

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)010

Question Serial No.

1036

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 : Concerning the Departmental Expenses of the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch), the expenses on temporary staff top \$14 million. Please give an account of the temporary staff's job nature, their number and the proportion represented by them in overall manpower.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

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 \$14.3m has been included in 2003-04 for the appointment of a maximum of 68 graduate trainees, including those in their second year of training. The monthly honorarium for each trainee 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 Vacation Training Scheme appoints post-secondary students in the surveying and town planning disciplines for an eight-week training during summer vacation in the Planning and Lands group of departments. A monthly remuneration of \$6,800 (2002 level) is payable to each trainee. In 2003-04, around 25 post-secondary students will be appointed.

Graduates/students appointed under the above schemes will work as trainees in one of the Planning and Lands group of departments. They do not supplement the manpower of the Branch and its departments.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Tso

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 March 2003