

**Legislative Council Panel on  
Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Summer IT Training Programmes for Secondary Students**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the pilot IT training programmes organised by the Government for secondary students this summer.

**Background**

2. To strengthen the IT manpower supply in Hong Kong to sustain the development of the information economy, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to increase the supply and improve the quality of IT manpower at different levels. One key element of the strategy is to promote the wider use of IT in secondary schools so as to nurture an IT learning culture and equip our secondary students with basic IT skills which will enhance their IT capability for future study or employment in the IT field. We will organise three pilot IT training programmes for secondary students this summer, the details of which are set out below.

*Professional IT Training for Secondary Students*

3. A new initiative this year is to engage world-renowned IT companies to provide, as community service and using the “train-the-trainers” approach, professional IT training to secondary students as extra-curricular activities in the summer. These training programmes will provide the students with early exposure to the use of IT and help them acquire state-of-the-art IT skills. The training can also lead to professional qualifications which are recognised internationally, giving the students a competitive edge in establishing a career in the IT field or pursuing further study in IT.

4. The Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau (ITBB) and the Education Department (ED) have secured the support of Microsoft, Sun Microsystems and Hewlett-Packard to provide free training to teachers of participating schools between April and July this year. Contents of the training courses include networking fundamentals, network support, programming language for Web-based application and mobile computing for

mobile application development. During the summer vacation, the trained teachers will provide training for the participating students in their own schools. Participating schools are only required to provide computer facilities and venue for the training of their students. The additional software required for the training can either be downloaded from the Internet for free or will be sponsored by the supporting IT company. As regards course materials for the teachers and students, they will be sponsored by the supporting IT companies or partially funded by the ED. Certificates will be issued by the supporting IT companies to students who have successfully completed the courses. Students are also encouraged to take the examinations leading to the relevant professional qualifications, such as the Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) examination. As an incentive, students will be given a 20% discount on the examination fees. The total sponsorship provided by the three supporting IT companies in the form of training for teachers, software for participating schools and course materials for teachers and students amounts to \$3 million in value. The additional financial and staffing resources required by the Government to implement this scheme will be absorbed by ITBB and ED.

5. We expect that about 90 schools, 210 teachers and over 5 000 students will participate in and benefit from this pilot programme. We will review the results of the pilot programme this year and assess the response of the participating schools and students, with a view to organising such summer training programmes on an on-going basis every year.

#### *IT Summer Camps*

6. To arouse students' interest in IT and introduce to them fundamental concepts and skills of IT and telecommunications, ITBB and ED have partnered with Pacific Century CyberWorks to organise a series of 9-day IT camps for secondary students this summer. The camps will also be sponsored by Compaq, Avaya and Adobe. Most of the programme contents will be delivered in non-traditional classroom settings. Activities will include classes, demonstrations and workshops relating to telecommunications networks, desktop and networking applications, Web page design and IT and telecommunications applications; visits to telecommunications installations and data centre; community services (e.g. to provide IT support service to those who have difficulties in using IT facilities); and recreational activities.

7. This series of pilot summer camps, which will accommodate about 240 students, will be funded mainly by the co-organising companies (the total sponsorship amounts to about \$400,000 in value) and participating students will only have to pay an affordable fee. The additional financial and staffing resources required by the Government to organise the summer camps will be absorbed by ITBB and ED. We are discussing with the co-organising companies concerned the possibility of organising similar camps during other long school holidays.

*Pilot Scheme to Sponsor Secondary School Leavers  
to Take Practical IT Training Courses*

8. To enable Form 5 to 7 students who will not further their study after the current school year to acquire practical IT skills required by the market so as to facilitate them to secure employment, we intend to, as a pilot scheme, provide sponsorship for them to take courses on IT skills most commonly required by employers in respect of employees of Form 5 to 7 standards. This will enhance the school leavers' employability and help them find jobs in the market. It will also serve as an immediate measure to address to a certain extent the IT manpower shortage in Hong Kong. We will offer sponsorship to Form 5 to 7 school leavers to take courses on the following IT skills which are commonly required by posts that they may apply for:

- (a) basic office application skills (for posts such as secretary, clerk, receptionist, office assistant, sales representative, marketing assistant and junior executive);
- (b) IT technical support skills (for posts such as systems operator, systems support officer and technical assistant); and
- (c) Web site development and e-commerce related skills (for posts such as Web master and Web page designer).

9. This scheme will focus on short courses (2 weeks or less) which will enable school leavers to obtain practical IT skills required by the market quickly. School leavers may select from a list of courses on the IT skills identified in paragraph 8 above. The list will be compiled by inviting local private IT training providers, tertiary institutions and other educational/training institutions to provide details of such courses offered by them. We

will accept applications for sponsorship in respect of courses offered by training providers that are properly recognised or accredited for operation in Hong Kong. As this scheme will make use of the training courses currently offered by the IT training providers in Hong Kong, it will also help foster the development of the local IT training industry.

10. We intend to provide a total sponsorship of \$5 million under this pilot scheme for the current year. It is expected that at least 500 school leavers will benefit. An applicant is eligible to a maximum sponsorship of \$10,000 or 80% of the total course and examination fees, whichever is the less. The remaining 20% of the fees will be met by the applicant himself/herself. Upon completing the course(s) and passing the examination(s), an applicant will be reimbursed 40% of the total course and examination fees or \$5,000, whichever is the less. If the applicant can find a job which will make use of the IT skills acquired, he/she will be reimbursed another 40% of the total course and examination fees or \$5,000, whichever is the less. This will provide incentive for the applicants to actively secure employment. If the total sponsorship requested by the applications received exceeds \$5 million, the successful applicants will be selected by ballot. We intend to promulgate the details of the scheme and invite applications in late June 2001. The additional financial and staffing resources required by the Government to implement this scheme will be absorbed by ITBB and the Information Technology Services Department.