

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

Duty Visit to New Zealand

Mr Robert Fearnside, Deputy Executive Director, and Dr Christina Ng, Head of Vocational Accreditation and Development, joined a delegation of the Education Bureau (EDB) to visit New Zealand in July 2015. During the visit, Mr Fearnside and Dr Ng participated in the working group meeting with EDB and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) to discuss plans for referencing the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) and the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) and other quality assurance collaborative projects.

Apart from attending the working group meeting, Mr Fearnside and Dr Ng also visited Service IQ, the industry training organisation (ITO) for the aviation, hospitality, retail, travel, tourism, museums and wholesale sectors in New Zealand to learn about the development of vocational qualifications and how the ITOs work to meet the local industry training needs.

To allow our stakeholders to learn from the New Zealand experience, HKCAAVQ has invited Mr Dean Minchington, CEO of Service IQ, to be the keynote speaker at its second Anniversary Seminar to be held early next year. More details will be released on our official website later.



Organisation of QESS Events

With the support of the Government through the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS), HKCAAVQ has organised two forums and one internal workshop to promote a quality culture and improve QA practices in Hong Kong in May, July and August 2015 respectively. The first forum was conducted by Professor Danny Wong, Vice President (Academic) of The Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) on 15 May. At this forum, Professor Wong shared with over 80 participants, including representatives from operators and HKCAAVQ staff, the evolution of academic quality assurance in OUHK over the past two decades as it has progressed from offering distance learning programmes to full-time programmes in face-to-face delivery mode.



The second forum was conducted by Professor Reggie Kwan, President of Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE) and Caritas Bianchi College of Careers (CBCC) on 7 August. Professor Kwan shared with around 100 participants his experience in programme development with examples of good practices that have had a positive impact on programme development as well as other operational aspects of the institution, they included:

1. reflective approach to new programme development, by devising sets of questions on different aspects of programme planning and development;
2. structured process for programme approval or substantial programme revisions;
3. programme improvement resulting from evaluation of internal and external stakeholders; and
4. cultivation of a quality culture among all staff.

Apart from the two forums for our external stakeholders, Ms Linda Suskie, an international Assessment and Accreditation Consultant, conducted a training workshop for our staff on Student Learning Assessment from 7 to 9 July 2015. The workshop allowed our staff to gain a more profound understanding of good assessment practices related to connecting assessment to outcomes-based teaching and learning activities; setting benchmarks and standards; and using assessment results to improve teaching as well as learning, and informing decision making.

QR System Enhancement

For Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programmes of the Insurance Intermediaries Quality Assurance Scheme (IIQAS), a new mechanism has been launched to recognise Insurance Learning Programmes and Insurance-Related Learning Programmes accredited under the Qualifications Framework (QF) as qualified CPD activities. To facilitate the identification of these programmes on the QR, a new qualification type, namely “Continuing Professional Development Programmes”, has been incorporated in the QR system. CPD programmes are now also easily and readily distinguishable through the inclusion of a “CPD” icon in the Qualification Search, Search Result, Shortlisted Result and QR Record Details pages of the QR. To search for these programmes, please visit the QR website at <http://www.hkqr.gov.hk>.

Building Capacity of Stakeholders

In the past few months, HKCAAVQ has continued to provide training to different stakeholder groups.

Operators

Workshop on Development and Accreditation of SCS-based Programmes

The purpose of the workshop was to provide the institutions and training providers with an overview of the design and accreditation of SCS-based programmes. The workshop was arranged on 30 June 2015. At the workshop 31 representatives from operators attended and shared their experience in the development and accreditation of SCS-based programmes of different industries.

Tailor-made Training to Operators

HKCAAVQ continues to offer tailor-made training on request of operators in accordance with their training needs. Recently, HKCAAVQ conducted tailor-made workshops and briefings to organisations such as the Hospital Authority and the Apprentice Jockeys’ School of the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Specialists

Refresher Workshop for Specialists

A Refresher Workshop was arranged on 19 June for Specialists to provide them with updates about the latest development in quality assurance in HKCAAVQ, and explore common issues encountered in the course of accreditation.

