



香港學術評審局

HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR
ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION

HKCAA

ACCREDIT

NOTE

Chairman : Professor John C Y Leong, OBE, JP
Vice-Chairman : Mr Edmund K H Leung, OBE, JP
Executive Director : Miss W S Wong

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THE HKCAA CELEBRATES ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE : HKCAA TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Celebration! The HKCAA is delighted to enter into its Tenth Year birthday.

To celebrate such an important milestone of the HKCAA, a series of celebration activities have been organized.

A 10th Anniversary Dinner was hosted on 8 June 2000 at the Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong at which more than 60 guests attended including the past Council Chairman and members, the Secretary for Education and Manpower, government officials, legislative councillors, UGC Chairman, Council Chairman and senior academics of tertiary institutions, and prominent educationists.

A commemorative publication recording the major developments of the Council in the past ten years has been published and distributed to guests at the Council's 10th anniversary dinner and to other interested parties.

The Council was delighted to have received Congratulatory Messages from the Honourable Mr Tung Chee Hwa (Chief Executive, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region); the Honourable Mr Antony K C Leung (Chairman, Education Commission); Mr Joseph W P Wong (Secretary for Education and Manpower); Mrs Fanny Law (Secretary for Education and Manpower, Designate); Dr Alice Lam (Chairman, University Grants Committee); Dr Andrew S L Chuang (former HKCAA Chairman); Dr David Bethel (HKCAA Founder Chairman); 初志農教授(中央人民政府駐香港特別行政區聯絡辦公室教育科技部部長); 劉炳琦先生(陝西省教育委員會主任); 顧明遠教授(中國高等教育評估研究會理事長); 許寶元先生(上海高等教育評估事務所所長) which we are reproducing here with their permission. The Editorial team of the Accredited Note is deeply grateful to them.

Council members, despite their busy working schedules, have also taken time to write special commemorative articles and calligraphy for this edition of the Accredited Note.

On reflection, the HKCAA has been the pioneer in promoting and upholding the spirit of quality assurance in higher education in Hong Kong and we are proud of our achievements in these years. In this commemorative tenth year, the Editorial team would like to take this opportunity to share with the readers some of the major HKCAA events in the past ten years.

Our Council will pledge to devote its energy towards the further promotion of the quality of education in Hong Kong and continue to act as the gatekeeper of quality assurance. In so doing we shall uphold our principles of independence, professionalism, and fairness, and will

ensure that there is no compromise made on quality.



The HKCAA Tenth Anniversary Dinner Opening Ceremony

In addition, a 10th anniversary scholarly work on Quality Assurance is being planned for. The book will focus on quality assurance developments in major countries including developments in Hong Kong.

Professor John C Y Leong, OBE, JP
Chairman, HKCAA





From left : Dr Andrew Chuang (former HKCAA Chairman), Dr Alice Lam (UGC Chairman), Mr Joseph Wong (Secretary for Education and Manpower), Professor John Leong (HKCAA Chairman) and Dr The Honourable T L Yang.



Cake cutting by Council Chairman Professor John Leong, Secretary for Education and Manpower Mr Joseph Wong, former Council Chairman Dr Andrew Chuang and Council Vice Chairman Mr Edmund Leung



Address by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph Wong at the Council's 10th Anniversary Dinner



The HKCAA Chairman Professor John Leong and the UGC Chairman Dr Alice Lam



The Council's Tenth Anniversary Celebration Event



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES



香港學術評審局自一九九零年成立以來，一直不遺餘力，推動本港高等教育的發展，所發揮的作用，舉足輕重。過去十年，有五所頒授學位的院校建立起完善的校內質素保證機制，得以升格為大學。香港學術評審局以服務為本，專業為尚，致力履行其法定職能，成為高等教育界的質素保證機構，負責評審學位課程，確保該等

