

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Fourth 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 fourth report in the series, covering the period April to September 2003.

PROGRESS

Courses

2. As at 30 September 2003, 2 908 classes benefiting a total of 62 800 workers had been launched since the commencement of the Scheme in September 2001. Of these, 47 890 trainees of 2 657 classes had completed training. Details of the courses¹, broken down by industries, are as follows -

*Phase 1**

Industry	No. of classes started		No. of trainees enrolled		No. of classes completed		No. of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 30.9.2003	During the period from 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2003	Cumulative up to 30.9.2003	During the period from 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2003	Cumulative up to 30.9.2003	During the period from 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2003	Cumulative up to 30.9.2003	During the period from 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2003
Printing	273	65	4 150	978	250	76	3 129	911
Chinese Catering	266	179	6 458	4 477	228	143	4 554	2 892
Import/Export Trade	119	15	2 952	399	118	28	2 009	531
Wearing Apparel/ Textile	126	51	2 797	1 056	115	47	1 780	642
Transport	67	6	1 694	175	67	10	1 411	238
Retail	558	309	13 312	7 814	467	222	10 356	5 259

/Phase

1 During the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, Government has introduced a Skills Enhancement Project (SEP) to enhance the trade-specific and general skills of workers from seven hardest hit sectors which are tourism, hotel, Chinese catering, retail, building maintenance and decoration, real estate agents and passenger transport. The figures here include courses offered for the SEP which benefit about 15 000 workers from these sectors.

Phase 2**

Industry	No. of classes started		No. of trainees enrolled		No. of classes completed		No. of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 30.9.2003	During the period from 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2003	Cumulative up to 30.9.2003	During the period from 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2003	Cumulative up to 30.9.2003	During the period from 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2003	Cumulative up to 30.9.2003	During the period from 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2003
Tourism	249	188	6 048	4 591	232	180	4 808	3 653
Hairdressing	257	139	3 833	2 000	249	144	2 890	1 609
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering	341	57	7 410	1 259	339	93	5 941	1 525
Property Management	151	66	3 401	1 511	144	59	2 957	1 267
Insurance	86	39	2 480	1 111	85	42	2 108	1 036
Beauty Care	185	154	3 333	2 805	169	159	2 491	2 352
Building Maintenance and Decoration	141	130	2 778	2 591	112	112	1 766	1 766
Hotel	75	74	1 822	1 806	61	71	1 518	1 518
Real Estate Agents	6	6	132	132	6	6	76	76
Passenger Transport	8	8	200	200	5	0	96	96
Total	2 908	1 486	62 800	32 905	2 657	1 397	47 890	25 371

Note -

* Courses under the industries introduced in the first phase were launched in September 2001.

** Courses under the industries introduced in the second phase generally were launched in July 2002. Courses in passenger transport were launched in August 2003.

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate², course retention rate³ and passing rate⁴ up to September 2003 were 98.2%, 80.5% and 93.7% 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 (about 91%) and the performance of the trainers (about 94.8%).

4. We informed the Legislative Council Panel on Manpower in June 2003 our plan to continue the SUS until it has used up the funding provision.

/Quality

2 This is the percentage of the total number of trainees enrolled against the total number of planned training places.

3 This is the percentage of the total number of trainees completing the course against the total number of trainees enrolled.

4 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. To monitor the quality of training offered by the course providers, the SUS Secretariat and the respective industry working groups continued to arrange for representatives to pay three types of regular visits to training providers. Figures of these visits are summarised below -

	Cumulative up to 30.9.2003	During the period from 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2003 only⁵
(a) Administrative inspections ⁶	3 377	2 189
(b) Academic inspections ⁷	1 666	801
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments ⁸	2 657	1 397

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 2003 to September 2003, the performance of the training providers and the respective trainers were generally satisfactory.

ADDITIONAL INDUSTRY SECTORS

7. The Elderly Care sector joined the SUS at the end of June 2003 and the respective industry working group has been subsequently set up to follow up on the course development work.

Education and Manpower Bureau
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5 More intensive quality assurance work was made in the reporting period due to the increased number of classes launched as a result of the launch of SEP in the same period.

6 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.

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

8 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.