

28 November 2014 (Friday)

VTC partnership with automobile industry will offer training and funding while increasing recruitment to expanding sector

A new pilot scheme jointly launched by The Vocational Training Council (VTC) and the Service Managers Association (SMA) will offer training and a stable income to young people who want to work in the automobile industry, while addressing skills shortages within this rapidly growing sector.

The Earn and Learn Pilot Scheme is an initiative between the Government, the automobile industry and the VTC, with a view to providing aspiring youngsters with a structured apprenticeship and a clear progression pathway. The industry also benefits from the Scheme as talents possessing both knowledge and skills will be trained up.

The VTC signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with SMA, launching the Earn & Learn Pilot Scheme for Automobile Industry (Pilot Scheme). This is to provide young people with opportunities to join the industry while receiving systematic training, a stable income and subsidies from the employer and the Government.

Witnessed by Joseph LAI, Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) and VTC Chairman Dr Clement CHEN, Chairman of the SMA WONG Sui-wan and VTC Executive Director Carrie YAU signed the MOU marking the collaboration milestone.

VTC Chairman Dr Clement CHEN said, “Having looked carefully at successful vocational education and training systems in countries such as Germany and Switzerland, we have developed a training model combining classroom learning with on-the-job training to cultivate students’ knowledge and practical skills. This pilot scheme provides students with high-quality vocational qualifications and enables a smooth transition from education to work.”

With local automobile industry personnel mainly performing after-sales service, system maintenance, fault identification, repairs and updating of parts, Chairman of the



SMA, WONG Sui-wan noted that vehicles are now equipped with more specialised functions, while the market expectation of service standards is rising.

“It is therefore essential that those working within this dynamic industry possess a higher level of professional skills and knowledge. The training mode of the Earn & Learn Pilot Scheme is tailor-made to cater for the needs of the automobile sector. It can also mitigate labour shortages within it.”

As of August 2014 the total number of licensed vehicles has risen steeply, by 7.4% from 2012, to over 0.69 million year-on-year. Demand for frontline auto personnel has also increased.

Students from Secondary 3 or above will be eligible for the pilot scheme, which comprises two main parts. After attending a four-month, full-time Diploma in Vocational Education (DVE) programme at VTC, sponsored by the employer, participating apprentices will be assigned to a 44-month, on-the-job training period at an appropriate establishment.

During the first 12 months of training, apprentices will receive \$15,400 as incentive allowance and a specified salary. Between the second and fourth years, in addition to the salary and \$2,000 average monthly government subsidy, they will receive a further incentive allowance of \$15,400. After completion of the programme, graduates will be guaranteed a monthly salary of at least \$10,500 should they stay in employment. Holder of recognised qualifications can also continue to pursue higher-level academic programmes.

Established in 1982, the Vocational Training Council (VTC) is the largest vocational and professional education and training provider 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), Hotel and Tourism Institute (HTI), Chinese Culinary Institute (CCI), International Culinary Institute (ICI), Maritime Services Training Institute (MSTI), Youth College, Pro-Act by VTC, Integrated Vocational Development Centre (IVDC) and Shine Skills Centre.

VTC website: www.vtc.edu.hk

Photo Captions:



Picture 1: Witnessed by Joseph LAI, Permanent Secretary for Transport & Housing (Transport) (Fourth from the right, back row), and VTC Chairman Dr Clement CHEN (Third from right, back row), Chairman of SMA WONG Sui-wan (First from left, front row) and VTC Executive Director Carrie YAU (First from right, front row) signed an MOU marking the collaboration milestone



Picture 2: Accompanied by VTC Executive Director Carrie YAU and VTC Chairman Dr Clement CHEN, Joseph LAI, Permanent Secretary for Transport & Housing (Transport) visited the teaching facilities for the automobile industry