課程達到國際水準，並就非本地高等教育和專業課程的質素，以及海外學歷水平，向政府提供寶貴意見。

優質教育是本港前途之所繫。我們必須確保本港的教育質素卓越，符合國際水準，這樣才可培育優秀人才和保持競爭力。我深信香港學術評審局會繼續善用其專業知識，透過國際聯繫網絡，竭力推廣優質教育。

十載耕耘，成績有目共睹。欣逢香港學術評審局十周年誌慶，我謹向過去十年曾作出貢獻的各界人士致以謝忱，並衷心祝願香港學術評審局繼往開來，再創佳績。

董建華

董建華
香港特別行政區
行政長官



世界瞬息萬變，知識亦然。為了裝備自己以迎接新挑戰，我們必需不斷學習新的知識，以確保我們能夠追上時代的步伐。

教育統籌委員會一向積極推廣多元化的專上教育，藉以提供不同的學習機會，讓社會人士因應自己的需要及能力，選擇合適的課程。為了實踐這個目標，我們必須制

定有關的品質保證機制，以評估及監察各院校的表現，並為學生們所學習到的知識及達到的成果，作出認可。

香港學術評審局在過去十年以來也熱心於從事香港教育有關品質保證方面的推廣工作。評審局亦會就香港各高等院校所舉辦的學位課程的學術水平以及一般與教育水平及質素有關的事宜，提供寶貴的意見。欣逢評審局十週年紀念之際，我衷心感謝貴局過去在推廣，保障及增益教育質素各方面所作出的貢獻；我亦期待貴局能夠繼續支持本港學術認可及優質教育的發展。

梁錦松

梁錦松
教育統籌委員會主席

Since its establishment in 1990, the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation has played a pivotal role in the advancement of higher education in Hong Kong. Five degree-awarding institutions have built up sound internal quality assurance mechanisms and attained university status over the last decade. With professionalism and dedication, the Council performs its statutory function as a quality assurance agency in the higher education sector through validating degree programmes to ensure that they achieve international standards. Its advice on the quality of non-local higher education and professional courses and the standard of qualifications worldwide are also highly valued by the government.

Quality education is the key to the future of Hong Kong. Ensuring the standard and international comparability of education is imperative to the competitiveness and excellence of our human resources. I am confident that the Council will continue to commit to promoting quality education with its expertise and through its international network.

My appreciation goes to all those who have contributed towards its impressive accomplishments. On the occasion of its 10th Anniversary, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Council and wish it continued success in the years ahead.

董建華

The Honourable Tung Chee Hwa
Chief Executive
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

The world is changing at a rapid pace, and so is knowledge. To prepare us for new challenges, we must constantly keep ourselves up-to-date through the pursuit of new knowledge.

The Education Commission has endeavoured to promote the diversity of post-secondary education, which would provide learning opportunities to people pertinent to their needs and abilities. To make this possible, we must put in place quality assurance mechanisms to evaluate and monitor the performance of institutions, as well as to accredit students with what they have learned and achieved.

The Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation has worked enthusiastically in the past ten years for the promotion of quality assurance in education in Hong Kong. It has played a significant role in giving advice on the academic standards of degree programmes in higher education institutions in Hong Kong and on educational standards and qualifications in general. At its tenth anniversary, I thank the Council for its past contributions to the promotion, enhancement and maintenance of quality in education, and I look forward to the continued support of the Council on the development of accreditation and quality education in Hong Kong.

梁錦松

The Honourable Antony K C Leung, GBS, JP
Chairman
Education Commission



過去十年，香港學術評審局致力提高本港高等教育的水平，成就卓越，建樹良多，我謹衷心致賀。

本港的高等教育院校在過去十年不斷改革，力求進步，期間有兩所院校相繼成立，另有五所院校升格為大學。香港學術評審局匯集了多位國際學術專家的力量，與這些院校緊密合作，建立質素

保證文化，又以獨立法定組織的身份，就學術資格及教育水平等事宜，向政府提供意見；在推廣和維持本港優質教育方面，貢獻至巨。

現時，全面檢討本港教育制度的工作正進行得如火如荼。我相信學術評審局的專業意見和支持，對於建立一個重視和推動質素保證的教育制度，定必大有裨益。

香港學術評審局多年來所取得的驕人成就，全賴該局各成員和全體職員努力不懈，克盡厥職。我謹藉此機會向他們衷心致意，並祝願該局百尺竿頭，續創佳績。

王永平

王永平
教育統籌局局長
二零零零年六月三十日

I congratulate the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation on its achievements over the past 10 years.

