



The HKCAAVQ Newsletter gathers information on news and events relating to the HKCAAVQ and its fields of interest. This Newsletter is usually sent out quarterly to all HKCAAVQ Council Members, its quality partners and anyone interested in the work that we do.

Spotlight

Revised Guidelines on the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process

The HKCAAVQ published revised Guidelines on the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process on 15 August 2014. The revised Guidelines and relevant accreditation tools for the refined model can be found at our website <http://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk>

In 2011-12, the HKCAAVQ conducted a major review of the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process that underpins the Qualifications Framework. The review evaluated the effectiveness of the existing approach, particularly in vocational accreditation, taking into account local quality requirements, the current environment in the education and training sectors in Hong Kong and international developments in quality assurance. The HKCAAVQ Council approved the refined Four-stage Quality Assurance Process and its implementation progressively from 1 June 2013.

The HKCAAVQ plays an important dual role as gate-keeper and gate-opener in the quality assurance of higher education and vocational education. The Guidelines set out the criteria, standards and processes by which we carry out our role.

MoU between HKCAAVQ & CPE Singapore

The HKCAAVQ and the Council for Private Education (CPE) Singapore have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance collaboration between the two agencies.

The signing ceremony took place at the HKCAAVQ office on 18 June 2014. The MoU was signed by Prof William Lee, Executive Director of HKCAAVQ and Mr Brandon Lee, Chief Executive of CPE, and witnessed by Ms Michelle Li, then Deputy Secretary for Education*, and Mr Jacky Foo, Singapore Consul-General Hong Kong.

The MoU is intended to facilitate exchange of good practices in quality assurance and an active relationship between the HKCAAVQ and CPE for enhancing our mutual interests in the quality of education in Hong Kong and Singapore.

**Ms Michelle Li was appointed as Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, HKSAR with effect from 17 July 2014*

Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) Policy and Principles

On 22 July 2014, the Education Bureau announced the introduction of the Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) Policy and Principles to facilitate the recognition of learning, to minimise unnecessary repeated learning, and to effectively support lifelong learning. In support of the CAT initiative, institutions are encouraged to develop and / or refine CAT arrangements within their institutions and learning programmes, making reference to the general policy and principles underpinning the implementation of CAT as promulgated by the EDB. Details can be found in the website of Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) at http://www.hkqf.gov.hk/guie/HKQF_CAT.asp

The HKCAAVQ, as the Qualifications Register Authority, has modified the Qualifications Register (QR) to allow for the identification of CAT arrangements and provision of information for learners on CAT in addition to the existing information on "QF Level" and "QF Credit". The additional information will be accessed via the institution's web link given on the "QR Record Details Page" of the qualification with CAT status and will include details about CAT arrangements for that specific learning programme.



A press briefing for the announcement of CAT Policy and Principles

Appointment of Deputy Executive Director

The HKCAAVQ announced the appointment of Ms Dorte Kristoffersen as Deputy Executive Director with effect from 6 October 2014.

Ms Kristoffersen has extensive knowledge and experience in quality assurance gained in Denmark, Hong Kong, the United States and Australia. She is familiar with the higher education sector in Hong Kong as she served the Council as Deputy Executive Director during 2007 to 2010.

Ms Kristoffersen is currently Acting Chief Commissioner at the Tertiary Education Quality and Standard Agency (TEQSA) in Australia and she was Commissioner since 2011. Prior to the role at TEQSA, she held senior executive positions at the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC/WASC) in the United States, the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) and the Evaluation Institute (EVA) in Denmark.

In her role as Deputy Executive Director, Ms Kristoffersen will support the HKCAAVQ Council in the development and implementation of strategic goals covering the management of academic accreditation and audit, qualifications assessment, development of internal quality control systems, and enhancement of professional standards.

Staff Retreat

The HKCAAVQ organised a one-day Staff Retreat for all the staff on 4 July 2014. The Staff Retreat aimed to engage staff members in the strategic planning process of the Council. During the occasion, there was active exchange of reviewing the Council's vision and mission statements and future strategic directions.

Current Projects

Development of Quality Indicators

The Review of the Four-Stage Quality Assurance Process initiated by the Council in March 2011 concluded, among other things, the need to identify quality indicators to support the execution of the refined Process.

A Pilot Study was recently conducted with the Financial and Corporate Governance Experts to identify quality indicators for financial management, which is one of the criteria of Stage 1 Initial Evaluation and Stage 2 Learning Programme Accreditation. Altogether two experience sharing sessions were conducted for 12 Experts. A similar approach will be adopted to explore the quality indicators under other accreditation criteria with experienced panel members of various types of exercises. The first sharing session was held on 15 August for the panel members from the healthcare and medicine industry/discipline. The second sharing session is scheduled on 8 October for panel members from the business and the legal industries/disciplines.

QESS Projects

QA Project

In 2014, the HKCAAVQ succeeded in bidding for a HK\$1.9 million grant from the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS). The grant will fund a project that aims to improve QA practices and promote a quality culture within the local post-secondary education sector.

Commencing in September 2014, the following three interrelated initiatives under the project will be launched:

- a series of forums for sharing of good practices among the local institutions
- workshops on international QA perspectives conducted by overseas experts
- web-based knowledgebase

The good practices presented in the forums and gained from the workshops will be consolidated and incorporated into the knowledgebase to facilitate dissemination across the sector. The knowledgebase will serve as an information portal to help inspire local institutions in further enhancing their QA capacity.

