

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)004

Question Serial No.

0312

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In 2003-04, the Planning and Lands Branch has a provision of over \$14 million for employing temporary staff. In this connection, what is the job nature of these staff and their terms and period of employment?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The provision of \$14.642 million for the employment of temporary staff is to continue the funding of two training schemes, viz the Graduate Training Scheme for graduate trainees and the Vacation Training Scheme for post-secondary students.

The Graduate Training Scheme appoints graduates from the surveying and town planning disciplines on month-to-month terms for two years in the Planning and Lands group of departments. Graduate trainees are holders of a recognised degree or equivalent qualifications and are engaged to undergo practical training under supervision towards corporate membership of relevant professional bodies. Provision of \$14.3 m has been included in 2003-04 for the operation of the scheme for the Planning and Lands Branch. The monthly honorarium for each graduate for the first year is currently \$16,095 (the benchmark for 'Degree and Related Grades') and that for the second year is \$17,220. The honoraria will be subject to the civil service pay reduction. During the period, on-the-job training in their respective fields will be provided to graduate trainees.

The Vacation Training Scheme appoints post-secondary students in the surveying and town planning disciplines for an eight-week training during summer vacation in one of the Planning and Lands group of departments. A monthly remuneration of \$6,800 (2002 level) is payable to each trainee.

During the training period, students will be assigned duties related to their fields of studies. For students in the surveying discipline for example, they will assist surveyors in the preparation of land documents and in carrying out site inspections and research.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso _____

Post Title _____ Acting Permanent Secretary for Housing,
_____ Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands) _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____