The last decade marked the establishment of two new tertiary institutions and the transformation of five tertiary institutions into universities. The Council, bringing together international experts in the academia, has worked closely with these institutions and helped inculcate a culture of quality assurance. As an independent statutory body, the Council also provides professional advice to the Government and the public on academic qualifications and educational standards. The Council's contribution is most valuable in promoting and upholding quality education in Hong Kong.

As the comprehensive review of the education system is well under way, I believe that the professional advice and support from the Council will help build up a system which values and promotes quality assurance in education.

The achievements of the Council in the past years could not have been accomplished without the dedication of the Council members and the staff. I wish to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and to extend my best wishes to the Council in its future endeavours.

Mr Joseph W P Wong, GBS, JP

Mr Joseph W P Wong, GBS, JP
Secretary for Education and Manpower
30 June 2000



香港學術評審局一九九零年成立以來，一直擔負確保本港高等教育體系的質素及評審非本地學歷的重任。香港的未來發展，則取決於本地人才的質素。

在今日以知識為本的社會，終身學習已是大勢所趨。因此，大眾對教育的需求將日益增加，學習機會也隨著資訊科技被廣泛應用而激增。

不少本地及海外教育機構現時均致力發展網上教育課程。作為質素保證機構，香港學術評審局將肩負保障學生和僱主利益的使命，從而須面對很多新的挑戰。

過去十年來，香港學術評審局歷任及現任委員均作出不少貢獻，成績斐然。本人謹此衷心祝賀該局未來更上一層樓，續創佳績。

羅范椒芬

羅范椒芬
教育署署長
二零零零年五月三十一日

Since its establishment in 1990, the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA) has played an important role in assuring the quality of our higher education system and non-local qualifications. The quality of our people determines the future of Hong Kong.

In a knowledge-based economy, lifelong learning is the norm. The demand for education will increase. With information technology, the opportunities for learning will also increase exponentially, as education providers both locally and around the world work through the cyberspace. The HKCAA will face new challenges as the quality assurance agency to safeguard the interests of students and employers.

I congratulate past and present Members and staff of the HKCAA on their achievements over the years and wish them continued success in the years to come.

Mrs Fanny Law, JP

Mrs Fanny Law, JP
Director of Education
31 May 2000



今天是香港學術評審局成立的十周年紀念，我在此謹代表大學教育資助委員會(教資會)向香港學術評審局致以熱烈的祝賀。

在過去十年間，香港學術評審局一直與教資會緊密合作，協助為尚未獲取自行評審資格的受教資會資助院校進行學位課程評審，和在這方面提供專業意見。香港學

術評審局就如何評審學位課程所給予的意見對前香港理工學院、前香港城市理工學院和前香港浸會學院在一九九三年，以及前嶺南學院在一九九九年取得自行評審資格有很大的幫助。目前評審局仍然繼續就香港教育學院的學術發展及學位課程的評審工作為教資會提供顧問意見。

另外，我謹藉此機會表揚香港學術評審局為成立高等教育質素保證機構國際網絡而作出的寶貴貢獻。教資會作為網絡的成員之一，深感到這個於一九九一年七月成立的組織確實有助促進國際教育界在高等教育質素保證方面的交流和瞭解。

自成立以來，香港學術評審局在香港專上教育的發展和成長過程中擔當了重要的角色。憑著其深厚的根基、領導層的使命感，以及全體人員的竭誠投入，我深信評審局一定能夠，並將繼續在本港高等教育的發展和質素保證方面扮演重要的角色。

林李翹如

林李翹如博士
教資會主席



On behalf of the University Grants Committee (UGC), I should like to extend heartiest congratulations to the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA) on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its establishment.

