



The HKCAAVQ Newsletter gathers information on news and events relating to 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

### Hong Kong Police College's Passing Out Parade

The Chairman of HKCAAVQ, Honourable Martin Liao, inspected a passing-out parade at the Hong Kong Police College (HKPC) on 24 January 2015. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Liao emphasised the important role of HKPC and congratulated the graduates who were the first batch of Police officers awarded the Professional Diploma in Policing accredited by HKCAAVQ and recognised as meeting the HKQF standard at Level 4. HKPC is the first government department that acquires the accreditation status from HKCAAVQ to run professional training programmes under the QF Levels 4 and 5.



### Macao Consultancy

HKCAAVQ is commissioned by the Tertiary Education Services Office (Gabinete de Apoio ao Ensino Superior, GAES) of the Macao Special Administrative Region to develop evaluation tools under the proposed Macao's Higher Education Evaluation Framework. The legal instrument underpinning the proposed framework is expected to be passed in the second half of 2015. During the development of the evaluation tools the higher education sector in Macao has been widely consulted, and a pilot study will be conducted in 2015/16 to test the evaluation tools.

HKCAAVQ offers consultancy services concerning quality assurance and the standards of academic and vocational education and training. Interested parties please visit the [consultancy web page](#) of our website or contact our staff on +852 3658 0141.

## Specialist Appointment Ceremony

More than 80 Specialists attended the Specialists Appointment Ceremony held on 30 January 2015 – an annual event of HKCAAVQ to welcome new or re-appointed Specialists to our extended family. HKCAAVQ appoints Specialists to serve on accreditation panels and to advise on quality assurance matters. As Specialists are key to our accreditation process, HKCAAVQ attach great importance to keeping them abreast of the development of the Council as well as the QF and QR. The Ceremony is an important information event.



## QR Operators Briefing

HKCAAVQ with the support of the Qualifications Framework Secretariat (QFS) organised the Qualifications Register (QR) Operators Briefing on 16 January 2015. Over 220 representatives of operators from both the self-accrediting and non self-accrediting sectors attended the briefing to learn about the latest developments of QF and QR, including the implementation progress of the Awards Title Scheme (ATS) and use of QF credit. The presentation files are available on the [QR website](#).

## Focus Group Meetings on Accreditation Tools

HKCAAVQ conducted three focus group meetings on 12 and 29 January 2015 to consult operators about a new set of accreditation tools including guidance notes and submission guides on Initial Evaluation, Learning Programme Accreditation and Learning Programme Re-Accreditation for local programmes. Representatives from 30 operators offering local academic and vocational programmes participated in the meetings. Feedback collected will be used for refining our accreditation tools, some of them will be ready by the end of March.

## QESS Workshop on Institutional Accreditation and Quality Audit

Funded by the Government's Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS), HKCAAVQ will organise a series of external forums and internal workshops on good practices in quality assurance both local and international in 2015 - 2016. The good practices presented in the forums and workshops will be consolidated and uploaded onto a web-based knowledgebase to facilitate dissemination across the sector. To kick-off the project, Mr John Randall, former Chief Executive of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in the UK, conducted a workshop on "Institutional Level Issues in Accreditation and Quality Audit" on 22 and 23 January 2015 at the HKCAAVQ office. During the two-day workshop, Mr Randall talked about major issues arising in institutional accreditation and quality audit and generic standards for governance and management. Coming up next, HKCAAVQ will invite local institutions to share their good practices in governance.

## Technical Exchange at NZQA

Staff of HKCAAVQ participated in a technical exchange programme at the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) from 24 to 28 November 2014. The 5-day programme included series of meetings and discussions on the qualifications frameworks and the quality assurance policies and practices in both regions. Delegates from HKCAAVQ also met with representatives from the Ministry of Education of New Zealand to learn about the recent development of vocational education and trainings and assessment of overseas qualifications in New Zealand. The experience gained in this exchange programme adds value to our quality assurance processes, in particular the development of graduate profiles – a set of outcome statements that describe the essential information such as the programme objectives, intended learning outcomes, education and employment pathways. The graduate profiles have since January 2015 been included in HKCAAVQ's summary accreditation reports.