Phase 2 of IT Project

The QESS application for the phase 2 of the IT project was approved by Education Bureau in June 2014 with the funding of HK\$4 million. Phase 2 of the project will extend the functionalities to the assessment of Continuing Education Fund (CEF) reimbursable courses, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes, Overseas Tertiary Institutions (OTI) and Qualifications Assessment (QA). It also includes the additional requirements from the functional areas of phase 1 of the project. Internet portals will also be developed to provide a web interface for efficient communication and sharing of documents between operators and the HKCAAVQ, as well as accreditation panels and Specialists and the HKCAAVQ.

QESS is set up under the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund to support worthwhile non-works projects or initiatives that help enhance the quality of teaching and learning for students and teachers and the sector as a whole.

More Training Workshops on Use of Credit under Qualifications Framework (QF)

The HKCAAVQ was commissioned by the Education Bureau (EDB) to run six workshops on the use of QF credits in the first half of 2014. The purpose of the workshops is to enhance participants' understanding of the assignment of QF credit value to learning programmes and the assessment of the assigned credit value by the HKCAAVQ. Due to overwhelming responses, we have been commissioned by the EDB to run two more workshops on 28 October and 2 December.

HKCAAVQ in Numbers

Summary Accreditation Reports Online: 50
(as of 31 July 2014)

Initial Evaluation:	17
Programme Validation:	11
Initial Evaluation + Programme Validation:	6
Programme Revalidation:	13
Programme Validation + Programme Revalidation:	3

Qualifications Register (as of 15 August 2014)

8113 qualifications on the Qualifications Register

Accreditation Exercise Highlights

Programmes of Apprentice Jockeys' School, The Hong Kong Jockey Club

A re-accreditation exercise for six programmes offered by the Apprentice Jockeys' School of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJCAJS) was conducted in May 2014. The six programmes include:

- Certificate in Racing (Stable Assistant) – QF Level 1
- Certificate in Racing (Riding) – QF Level 1
- Certificate in Racing (Advanced Stable Assistant) – QF Level 2
- Certificate in Racing (Track Rider) – QF Level 2
- Certificate in Racing (Assistant Trainer) – QF Level 3
- Certificate in Racing (Jockey) – QF Level 3

The Accreditation Panel found that the dedication and passion of the staff was a success factor for the programmes. The submitted documentation and the evidence gathered by the Accreditation Panel during its on-site visit indicated that HKJCAJS was committed to nurturing its trainees to achieve a world-class standard in horse racing.

Yin Jin Diploma Programme

The Yi Jin Diploma (YJD) programme has been accredited at QF Level 3 with a validity period of three years starting from the 2013/14 academic year. The YJD programme comprises five Core Courses and three Elective Courses forming an Elective Cluster. For implementation in the 2014/15 academic year, the HKCAAVQ has approved the introduction of 47 new Elective Clusters. Of these new Elective Clusters, 5 Elective Courses and 7 Elective Clusters, which adopted the Specification of Competency Standards (SCS) formulated by the relevant Industry Training Advisory Committees under QF as the main basis for curriculum design, have also been separately accredited by the HKCAAVQ. On completion of these SCS-based Elective Clusters/Courses, students of the YJD programme will be awarded standalone SCS-based qualifications under the QF.

Programmes of Police College, The Hong Kong Police Force

The HKCAAVQ accredited Probationary Inspector (PI) and Recruit Police Constable (RPC) Professional Diploma Programmes from the Hong Kong Police Force on 26 June 2014. Upon the successful accreditation of the PI and RPC training programmes, the Police College will be able to award trainees with vocational qualifications that are recognised under the QF, namely "Professional Diploma in Leadership and Management in Policing" for PI at QF Level 5 and "Professional Diploma in Policing" for RPC at QF Level 4.

The Accreditation Panel, comprising local and overseas experts from the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, conducted an on-site visit to Police College's Aberdeen Campus from 13 to 16 May 2014. The panel members were impressed with the staff members of the college, the two training programmes and the college's facilities.

Institutional Review, The Open University of Hong Kong

The HKCAAVQ conducted an Institutional Review (IR) for the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) from 3 to 5 June 2014. The review focused on how the OUHK assures the academic standards of its awards and the quality of students' learning experience. A Panel of seven members visited the University for the Review. This is the fifth IR of the OUHK (or its predecessor the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong) conducted by the Council. The report was issued in August 2014.

Visits

Visit by Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association

President I-Fan Chang, Director of Technological and Vocational College Accreditation Committee, Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA) visited the HKCAAVQ from 12 to 14 May 2014.

Apart from giving a talk on the TWAEA's work and vocational education and training development and vocational accreditation in Taiwan to our staff on 14 May, President Chang also participated in a site visit of a programme revalidation exercise for the Hong Kong Jockey Club Apprentice Jockeys' School and a pre-visit briefing on 12 and 13 May.

Visit by New Zealand Qualifications Authority

A delegation from New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) visited the HKCAAVQ on 23 June 2014 to exchange views and experience on QA matters and the role of a QA body in European Qualifications Framework referencing.

Visit to Macao Polytechnic Institute

The HKCAAVQ was invited by Macao Polytechnic Institute for a visit to its campus on 15 May 2014. Prof William Lee, Executive Director of HKCAAVQ and Catherine Ip, Head of Academic Accreditation and Audit and other team members met with the senior management of the institute, and gave a presentation on the HKCAAVQ's role and function as the Accreditation Authority and Qualifications Register Authority under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework, the latest international developments in academic accreditation, as well as the accreditation criteria, processes and timeline under the Four-stage QA Process.

Contact us

The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ)

Address:
10 Siu Sai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

T: +852 3658 0000
F: +852 2845 9910
E: info@hkcaavq.edu.hk
W: <http://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk>

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please click [here](#) or send a blank email to unsubscribe@hkcaavq.edu.hk with subject "unsubscribe".