The HKCAA has worked closely with the UGC throughout the past decade, providing expert advice and assistance in the accreditation of degree programmes during the development phases of several of the UGC-funded institutions. The Council's advice has also played an important role in the achievement of self-accrediting status by the then Hong Kong Polytechnic, City Polytechnic of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Baptist University in 1993, and by the then Lingnan College in 1999. The Council continues to provide advice to the UGC on matters relating to the academic development and accreditation of degree programmes at the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

I should also like to recognize the important contribution made by the HKCAA in establishing the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education in July 1991. This network, of which the UGC is also a member, has helped significantly to develop international communication and understanding on issues relating to quality assurance in higher education.

The HKCAA has played an important part in the development and growth of Hong Kong's tertiary education sector in the past decade. With its vision, dedication and strong foundation, I am sure the Council can and will continue to play an important role in the development and quality assurance of the sector in the future.

Alice

Dr Alice Lam, JP
Chairman
University Grants Committee



In line with international accepted practice, the Hong Kong Government saw the need of, and set up by statute, an independent body to ensure quality assurance in post-secondary and higher education in 1990. The Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation thus came into being.

To ensure international benchmarking, and a broad local perspective both inside and outside of academia, the Council membership comprises 7 non-local members who are experts in quality assurance in higher education, 7 academics from local institutions of higher education, and 7 non-academic people of accomplishment from diverse walks of life in Hong Kong.

The HKCAA is proud of its many aspects of work in quality assurance in the last 10 years. Through its work of institutional reviews and programme validations it has helped several higher-education institutions to attain self-accrediting status. Through its work in validating overseas qualifications of applicants for employment in the civil service, it helps to ensure a high quality of civil servants at the point of entry. Through its work on advising the Registrar of Non-local Courses on comparability of non-local courses with their home courses, it has contributed

a significant measure of consumer protection for Hong Kong citizens who pursue such education. Through its spearheading the formation of the International Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, and its participation in many activities world-wide, it has ensured that the international community is aware of Hong Kong's strife for international benchmarking.

The HKCAA would not have been able to perform its functions satisfactorily if it were not for the continuing support of the Education and Manpower Bureau, the Civil Service Bureau, the Education Department, the University Grants Committee, the Tertiary and Post-Secondary Education Institutions, and our large panel of local and overseas experts in quality assurance. On this auspicious occasion, the Council wishes to convey our heartfelt thanks to all of them.

The Education Commission has recently recommended major changes in the modes of the education processes, as well as the types of post-secondary education institutions. The HKCAA is poised to contribute towards quality assurance in these new endeavours, if requested to do so.

Professor John C Y Leong

Professor John C Y Leong, OBE, JP
Chairman
HKCAA



As the former chairman of the Council, it gives me great pleasure to write on the occasion of its tenth Anniversary. The establishment of the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation in 1990 was an important milestone in the development of higher education in Hong Kong, signifying the importance

attached by the Government to the quality of higher education, and at the same time the entry of Hong Kong into the world academic community which was increasingly focusing attention on issues of quality assurance. Indeed, Hong Kong was at the forefront of development, as the HKCAA was quick to realise the need for global cooperation, and set in motion the establishment of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education in 1991.

Having been appointed as a member of the HKCAA in 1990, and then as Chairman in 1992, I am privileged to have worked with the Council during a very eventful nine years - which witnessed a vast expansion in Hong Kong's tertiary education, and in the number of new degree-awarding institutions, the self accreditation of some of the institutions the Council has worked with, and also the extension of

quality control into non-local courses. During this time the Council's role evolved and expanded.

