

11 March 2014 (Tuesday)

VTC partners with printing industry in support of youth training

Supporting the initiatives raised in the 2014 Policy Address to strengthen vocational education and training (VET) and youth employment, the Vocational Training Council (VTC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Hong Kong Printers Association. The “Earn & Learn” Pilot Scheme (the Pilot Scheme) for the industry is under planning to train up new blood.

HKSAR Financial Secretary John TSANG, VTC Chairman Clement CHEN and Chairman of the Hong Kong Printers Association CHIU Kwok-chu attended the MOU signing ceremony, witnessed the milestone of collaboration between the VTC and the printing industry.

Mr Tsang remarked a good supply of human resources is a key to add competitive edge of Hong Kong. We believe we must reposition the importance of VET for young people to understand the sound career prospects offering for VET graduates.

VTC Chairman Clement CHEN said, “The collaboration among various parties is indispensable for the Earn and Learn Pilot Scheme to success, including industry, employers, the Government, students, parents and education providers. We encourage young people to join the Pilot Scheme to ‘earn and learn’, i.e. acquire knowledge, experience and allowances during the training period, and be offered a guaranteed level of salary and a clear progression pathway for further studies upon completion of programme. Sharing the same goal to train up more new talents, commitment and investment from the Government and the industries are there. Continuous improvement in the work environment and pay will also help to attract talents. We welcome the opportunity to join our hands with different industries to enhance the human capital and support the development of Hong Kong.”

As a result of economic development and market needs, printing has evolved into an industry mixing digital media and technologies, covering areas like digital printing, electronic publishing, cross-platform design, green printing, commercial and packing design, as well as product promotion.



Tailored for Secondary 3 to 6 school leavers, the “Earn & Learn” Pilot Scheme integrates structured apprenticeship training and clear progression pathway. The modes of training are tailor-made to cater for the needs of specific trades and industries.

Phased in two parts, the “Earn & Learn” Pilot Scheme for the printing industry offers participants foundation programmes for 4 months. Following that, the participants will be released to attend part-time training programmes when they receive 44 months on-the-job training. Aiming to encourage learning during tenure, an apprentice will receive a total subsidy of \$30,800 from the employer during the training period, as well as a designated level of monthly salary, topped by an additional average monthly allowance of \$2,000 from the Government. Upon completion of training, an apprentice who stays in employment will receive a monthly salary of not less than \$10,500. Apprentices can also pursue further studies to acquire higher academic qualifications for career development.

The VTC has consulted the Committee on Apprenticeship and Trade Testing and the Printing and Publishing Training Board on the Pilot Scheme. Industry support was received. The printing industry is among the first batch of industries following the electrical and mechanical services taking part in the Pilot Scheme.

Established in 1982, the Vocational Training Council (VTC) is the largest vocational education, training and professional development group in Hong Kong with some 250,000 students and trainees each year. The mission of VTC is to provide a valued choice to school leavers and working people to acquire the values, knowledge and skills for lifelong learning and enhanced employability, and also to provide valued supports to industries for their manpower development. VTC has 13 member institutions including the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi), the Institute of Professional Education And Knowledge (PEAK), the School for Higher and Professional Education (SHAPE), the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE), the Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI), Pro-Act by VTC, Hospitality Industry Training and Development Centre (HITDC), Chinese Cuisine Training Institute (CCTI), Maritime Services Training Institute (MSTI), Youth College, Integrated Vocational Development Centre (IVDC), Yeo Chei Man Senior Secondary School and Shine Skills Centre.

Photo Captions:



Photo 1: Chairman of the Hong Kong Printers Association CHIU Kwok-chu (left, front row) and VTC Executive Director Mrs Carrie YAU (right, front row) signed the MOU for the Earn & Learn Pilot Scheme for printing industry, HKSAR Financial Secretary John TSANG (centre, back row) and VTC Chairman Clement CHEN (third from right, back row) witnessed the milestone.



Photo 2: VTC students shared with John TSANG their study experience in related programmes.



Photo 3: Exchanges with students – John TSANG toured the IVE Centre for Independent Language Learning and exchanged with students on their study experiences.