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1,000 workers set to arrive by end of year

MORE than 1,000 workers are expected to have arrived in Hongkong by the end of the year under the special scheme for importing skilled labour, according to the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Yeung Kai-yin.

Mr Yeung said the scheme had achieved the objective of relieving labour shortages at technician, craftsman and supervisory levels.

So far the Government had received 8,470 applications for the 3,000 quota and had approved 2,479 of them in principle. Meanwhile, of

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those approved, 1,438 had lodged applications for visas.

In a reply to James Tien Pei-chun, Mr Yeung added that the steering group set up to oversee the scheme was conducting a review and was expected to come up with new recommendations by the end of the year.

Mr Yeung stressed the importing of a total of 3,000 workers was a temporary measure. "Depending on the advice of the Executive Council, a decision on the future of the scheme is likely to be made early next year."