The establishment of the HKCAA changed the scene of quality assurance in Hong Kong. The community came to realise the worth and the need for an independent organisation which can provide professional service and advice on educational standards. The Council came to be accepted as an advisor and resource to the local academic community, to the Government, employers, and students. The principles of professionalism and independence are central to the work of the Council and these are also its hallmark of quality.

The HKCAA has undergone much change in its work within its first ten years. It is heartening to witness the growth of an organisation, to see it meet its challenges and prosper. I am proud and honoured to have been associated with the first nine years of the Council's growth. With the current emphasis of the Government on education reforms and on the quality of education, the Council should have an important role to play. I am confident that there is much greater development awaiting the Council in the years to come and I wish it much success.

Dr Andrew S L Chuang, SBS, JP
HKCAA Chairman, 1992-1999



During a meeting of the UPGC (University & Polytechnic Grants Committee) in 1985, the then Chairman, Justice the Hon. T L Yang, invited me to chair a new Committee to plan the formation of an academic quality control body for Hong Kong's non-university tertiary institutions, to detail its objectives and procedures.

Having been a member and chairman of several of the UK's Council for Academic Awards committees, I was pleased to be able to bring my experience to Hong Kong's institutions.

The next two years were spent in planning. With the Secretary, Dr Iris Budge-Reid, and colleagues we visited Canada and the USA to examine how academic standards were achieved there as we were keen not to import U.K. practice alone, but to ensure that we would recommend procedures that would be acceptable internationally.

In 1987, the Planning Committee was dissolved and a Provisional HKCAA was created by Ordinance with me as Chairman. By 1989 the full Council was appointed and began its work.

I was anxious that the Council understood the language

problems of students. Most were Cantonese-speaking yet the language of instruction was English. For this reason I recommended that Government appointed to the Council distinguished academics from Canada (French/English speaking), Belgium (Flemish/French speaking) and a South African (Africans/English speaking). Whilst English was the world language of trade, commerce and science, it was important that Cantonese-speaking students were not disadvantaged.

The Council's prime roles were two-fold: to arrange institutional reviews to establish whether institutions, if recognised, could maintain international standards for its degrees and post-graduate awards, and secondly, to make recommendations to the UPGC on individual degree course applications. For both roles we built up a register of international academics expert in disciplines and formed visiting panels from this list.

It would appear that our work was successful in establishing a culture of the maintenance of high academic standards and I am delighted that, ten years on, whilst the role of the Council has developed, it is still providing a valuable service to Hong Kong.

Dr David Bethel, CBE
Founder Chairman, HKCAA (1990 - 1992)



世紀龍年，萬象更新，香港學術評審局喜迎十周年誕日。為此，我和教科部全體同仁，謹對貴局成立十周年表示熱烈祝賀！

十年來，香港學術評審局通過不懈努力，在發展香港教育事業，提高教育質量等方面做了大量有益的工作，取得良好成效。貴局長期與我部合作，相互支持，為促進祖國內地與香港的教育科技交流和增進相互了解作出了貢獻。

我相信並衷心祝願香港學術評審局事業更加輝煌，並希望今後與貴局合作更加密切，為內地和香港的繁榮，共創未來。

初志農

初志農教授
中央人民政府駐香港特別行政區
聯絡辦公室教科部部長



欣聞貴局舉行成立十周年誌慶，在此，我謹代表陝西省教育委員會，並以我個人名義，向貴局表示熱烈的祝賀！貴局自成立以來，與我省教委進行過多次友好、愉快的交流與合作，增進了相互間的了解和友誼，為繁榮秦港兩地的教育事業作出了不懈努力。真誠地希望我們雙方

今後進一步加強交流與合作，共同為促進祖國教育事業的發展作出新的貢獻。

祝願貴局事業發展蒸蒸日上，再創輝煌！

劉炳琦

劉炳琦
陝西省教育委員會主任



值此貴局成立十周年喜慶之際，我謹代表中國高等教育評估研究會向你們表示熱烈的祝賀。香港學術評審局十年來為保障香港高等教育的學術質量，推進香港高等教育的發展作出了重大貢獻。你們的經驗值得我們學習和借鑒。

