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VTC launches Earn & Learn Pilot Scheme for Testing and Certification Industry

Consolidating HK as regional testing & certification centre

The Vocational Training Council (VTC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Construction Materials Laboratories (ACML) to launch the Earn & Learn Pilot Scheme for Testing and Certification Industry (Pilot Scheme) for aspiring young people. Participating apprentices will be provided with study opportunities and a clear progression pathway to become industry professionals; meanwhile consolidating the status of Hong Kong as the hub of the testing and certification in the region.

Commissioner for Innovation and Technology Commission of the HKSAR Janet WONG, Chairman of ACML LEE Wai Kwok and VTC Executive Director Carrie attended the MOU signing ceremony to witness the milestone collaboration.

Through the tripartite collaboration among the Government, industry and VTC, the Pilot Scheme integrates structured vocational education and on-the-job training with clear progression pathways. Aspiring young people joining the Pilot Scheme will be provided with a steady income and an allowance such that the young people can earn a steady income while equipping themselves with knowledge and skills to pursue a promising career. Graduates of the Pilot Scheme can also pursue further studies to acquire higher academic qualifications for career development.

Commissioner for Innovation and Technology Commission Janet WONG said, “Since inception, the Innovation and Technology Commission has attached much importance to manpower training. We partner with VTC to organise career talks and exhibitions as well as inviting recognised institutions to provide attachment opportunities for tertiary students so that industry can better reach aspiring students, which go a long way in attracting talents to the trade. The Earn & Learn Pilot Scheme covers both the learning and practical needs of students. Indeed a robust support to industry.”



VTC Executive Director Carrie YAU said, “As the hub of testing and certification, Hong Kong keenly needs skilled human resources in this area. Students completing the Higher Diploma in Testing and Certification programme can take up the posts of testing technician or assistant technical officer initially and then proceed to higher levels, enjoying bright prospects. The MOU we signed today will further the provision of professional training for the testing and certification industry. We have launched the Pilot Scheme for several industries since last year, earning favourable response from the public and the staunch support of students, parents and employers, which we found particularly exciting.”

Chairman of the Association of Construction Materials Laboratories (ACML) LEE Wai-kwok said, “The construction industry is booming and with the launch of the ten key infrastructural projects, the testing and certification industry for construction materials abounds with opportunities. Rigorous testing & certification benchmarks are needed to ensure that the standard of building safety and works quality meet international requirements. We believe the Pilot Scheme provides tailored training for entrants, enhancing quality of our human capital and competitiveness of the industry.”

The testing and certification industry is one of the six industries which Hong Kong has clear advantages for further development and is a contributor to local economy. In 2013, the industry contributed HK\$6 billion to the local GDP covering areas as diverse as food, Chinese medicine, jewellery, as well as information and communication technology. The demand for manpower is keen. Coupled with the fact that Hong Kong enjoys a unique geographical advantage, the testing & certification industry provides a vast amount of services for consumer goods like toys, electrical & electronic products and textiles produced by Hong Kong and the Pearl Delta regions of the Mainland. More so the industry provides quality and safety assurance services for products sourced by overseas buyers in the region. Hong Kong has become the regional testing and certification centre supporting the position of Hong Kong as the international trading hub.

Students at Secondary 6 level or above are welcome to apply for the Pilot Scheme. Participating apprentices will enrol on the Higher Diploma in Testing and Certification programme and receive on-the-job training with the employer alongside for 4 years. During the training period, on top of the basic salary, the apprentice is eligible for the industry

incentive allowance worth a total of HK\$30,800 paid by the employer and a Government subsidy totaling HK\$72,000. On completion of the Scheme, the apprentice is able to stay in employment and receive a monthly salary of no less than HK\$12,000 while also obtaining a recognised academic qualification. They can choose to further their studies for higher qualifications.

Since 2014, VTC implemented the Earn & Learn Pilot Scheme for a number of industries introducing training modes tailored for the operational needs and development of different industries. Up till now the Pilot Scheme has been launched in the electrical/construction, printing, retail, watch and clock and automobile industries.

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. VTC Web site: www.vtc.edu.hk

Photo Captions:



Photo 1: VTC Deputy Executive Director LEUNG Yam-shing (right, front row) and Chairman of the Association of Construction Materials Laboratories LEE Wai-kwok (left, front row) signed the MOU launching the Earn & Learn Pilot Scheme for Testing & Certification Industry in the presence of Commissioner for Innovation and Technology Commission of the HKSAR Janet WONG (second from left, back row) and VTC Executive Director Carrie YAU (second from right, back row)



Photo 2: VTC partnered with ACML to launch the Earn & Learn Pilot Scheme for Testing &

Certification Industry to train up professional personnel for the industry



Photo 3: Teachers and students of the Higher Diploma in Testing and Certification programme showcased to guests the teaching facilities for testing construction materials