

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Seventeenth 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 seventeenth report in the series, covering the period from October 2009 to March 2010.

PROGRESS

Courses

2. As at 31 March 2010, 12 905 classes benefiting a total of 251 024 workers had been launched since the commencement of SUS in September 2001, of whom 213 395 from 12 852 classes had completed training. Details of the courses, broken down by industry, are as follows –

Industry	Number of classes started		Number of trainees enrolled		Number of classes completed		Number of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 31.3.2010	From 1.10.2009 to 31.3.2010	Cumulative up to 31.3.2010	From 1.10.2009 to 31.3.2010	Cumulative up to 31.3.2010	From 1.10.2009 to 31.3.2010	Cumulative up to 31.3.2010	From 1.10.2009 to 31.3.2010
Printing	764	20	10 984	243	760	26	9 071	262
Chinese Catering	743	9	16 802	189	743	16	14 399	260
Import / Export Trade*	699	10	14 727	187	694	10	10 238	139
Wearing Apparel / Textile	248	10	4 903	145	245	8	3 405	91
Transport	248	6	6 478	127	248	7	5 789	135
Retail	1 514	39	32 248	697	1 506	39	28 482	584
Tourism	661	42	15 086	822	658	42	13 158	777
Hairdressing	1 150	29	16 562	393	1 148	30	13 322	353
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering*	1 539	44	30 009	772	1 536	54	25 212	841
Property Management	608	22	13 156	380	606	23	11 909	351

/Insurance^

Industry	Number of classes started		Number of trainees enrolled		Number of classes completed		Number of trainees completed training	
	Cumulative up to 31.3.2010	From 1.10.2009 to 31.3.2010	Cumulative up to 31.3.2010	From 1.10.2009 to 31.3.2010	Cumulative up to 31.3.2010	From 1.10.2009 to 31.3.2010	Cumulative up to 31.3.2010	From 1.10.2009 to 31.3.2010
Insurance [^]	715	6	17 999	148	715	7	15 865	139
Beauty Care [^]	1 085	40	17 252	550	1 084	43	14 339	527
Building Maintenance & Decoration	390	15	6 536	207	389	14	5 352	167
Hotel	220	7	4 421	114	217	4	3 757	53
Real Estate Agents	78	4	1 312	49	78	4	815	40
Road Passenger Transport	118	1	2 591	18	118	1	2 380	18
Elderly Care*	476	13	10 872	262	475	19	10 288	379
Films, TV & Entertainment*	151	4	2 875	50	147	2	2 434	26
Sports & Recreation	158	10	3 226	172	156	12	2 889	189
Horticulture & Floral Art	535	47	7 733	655	531	48	7 031	634
Watches, Clocks & Jewellery	243	16	4 476	250	241	25	3 757	326
Medical & Health Care [^]	366	4	7 010	75	366	13	6 201	194
Automobile	59	15	1 245	370	59	17	1 089	393
Market Vending	20	3	390	43	20	4	341	56
Environmental Hygiene	48	8	820	108	48	8	752	94
Domestic & Personal Services	69	21	1 311	386	64	22	1 120	369
Total	12 905	445	251 024	7 412	12 852	498	213 395	7 397

[^] As at 31 March 2010, \$363.6 million had been spent. The remaining balance of \$36.4 million was also committed. With the imminent exhaustion of the \$400 million funding of SUS, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) began taking over SUS in phases by launching the "Skills Upgrading Scheme Plus" (SUS Plus) in 2009. SUS Plus includes courses for industries not covered under SUS as well as those for people planning to work in another industry. ERB took over the training activities of the industries of Insurance, Medical & Health Care and Beauty Care under SUS from the SUS Secretariat in 2009-10. The reported figures have reflected the scaling down in the related training activities under SUS.

* In May 2010, ERB took over the training activities of the Electrical & Mechanical Engineering industry. The industries of Elderly Care, Import / Export Trade and Films, TV & Entertainment will also be handed over to ERB in 2010-11. The remaining 19 industries under SUS are scheduled for handing over to ERB by around mid-2011.

3. The cumulative overall trainee enrolment rate¹, course retention rate² and passing rate³ of SUS up to March 2010 were 92%, 84.9% and 93.4% 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 (95%) and the performance of the trainers (96.9%).

/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 in the completed classes.

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

4. To monitor the quality of training offered by course providers, the SUS Secretariat and the respective Industry Working Groups (IWGs) continued to arrange for representatives to pay three types of regular visits to these course providers. Figures of these visits are summarised below –

	Cumulative up to 31 March 2010	From 1 October 2009 to 31 March 2010
(a) Administrative inspections ⁴	6 802	242
(b) Academic inspections ⁵	4 982	242
(c) Invigilation of end-of-course assessments ⁶	12 883	498

5. The SUS Secretariat continued to prepare investigation and assessment reports and to submit them regularly to the respective IWGs for monitoring purpose. During the period from October 2009 to March 2010, performance of course providers and the respective trainers remained generally satisfactory.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
June 2010

⁴ Administrative inspections are conducted to check whether class arrangements conform to 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 IWG representatives with relevant background. Inspectors will sit in the class to observe how trainers conduct classes.

⁶ The IWGs arrange representatives to invigilate end-of-course assessments to ensure that training bodies are conducting assessments strictly in accordance with approved procedures.