## HKCAAVQ builds partnership with AQA and UK NARIC



HKCAAVQ has entered into partnership agreements with the UK National Recognition Information Centre (UK NARIC) and Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities (AQA) to enhance collaboration in quality enhancement of education in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. The Memoranda were signed in Hong Kong in December 2014 and January 2015 respectively. While the agreements will facilitate cooperation between HKCAAVQ and these two agencies in areas such as exchange of ideas and information, staff development, participation in external quality audits and joint programmes, the MoU with UK NARIC relates specifically to Qualifications Assessment, which will enable us to learn not only from UK but also European good practice.

## Study Trip to Guangdong Province

For the purpose of developing Country/Area Profiles (CAP) on China, an assessment tool under the development of the QA Team to enhance the efficiency of the QA process, staff of the Qualifications Assessment team, undertook a visit to the Guangdong Province in early December 2014 to learn about its development of education and training, self-study examination system, as well as the vocational qualifications framework. The two-day trip included visits to the Department of Education of Guangdong Province, Self-study Examination Office, The Opening University of Guangdong, Guangdong Food and Drug Vocational College and Guangdong Food and Drug Vocational-Technical School.

## Participation in the International Conferences

HKCAAVQ maintains strong networks with other QA practitioners around the world by participating and presenting in international conferences. In the last quarter, we were invited to participate in and deliver speeches in four international conferences, they include:

- Asia regional seminar on Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education (QACHE), Macao
- Korean Association of International Educators Conference, Busan
- Oman Quality Network in Higher Education (OQNHE) Conference on Quality Management and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education, Oman
- Roundtable on Establishment of QF and Lifelong Learning Framework, Beijing

## News Roundup

- [2015 Policy Address by Chief Executive](#)
- [UGC releases result of the Research Assessment Exercise 2014](#)
- [Concourse releases admission statistics of self-financing tertiary institutions](#)
- [Restructuring of Industry Training Advisory Committees \(ITACs\)](#)
- [Launch of Recognition of Prior Learning for the Retail industry](#)

## HKCAAVQ in Numbers

### Summary Accreditation Reports Online: 139

(as of 24 February 2015)

Initial Evaluation:	28
Programme Validation:	24
Initial Evaluation + Programme Validation:	12
Programme Revalidation:	69
Programme Validation + Programme Revalidation:	6

Click [here](#) to view Summary Accreditation Reports.

### Qualifications Register

As of 13 February 2015, there are 8,132 qualifications on the Qualifications Register. Click [here](#) to view detailed breakdown of the February statistics.



## Accreditation Exercise Highlights

### Hong Kong Police College Awarded HKCAAVQ Accreditation

In 2014, Hong Kong Police College (HKPC) was successful in acquiring accreditation status from HKCAAVQ for two of its training programmes, namely “Professional Diploma in Leadership and Management in Policing” for Probationary Inspector (PI) at QF Level 5 and “Professional Diploma in Policing” for Recruit Police Constable (PRC) at QF Level 4. As the first government department to have passed the accreditation conducted by HKCAAVQ, Mr Paul Lau, Director of HKPC, has shared with HKCAAVQ the College’s aspirations and experiences in undertaking accreditation.



“Hong Kong Police Force does have in place a professional and robust training management framework,” Mr Lau remarked. “My colleagues and I shared the same aspiration to strive for further training excellence in being the pioneer amongst the discipline services to seek vocational accreditation of recruit training.”

At the on-site visit that took place at HKPC’s Aberdeen Campus in May 2014, the Accreditation Panel, comprising local and overseas experts from Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom, was impressed with the staff members of the college, the two training programmes and the college’s facilities. After a holistic assessment, the Panel was confident that HKPC will achieve its vision of becoming an internationally recognised centre of excellence.

Looking back at the preparation process, Mr Lau said the year past has been busy, yet certainly fruitful. He acknowledged the help and support of HKCAAVQ staff in guiding them through the details of the requirements; he also commended the Panel for being professional in their quest for information and insightful in verifying observations from their respective areas of expertise. He said,

“The open and frank dialogues we had and the ideas exchanged during the panel sessions were highly constructive, which also gave us an excellent opportunity to identify ways to seek continuous improvement.”



