Service Brief on the Selective Placement Division of the Labour Department

Abbreviation: SPD

Objective: The SPD provides free employment service to job-seekers with disabilities, which include the visually impaired, the hearing impaired, the physically handicapped (including people with a visceral disability), the mentally handicapped and the ex-mentally ill. The objective is to assist people with disabilities to secure open employment jobs, with the ultimate aim of integrating them into the community.

Programme:

1. Employment assistance to job-seekers with disabilities which includes -
   
   (a) vocational assessment and job guidance;
   (b) job matching and referral; and
   (c) follow-up service for three months.

2. Public education and promotional activities as follows -

   The objective is to enhance public understanding of the working abilities of people with disabilities and to promote their employment opportunities. These activities include visiting major employers and government departments to canvass vacancies, staging exhibitions and seminars, issuing quarterly newsletter to employers, presenting awards to enlightened employers and outstanding disabled employees, launching of television and radio programmes, and producing videos and guidebooks to assist employers and job-seekers with disabilities.

Staffing: The SPD is headed by a Senior Labour Officer. There are three regional offices located in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories, each headed by a Labour Officer. As at end of December 1998, there were 16 Assistant Labour Officers I/II in the SPD responsible for the placement of over 3,000 registrants. The Publicity and Promotion Unit is manned by three Labour Officers and three Assistant Labour Officers I.

Referral channels: Referrals by medical practitioners, social workers, rehabilitation agencies, NGOs, schools, training institutes as well as direct application by persons with disabilities requiring employment assistance.