Workshop on Questioning Techniques for Specialists

Due to the interest of Specialists, HKCAAVQ ran two workshops in April and August to explore with Specialists the typical questioning techniques for collecting the necessary evidence at site visits to support accreditation judgements.



Participation in Local and International Conferences

HKCAAVQ maintains strong networks with other QA practitioners around the world by participating in and presenting at international conferences. In the past few months, we were invited to participate in and deliver speeches in the following local and international conferences:

- A paper on the implementation and challenges of Programme Area Accreditation was presented by Dr Alan Wu, Head of Research and Training, and Mr Wilbur Pang, Registrar, at the Asia-Pacific Quality Networking (APQN) 2015 Conference in Kunming on 18 April 2015. The presentation is available on the [APQN website](#).
- Ms Dorte Kristoffersen, Deputy Executive Director (Academic) delivered a presentation on the regulation and quality assurance of online education at a regional workshop known as Educating Online in South East Asia organised by the Australian Education International in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 6 May 2015.
- Ms Susanna Lee, Head of Consultancy, participated in the First Forum on Sustainable Development in Higher Education as one of the Panellists at a Panel Session titled “Sustainable Development in Programmes/ Modules Design/ Pedagogic Reform”. The Forum which took place in Hong Kong on 21 July 2015 was organised by Hang Management College (HSMC) and co-organised by UNESCO-APEID.
- Ms Dorte Kristoffersen delivered a presentation titled “Internationalisation of QA, Convergence in QA systems: Challenges and Opportunities” at the 2015 ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) Seminar and Roundtable Meeting “Quality Assurance in ASEAN: Issues, Challenges and Outcomes”, in Manila, Philippines on 2 September 2015.
- Mr Robert Fearnside, Acting Executive Director, gave a keynote speech on HKCAAVQ’s role in accreditation of Assessment Agencies for RPL at a Symposium on The Inclusion of Green Competencies in the Recognition of Prior Learning: A Comparative Study of Seven Countries in the Asia and Pacific Region co-organised by UNESCO-UNEVOC and HKIED in Hong Kong on 26 August 2015.

News Roundup

- [The Education Bureau established the Fashion Industry Training Advisory Committee to facilitate the implementation of QF in the industry](#)
- [The Task Force on Promotion of Vocational Education has submitted a report to the Education Bureau setting out strategies and concrete recommendations for promoting vocational education](#)
- [Consultation on Comparability Study of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework \(HKQF\) and the European Qualifications Framework \(EQF\)](#)
- [Consultation on Operational Guidelines on Credit Accumulation and Transfer \(CAT\)](#)

Feature

A Closer Look at Vocational Accreditation under Qualifications Framework – Why, What and How

Sam Ho, Registrar, Research, Consultancy and Training, HKCAAVQ

Confucius said, “Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure.” So what would you do to tackle the manpower tightening problem in Hong Kong?

In view of the manpower tightening problem, companies must act now to attract, train and retain their staff. One way is to provide the staff with training that is recognised under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (QF) which can then lead on to a progressive career pathway.



QF and the Retail Industry Advisory Committee

The Government encourages vocational education and training providers to apply the Specification of Competency Standards (SCS) developed by the Retail Industry Training Advisory Committee in developing training programmes. SCS can be regarded as the basis for people development because it lays down the competency requirements of all job roles in the industry. Using these competency requirements, employers and training managers can identify skill gaps and develop on-the-job SCS-based training programmes for staff. If accredited, these SCS-based training programmes can lead to qualifications that are recognised under QF.

HKCAAVQ: Partnership with HKRMA and the retail industry

The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), being the Accreditation Authority, accredits academic and vocational programmes to ensure that they meet minimum quality standards for entry into the Qualifications Register (QR) of the QF.