Mr Paul Lau, Director of HKPC

HKCAAVQ uses the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process to accredit operators and their learning programmes. It is designed to help operators develop internal mechanisms to improve the quality of their institutional operations and learning programmes. In this respect, HKPC shares the same value as HKCAAVQ. “Our quality assurance mechanism emphasises three principles, namely total involvement; stakeholder-focused; and continuous improvement,” explained Mr Lau.

“The accreditation process had not only served as a ‘health checking’ process, but also, and more importantly, offered a good opportunity for us to benchmark our training standard with other organisations in Hong Kong.”



Upon the successful accreditation of the PI and PRC training programmes, HKPC is further strengthened in its belief and commitment in safeguarding a robust and forward looking quality assurance mechanism framework. “Hong Kong Police College seeks always to become a leading centre of excellence in police training and development in the international arena.” he said. “We stand ready to foster long term partnership with HKCAAVQ and it is encouraging to note that Hong Kong can count on the Council as a professional guardian to ensure training excellence in a fast changing world and meeting the ever rising requirements of society.”

## Around the World

### Asia Pacific

- China and Australia signed on 17 November 2014 agreements on higher education qualifications recognition and student, academic and researcher mobility. Both governments have agreed to work together to increase the marketing and recruitment opportunities for Australian education institutions in China. Click [here](#) to view details.

### Australia

- A Mitchell Institute's issues paper launched by the Business Council of Australia calls for a national tertiary education entitlement in the VET sector. Click [here](#) to view details.

### Europe

- The European Commission has published the New Eurydice report on adult education and training. The report covers 35 national education systems located in 32 European countries. It draws on several data sources, the prime source being the information gathered through the Eurydice Network in 2014. Click [here](#) to view the Report.
- EQAR published a final report on Recognising International Quality Assurance Activities (RIQAA). The RIQAA project revealed that quality assurance agencies have rapidly expanded their international activities, while higher education institutions are keen to take advantage from the opportunities of a cross-border external review. Click [here](#) to view the report.

### Global

- A new OECD report "Education Policy Outlook 2015: Making Reforms Happen" says lack of oversight could hinder education reforms. Visit the [OECD website](#) for the full report and highlights.

### Ireland

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) published a White Paper on facilitating academic recognition of foreign qualifications. Visit the [QQI website](#) for details.

### UK

- The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) announced that all providers of higher education in England will be required to undergo Higher Education Review from QAA. QAA Chief Executive Anthony McClaran said the announcement is a significant step towards achieving a level playing field for quality assurance in UK higher education. Click [here](#) to view the BIS statement.
- A Universities UK (UUK) report titled *Quality, Equity, Sustainability: The Future of Higher Education Regulation* calls for reform to higher education regulation in England. Click [here](#) to view the report.
- The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) published a report on Employer Engagement: Emerging Practice from QAA Reviews. Click [here](#) to view the report.

## Latest Update

### RSS Feed

HKCAAVQ has launched a RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed service that allows readers to keep track of the latest news from HKCAAVQ. With an RSS feed, you can get a real time access to updated news from the HKCAAVQ website automatically. Please click [here](#) to learn more about our RSS feed and the subscription methods.

### HKCAAVQ Annual Report 2013/14

The HKCAAVQ Annual Report 2013/14 has been published. With reference to the theme "Information and Partnership for Quality Enhancement", the Report provides a comprehensive review of HKCAAVQ's activities and achievements for the year. The online version is available on the [HKCAAVQ website](#).

### Quality Management System Launched

With the support of the Education Bureau through the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS), the HKCAAVQ Quality Management System (QMS) was launched on 27 February 2015. The QMS provides an internal centralised database for storing data in relation to academic and vocational accreditation. With a built-in Document Management System, it offers users advanced functions for approving documents, retrieving, analysing and reporting data. Through ready access to systematised data, we expect the QMS will streamline our work processes and improve our work efficiency. Following the completion of Phase 1 of the IT Infrastructure Development Project, HKCAAVQ has conducted the tender process for Phase 2 of the project that will incorporate our assessment functions into the system. The development of Phase 2 will commence in April 2015.

## 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](mailto:info@hkcaavq.edu.hk)  
W: <http://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk>

To subscribe our newsletter or update your profile, please email to [info@hkcaavq.edu.hk](mailto:info@hkcaavq.edu.hk).

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