

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**SB151**

Question Serial No.

0849

Head: 30 Correctional Services Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:                    (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer:      Commissioner for Correctional Services

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Security

Question: During 2012-13, the Correctional Services Department will extend the coverage of the vocational training programme to provide more market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training courses for inmates and prisoners. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) the details of the vocational training programme currently provided for inmates and prisoners and the related expenditures;
- (b) the coverage of the extended programme and estimate on the expenditure involved;
- (c) is there any plan to organise more job fairs to help persons in custody who will be released soon to find jobs? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply: (a) Having regard to the operational environment and categories of inmates of individual institutions, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) currently works with several training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council to provide those adult persons in custody with remaining sentences from 3 to 24 months with some 30 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis. Covering the technical, business and service industries, the courses include electrical fitting and installation, air-conditioning and refrigeration, painting and decoration, office and commercial practice, removal and logistics, booth setting and decoration, environmental hygiene and cleaning, retail salesperson, forklift truck operator, clothing marketing, kitchen assistant, food and beverage service, nail technician, word processing and vocational Putonghua etc. The trainees will be arranged to sit for the relevant examinations so as to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and facilitating their smooth re-integration into society upon discharge.

For young persons in custody, CSD provides them with 16 half-day vocational training courses covering the technical, business and service industries, including hairstyling, mechanical craft and food and beverage service etc. These training courses aim to help them acquire work skills, obtain recognised qualifications and develop good working habits.

In 2011-12, the CSD's vocational training-related expenditure like outsourcing of vocational training courses, employment services, training equipment and materials was about \$13.54 million.

- (b) In 2012-13, CSD plans to provide some 1 310 training places for adult persons in custody, representing an increase of about 2.3% over that of 2011-12. The Department also plans to introduce new vocational training elements such as tourism and product promoter courses. Besides, we will make proactive efforts to increase and enhance training facilities and provide a more suitable training environment. In 2012-13, the CSD's vocational training-related expenditure like outsourcing of vocational training courses, employment services, training equipment and materials is estimated to be about \$13.48 million, which is similar to that in 2011-12.
- (c) For persons in custody, the securing of employment upon release has an important bearing on their rehabilitation and smooth re-integration into society. As such, CSD attaches great importance to the employment needs of rehabilitated persons and has taken measures to help them secure a job. Apart from the above market-oriented vocational training, CSD has been collaborating with the business sector and non-government organisations to facilitate the re-integration of rehabilitated persons into society and to enhance their employment opportunities. Starting from 2011, CSD has been working with the Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong (SRACP) to provide persons in custody with information on job vacancies. Interested persons in custody can send application forms directly to SRACP and the latter will arrange job interviews for them. Besides, CSD spares no effort in promoting community engagement by appealing employers to provide employment opportunities for rehabilitated persons. In August 2011, CSD co-organised with the business sector the first trial job fair at Pik Uk Prison to provide job vacancies and employment opportunities for all local persons in custody who would be released within 3 months. The Department will continue to organise similar job fair this year.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: SIN YAT KIN

Post Title: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date: 28 February 2012