With a view to help member companies of HKRMA understand the use of the Retail SCS in developing SCS-based in-house training programmes and the various requirements and standards associated with vocational accreditation, HKCAAVQ conducted a tailor-made workshop, “A Closer Look at Vocational Accreditation – Why, What and How”, on 23 April 2015. A total of 25 participants from 17 companies attended the workshop. During the workshop, HKCAAVQ made use of real-life examples from the retail industry to highlight key topics and to stimulate discussions that are important to the participants. Feedback gathered from the participants showed that the workshop increased participants’ understanding of the Retail SCS as well as vocational accreditation in general. Many of these companies have shown interests in gaining further understanding about the accreditation process.

The following is a comment from a participant of the workshop:

“Very solid and useful information delivered in the workshop. It’s really a good start for a company to start the accreditation journey.”

Success Story: Linking recruitment, on-the-job training and progression pathway

HKCAAVQ also provides accreditation services to companies that wish to offer in-house training to their staff for acquiring qualifications recognised under the QF. Two years ago, one of the major retail companies sought the vocational accreditation service of HKCAAVQ and applied for accreditation of their in-house training programmes. In a recent recruitment advertisement, HKCAAVQ noted that if applicants are recruited, they will undergo a series of training and on completion of all training, they will be able to obtain a recognised qualification as well as a progressive career pathway as Assistant Store Manager.

HKCAAVQ as your quality assurance partner

HKCAAVQ organises various capacity building activities, such as training workshops and briefings, to prepare operators for the accreditation process. These activities also help keep our stakeholders informed of the latest developments in our services, and local and international quality assurance concepts and practices. Please visit the website of HKCAAVQ for latest updates on the upcoming capacity building activities (<http://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/en/services/training/>). HKCAAVQ can also arrange tailor-made in-house training workshops for individual companies. For enquiries about HKCAAVQ’s tailor-made in-house training, please contact Ms. Joey Kwok on 3658 0166 or e-mail to workshop@hkcaavq.edu.hk.

Note: This article was published on the Hong Kong Retail Management Association (HKRMA) Newsletter (Summer 2015)
(<http://www.hkrma.org/file/info/newsletter/summer-2015/>)

Latest Update

Appointment of New Executive Director

The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) announced today (8 October) its appointment of Ms Dorte Kristoffersen as the new Executive Director with effect from 2 November 2015. Ms Kristoffersen succeeds Professor William Keng-Mun Lee, who left HKCAAVQ in July 2015.

For more information, please refer to the [Press Release](#).

Suspected Fraudulent Accreditation Organisation

HKCAAVQ has recently discovered a website of a U.S.-based organisation known as the International Council for the Accreditation of Academic Evaluation (ICAEE) (www.icaae.org) that contains unauthorised reproduction of HKCAAVQ's information. HKCAAVQ would like to emphasise that it has no connection with ICAEE. We have reported the case to the Hong Kong Police and informed our QA partners the existence of this fraudulent website.

Updates on HKCAAVQ's Policies and Developments

The Council has endorsed the following plans / projects in its meeting in September 2015:

- Revised Areas of Study and Training, and their corresponding Sub-areas effective from January 2016
- Extension of the publication of summary accreditation reports to PAA and Periodic Review (PR) effective from January 2016
- Timeline for accepting applications for Institutional Review for becoming a private university from the second quarter of 2016
- Review of accreditation criteria and standards

More information about the above plans / projects can be found on our website under the "[News](#)" section.

External Review of HKCAAVQ

HKCAAVQ was reviewed in 2015 by an external expert panel against the Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP) in Quality Assurance developed by the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) to benchmark our policies, processes and practices against these international standards. In October 2015, the INQAAHE Board confirmed our alignment with the GGP. Further details of the external review report and the decisions made by the INQAAHE Board can be found on our website under the "[Internal Quality Assurance](#)" section.

HKCAAVQ 25th Anniversary Issue

The year 2015 marks the 25th Anniversary of HKCAAVQ. To celebrate this special occasion, we have published a publication titled Future Directions of QA – Perspectives from 10 agencies with an aim to take stock of the international quality assurance developments over the past 25 years and to set the course for the future. The publication is a special collection of observations and analysis of the current situation, future direction and challenges of quality assurance in Hong Kong and eight countries around the world, namely Australia, Dubai, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

The publication is now available on this website; please click [here](#) to view the online version.

