



**Retail Technology Adoption Assistance Scheme for Manpower Demand
Management (ReTAAS)**

**Annual Report 2021-2022
(Executive Summary)**

Prepared by the Secretariat of ReTAAS

1. The three objectives set out in the Annual Implementation Plan 2021-22 (Annual Plan) were achieved. They are reviewed as follows.

(A) Winding up ReTAAS

2. ReTAAS was closed for new applications with effect from 1 April 2021 but applications submitted and projects approved before the deadline were not affected. In order to wind up ReTAAS systematically and timely, the Secretariat adopted a new mechanism endorsed by the ReTAAS Vetting Committee (VC) in July 2021 for handling all remaining cases at various stages of the applications/projects under ReTAAS (i.e. application stage, quotation stage, project implementation stage and project completion stage). As a result, the number of applications pending for processing had dropped from 460 (as of 1 April 2021) to 50 (as of 31 March 2022) and the number of cases at other various stages in 2021-22 (e.g. the number of cases at quotation, project implementation and project completion stages) dropped from 152, 36 and 22 (as of 1 April 2021) to 52, 16 and 20 (as of 31 March 2022). The new mechanism was considered effective and the Secretariat would continue to adhere to this mechanism for handling the remaining cases at various stages in the next reporting period.

(B) Providing solid support to VC

3. The Secretariat continued to support the VC by screening applications, preparing working papers and documents, as well as providing administrative support for VC meetings.

(C) Effective monitoring of projects and timely disbursement of funds

4. Since the launch of ReTAAS, 522 applications had been approved, of which –

- (a) 159 projects are completed and ReTAAS funding disbursed (totaling \$4.84 million), including 15 with ReTAAS funding disbursed in 2021-22 (totaling about \$0.57 million);
- (b) 20 pending final confirmation before funding can be disbursed;
- (c) 16 under implementation stage;
- (d) 52 under quotation stage; and
- (e) 275 were withdrawn by applicants due to business consideration.