中國高等教育評估研究會和香港學術評審局有著長期合作交流的關係。我們曾經合作召開了第一屆高等教育評估國際研討會並獲得很大成功。相信我們今後的合作和交流將進一步加強。我祝貴局取得更大的成就。

顧明遠

顧明遠教授
中國高等教育評估研究會理事長



值此貴局十周年誌慶，我謹代表上海高等教育評估事務所表示熱烈祝賀！

貴局成立以來，為發展香港高等教育；為推進香港高等院校教學質量保證體系的建設；為加強高等教育評估的國際交流和合作做出了積極的貢獻，取得了引人注目的成果。十年創業，可喜可賀！

我所從建立起就得到貴局的支持和幫助，貴局的經驗為上海高等教育評估提供了寶貴的借鑒。我們深信，滬港兩地高等教育的發展，為鞏固和發展我們彼此間已建立的伙伴合作關係提供了廣闊的前景，願我們為增進滬港二地高等教育評估事業而共同努力，再結新果！

許寶元

許寶元
上海高等教育評估事務所所長

HKSAR HONOURS LIST

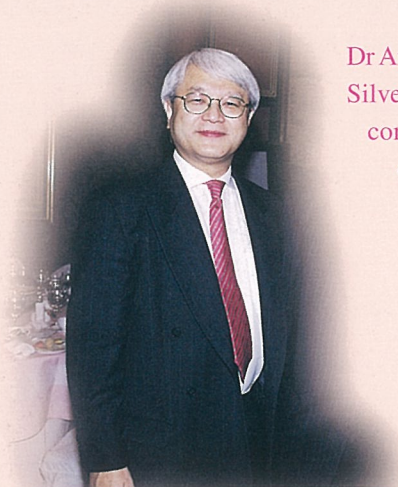
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Honours List:

Dr Andrew S L Chuang, SBS, JP and

Dr Eddy Li Sau Hung, BBS

The Council is delighted that the former HKCAA Chairman Dr Andrew S L Chuang and present member Dr Eddy Li Sau Hung have been honoured in the HKSAR's third Anniversary.

Congratulations to Dr Chuang and Dr Li.



Dr Andrew S L Chuang was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star for his significant contribution to the quality assurance of higher education.



Dr Eddy Li Sau Hung received the Bronze Bauhinia Star for his significant achievements in the development of trade and in promoting trade ties with the Mainland.



Professor Y K Fan, Council member, was named Justice of the Peace in July 2000. Congratulations to Professor Fan.

CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE HKCAA

- 1990
- Founding of the HKCAA
 - Appointment of Dr David Bethel as first Chairman of HKCAA
 - Institutional Reviews for Hong Kong Baptist College, Lingnan College and the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong
 - The first programme validations at the City Polytechnic of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist College, Hong Kong Polytechnic and Lingnan College



HKCAA delegation visiting the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council in 1992.



Group photo of the International Conference on Quality Assurance and Evaluation in Higher Education in Beijing (1996).

- 1991 • Hosting the first International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education
- The first Institutional Review and programme validation for the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
- Forming of the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)
- 1992 • Dr Andrew S L Chuang appointed as Chairman of the HKCAA
- HKCAA delegation to State Education Commission, the Hong Kong & Macau Affairs Office, and higher education institutions in the PRC

- The first publication of the 'QA', newsletter for INQAAHE
- Publication of *Quality Assurance in Higher Education*

- 1993 • Consultancy study for the proposed Hong Kong Institute of Education
- Consultancy service provided to the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on the accreditation of engineering degree programmes.
- HKCAA delegation to the Ministry of Education and higher education institutions in Taiwan



Signing of the Intent of Cooperation with the Shanghai Institute of Higher Education Evaluation, 1996

- 1994 • Publication of the first edition of *Academic Programmes Guide*
- Co-sponsor of the Sixth International Conference on Assessing Quality in Higher Education in Hong Kong.