HKCAAVQ in Numbers

Summary Accreditation Reports

To increase transparency about the outcome of quality accreditation processes to stakeholders, HKCAAVQ began publishing summary accreditation reports in 2013. As of August 2015, the web page of the summary accreditation reports has recorded over 9,400 page views. The following statistics provide a breakdown of the reports uploaded on our official website as of 15 August 2015:

Total Summary Accreditation Reports online: 410
 Initial Evaluation (IE): 35
 Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA): 53
 Combined Learning Programme Accreditation (Combined LPA): 1
 Initial Evaluation + Learning Programme Accreditation (IE+LPA): 17
 Learning Programme Re-accreditation (Re-LPA): 259
 Learning Programme Accreditation + Learning Programme Re-accreditation (LPA + Re-LPA): 45
 Click [here](#) to view Summary Accreditation Reports.

Qualifications Register

As of 14 August 2015, there are 8,136 qualifications on the Qualifications Register.
 Click [here](#) to view detailed breakdown of the August statistics.

Note:
 "LPA" and "Re-LPA" were previous known as "Programme Validation (PV)" and "Programme Revalidation (Re-PV)" before the update of the Four-Stage QA Process Guidelines in August 2014.

Around the World

Asia Pacific

- The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2016 Conference and AGM will be held in Natadola, Fiji on 26-27 May, 2016. APQN is now calling for contributions for its 2016 Conference themed "Sustainable Development of Quality Assurance in Higher Education". For more details, please visit the [APQN website](#).

Australia

- Mr Anthony McClaran, the former Chief Executive of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in the UK, has joined the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), Australia, as its new Chief Executive. Mr McClaran took up his post at TEQSA on 12 October 2015.

Europe

- The European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education has released a new study on the Internationalisation of Higher Education within the European context. The study puts forth conclusions and recommendations on the future of Internationalization of Higher Education in Europe. View the report [here](#).
- The second edition of the European Tertiary Education Register (ETER) was published on 3 July 2015. ETER provides detailed data on 2,293 higher education institutions hosting more than 17 million students. Covering 31 European countries, the data includes university size, number and gender of students and staff, subject areas and degree levels, as well as information about research, international students and staff, and funding. Click [here](#) to view the second edition of ETER.
- The European Commission has announced a sharpened set of priorities for European cooperation in education and training. Click [here](#) to view more details from the draft Education and Training 2020 Joint Report.

Ireland

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) publishes an interactive Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and European Qualifications Framework (EQF) diagrams. Learn more about the EQF and QF- European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and view the interactive diagrams [here](#).

Malaysia

- The Malaysian Government has launched the Malaysia Education (Higher Education) Blueprint 2015-2025. Click [here](#) to view the blueprint.

Japan

- Pursuant to the Act to Partially Amend the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation Law, a new institution will be established on 1 April 2016 by merger of National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE) and the Center for National University Finance and Management (CUFM).

UK

- The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) has published a report titled "Over-Qualification and Skills Mismatch in the Graduate Labour Market". The report compares the rapid expansion of the UK higher education sector to the much slower growth of the high-skilled labour market, and warns of the mismatch as a threat to the UK economy. Click [here](#) to download the report.

USA

- The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) International Quality Group (CIQG) has released the CIQG International Quality Principles. Click [here](#) to view the principles.
- CHEA/CIQG Publication Series: *The Internationalization of Chinese Higher Education* by Deane Neubauer and Jianxin Zhang has been published. Click [here](#) to read the publication.

Upcoming Events

Annual Operators' Briefing

The Annual Operators' Briefing is one of the major initiatives taken by HKCAAVQ to strengthen communication with our stakeholders, it also provides an open platform for exchange of views on our services for continuous improvement. This year, the Briefing will be organised on 5 November 2015 at the HKFYG Auditorium, Quarry Bay.

Contact us

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