

For information on  
17 January 2008

## **LegCo Panel on Manpower**

### **Latest progress of the Labour Department's Youth Employment Resource Centres**

#### **Purpose**

This paper informs Members of the latest progress on the setting up of the Youth Employment Resource Centres (YERCs) by the Labour Department including services offered to young people to facilitate their sustainable development in both employment and self-employment.

#### **“Youth Employment Start” in operation**

2. As announced in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda, the Government would set up two YERCs to provide one-stop service on employment and self-employment to young people. The aim is to provide support to young people to start their career on the right track, enhance their employability, facilitate their access to the latest labour market information and help them secure firm footing in the labour market for sustainable development.
3. To project a youthful image, the centre is named “Youth Employment Start”, or Y.E.S. in short.
4. The first Y.E.S., located at Langham Place in Mongkok, came into operation on 20 December 2007. Another Y.E.S. will be set up at Metroplaza in Kwai Fong in the first quarter of 2008. Both centres are located at popular gathering places of our target users.
5. The target users of Y.E.S. are young people aged 15 to 29, including current trainees and graduates of the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme, school leavers, young job-seekers, young people seeking alternative employment, self-employed youths and youths contemplating to start their own business.

## **Services offered by Y.E.S.**

6. To cater for the distinct needs of different groups of target users, Y.E.S. provides a wide range of services as outlined in paragraphs 7 to 13 below.

### *Career assessment*

7. The Chinese University of Hong Kong has helped develop a comprehensive set of career assessment kit which helps gauge the career interest, personality, emotional intelligence, career maturity and entrepreneurship potential of young people in order to facilitate their consideration of possible employment options appropriate to their circumstances and attributes.

### *Career guidance*

8. Career consultants of Y.E.S. offer career guidance to young people to facilitate their career planning. Supported by comprehensive analysis of the results of career assessment, career consultants would, based on the background and attributes of the young persons concerned, provide them with personalised guidance on available job and training opportunities. Career consultants also conduct mock interview sessions for young people and review their performance with a view to enhancing their interviewing skills and employability.

### *Latest labour market information*

9. Y.E.S. provides updated employment information, including latest vacancy information of the Labour Department obtained through vacancy search terminals. Computer and Internet services are also provided to enable young people to conduct job search, build their resumes and prepare application letters. In addition, Y.E.S. arranges recruitment days and invites representatives from different trades, such as personal care, catering and performances industries, to update young people on the market situation and to share their work experience with young people.

### *Other value-added services*

10. Y.E.S. will launch a mentorship scheme, inviting volunteer entrepreneurs and business professionals to give guidance to young people in their career pursuit or self-employed business.

11. In the first quarter of 2008, Y.E.S. will also organise workshops and seminars on different soft skills topics to help young people brush up their presentation and communication skills so as to enhance their employability and entrepreneurial capacity.

12. At Y.E.S., the Labour Department will partner with a non-governmental organisation experienced in youth issues. It will offer professional counselling service to young people in need of motivational assistance or emotional support.

*Self-employment support*

13. Y.E.S. regularly organises workshops and professional advisory sessions on self-employment. In order to provide support to young people and help them unleash their entrepreneurship potentials, Y.E.S. also offers them a full range of office facilities and services for free. These include well-equipped business workstations, meeting room and design corner with professional design software/ hardware.

Labour Department  
January 2008