- 1995 • The first Institutional Review and programme validation for the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

- 1996 • Second HKCAA delegation to the State Education Commission, the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, and higher education institutions in the PRC

- Assessment service to the Hong Kong Institute of Company Secretaries on its professional examinations
- Co-organizing the International Conference on Quality Assurance and Evaluation in Higher Education in Beijing.
- Signing of the Memorandum of Mutual Cooperation with Shaanxi Education Commission



HKCAA Executive Director, Secretary for Education and Manpower and Director of Education at a press conference announcing the implementation of the Non-local Higher and Professional Education Ordinance (1997).

- Signing of the Intent of Cooperation with Shanghai Institute of Higher Education
- The first Institutional Review for Hong Kong Shue Yan College
- HKCAA recommended self accreditation status for the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong

- 1997
- International comparative study in Veterinary Medicine (Mainland China, Taiwan, China, UK, US)
 - HKCAA appointed as advisor to the Registrar of Non-local Courses after the enactment of the Non-local Higher Professional Education (Regulation) Ordinance.
 - Establishment of Committee on Non-local Courses.

- 1998
- Joint publication with Shaanxi Commission of Education and Xian Jiaotong University of *Glossary of Terms Used in Higher Education and Quality Assurance in Mainland China and Hong Kong*

- 1999
- Establishment of Committee on Qualifications
 - The Executive Director was elected a Board member of INQAAHE



The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph Wong welcomed by the HKCAA Executive Director, Miss W S Wong at the Council's 10th Anniversary Dinner



Members of HKCAA study panel in discussion with the academic staff of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge in 1998.



HKCAA Institutional Review visit to the Caritas Francis Hsu College in March 2000.

- Publication of the second edition of Academic Programmes Guide.
- Establishment of Organizing Committee for 10th Anniversary International Conference
- Professor John C Y Leong appointed as Chairman of the HKCAA

- 2000
- 10th Anniversary of the Council
 - The first Institutional Review and programme validation for Caritas Francis Hsu College
 - International Conference "New Millennium: Quality & Innovations in Higher Education" (to be held in December 2000)

SOME IMPORTANT ACCREDITATION WORK

Throughout the past decade, the HKCAA has been working closely with higher education institutions in Hong Kong in providing expert advice through accrediting the institutions and their degree programmes. The table below illustrates the number of institutional reviews, validations and revalidations conducted by the HKCAA at the local institutions from 1990 to the present.

<i>A Summary of the Number of Institutional Reviews and Course Validations Conducted by the HKCAA at the Local Higher Education Institutions, 1990-Present</i>					
Institution	Total no. of institutional review	Year of first institutional review conducted by HKCAA	Total no. of validation & revalidation	Year of the first validation	Year of Acquiring Self- accreditation Status
Hong Kong Polytechnic	—	—	50	1990	1993
City Polytechnic of Hong Kong	—	—	35	1990	1993
Hong Kong Baptist College	1	1990	12	1990	1993
Lingnan College	1	1990	18	1990	1998
Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong	3	1990	5	1992	1996
Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts	2	1991	13	1991	—
Colleges of Education	1	1994	—	—	—
Hong Kong Institute of Education	2	1995	11	1995	—
Hong Kong Shue Yan College	1	1996	—	—	—
Caritas Francis Hsu College	1	2000	2	2000	—
TOTAL	12	—	146	—	—

ACCREDITATION NEWS

Hong Kong Institute of Education

Validation of 4-year full-time Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Secondary)

In January 2000 the Council validated the 4-year full-time Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Secondary) programme of the Institute. The programme is designed to provide teacher training to Secondary 7 graduates who wish to become teachers. The programme was approved for four student intakes from 2000/2001 to 2003/2004.

