme. Of these, 11 476 trainees from 649 classes have completed training. Details of the courses, breakdown by industries, are as follows -

Industry	Number of classes started	Number of Trainees involved	Number of classes completed	Number of trainees completed training
Phase 1*				
Printing	139 (43)	2 126 (603)	127 (52)	1 618 (624)
Chinese catering	72 (32)	1 618 (724)	60 (21)	1 157 (413)
				/Import

Industry	Number of classes started	Number of Trainees involved	Number of classes completed	Number of trainees completed training
Import / Export trade	78 (33)	1 931 (801)	60 (32)	980 (551)
Wearing Apparel / textile	61 (27)	1 504 (652)	56 (36)	955 (578)
Transport	48 (28)	1 194 (690)	39 (25)	784 (499)
Retail	187 (166)	4 178 (3 689)	179 (163)	3 730 (3 397)
Phase 2**				
Tourism	19	448	16	354
Hairdressing	58	910	45	570
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering	97	2 147	51	1 016
Property Management	27	543	16	312
Total	<u>786 (530)</u>	<u>16 599 (11 207)</u>	<u>649 (457)</u>	<u>11 476 (8 314)</u>

* Courses under the first phase was launched since early September 2001.

** Courses under the second phase was launched since July 2002.

() Figures in bracket refer to data for the period from April to September 2002 only.

4. The overall trainee enrolment rate¹, course retention rate² and passing rate³ are 95%, 84% and 92% respectively. According to the feedback collected from trainees at the end of the courses, the vast majority of the trainees (93%) were satisfied with the course contents, the performance of the trainers and the training providers. Comments from trainees, including suggestions on additional course content, class arrangements, etc., have been referred back to the respective industry working groups for consideration and suitable refinements were made accordingly.

/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.

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.

Quality Assurance

5. The SUS Secretariat continued to pay three types of visits to training providers to monitor the quality of training. Figures of these visits are summarised below -

Up to 30 September 2002

(a) Administrative inspections ⁴	577 (457)
(b) Academic inspections ⁵	594 (272)
(c) Invigilation of end of course assessments ⁶	649 (457)

() Figures in bracket refer to data for the period from April to September 2002 only.

6. The Secretariat continued to prepare investigation and assessment reports and submitted them regularly to the respective industry working groups for monitoring purpose. During the period April 2002 to September 2002, the performance of most of the training providers and the respective trainers were found to be satisfactory. There was one case where the performance of a tutor was found to be unsatisfactory (in presentation, interaction with students and the use of teaching materials) and the training provider concerned has followed up the matter with the relevant tutor. Subsequent inspection found that the performance of the tutor concerned had improved.

ADDITIONAL INDUSTRY SECTORS

7. Courses for the Insurance sector were launched in late October 2002, and those for the Hotel sector and the Real Estate Agents sector were launched in December 2002. Two more industry sectors, namely decoration and building maintenance and beauty care, joined the SUS recently. Industry working groups for these two sectors have been set up to follow up on course developments and other related work.

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⁴ Administrative inspections are conducted to check whether the class arrangements conform to the 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.

⁵ Academic inspections are conducted by industry working group's representatives with the relevant background to sit in the class to observe how the trainers are conducting their classes.

⁶ The industry working groups arrange representatives to invigilate the end of course assessments to ensure that training bodies are conducting the assessments strictly in accordance with the approved procedures.