Validation of 2-year part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary)

In February 2000 the Council also validated the 2-year part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) programme, which is designed to provide teacher training to untrained graduate teachers in secondary schools. The programme was approved for three student intakes from 2000/2001 to 2002/2003.



The HKCAA validation panel of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) Programme and the HKIEd senior management pictured at a visit to the HKIEd in February 2000.

Validation of 3-year mixed mode Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Primary)

In May 2000 the Council validated the 3-year mixed mode Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Primary) programme, which is a new top-up programme for holders of the Certificate in Education (Primary). The programme was approved for four student intakes from 2000/2001 to 2003/2004.

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Revalidation of the 3-year full-time Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours)

In March 2000 the Council revalidated the 3-year full-time Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) programme of the Academy. The two major studies in Chinese Dance and Modern Dance of the programme were approved for six student intakes from 2000/2001 to 2005/2006. The Ballet major which has been approved for the period of 1998/1999-2003/2004, was also approved for two further student intakes, i.e. until 2005/2006. The revalidation of the three majors will be conducted together after the current period of approval.

Validation of 3-year full-time Bachelor of Music (Honours)

In March 2000 the Council revalidated the 3-year full-time Bachelor of Music (Honours) programme for six further student intakes from 2000/2001 to 2005/2006.

ASSESSMENT OF NON-LOCAL COURSES

The Council continues with its work as the advisor to the Registrar of Non-local Higher and Professional Education Courses. During the past few months, apart from the assessment of new courses, the majority of the Council's work is on the assessment of annual returns submitted for registered courses, based on the vetting procedures as approved by the Council.

The Standing Committee on Non-local Courses has also made a crude estimate of the total course fees received by non-local course operators, based on information extracted from 180 course annual returns so far processed by the Council. The calculation reflects that the estimated

annual income for the 324 registered non-local courses so far processed by the Council is about \$637 million. This, however, has not included course fees spent on non-local courses offered in collaboration with local higher education institutions which are exempted from the registration process under the Ordinance.

The huge sum of money invested by students in the pursuit of non-local courses as reflected in this study has reaffirmed the importance reiterated by the Council for greater control on the quality of these courses to safeguard the interests of local education consumers.

QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT

The Standing Committee on Qualifications met twice in the last six months. Among some of the qualifications issues discussed, the establishment of a qualifications framework has been a major theme in these two Committee meetings. Indeed, the Council has proposed a qualifications framework for the local education sector for the consideration of the Government.

One of the meetings was partly attended by Ms Michelle Li, Principal Assistant Secretary of the Education and

Manpower Bureau in which qualification issues were discussed.

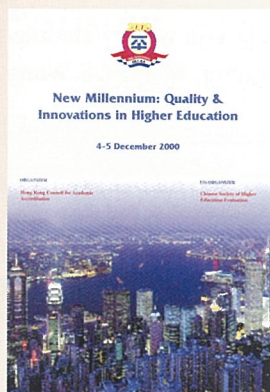
The demand for the Council's qualification assessment service had increased 20% in this six-month period as compared to the last period. Both individual assessment cases, and cases from the Civil Service Bureau have increased. Again, the majority of the assessment cases involved qualifications from Mainland China; Australia; Taiwan, China; and the UK.

LANGUAGE BENCHMARK TRAINING COURSES

The HKCAA has recently been involved in the development of language benchmark training courses for serving teachers of English and Putonghua in primary and secondary schools. The courses provide one of the two avenues open to serving teachers to attain language benchmarks announced by the Government in April 2000. The exact role played by the HKCAA in the quality assurance of the training courses has yet to be confirmed with the Hong Kong SAR Government. The other avenue

is the Language Benchmark Examination jointly administered by the Hong Kong Examinations Authority and Education Department. The benchmarks are intended to be the minimum acceptable language proficiency standards for a teacher to teach the language concerned in the local context (i.e. teaching local students following the local curriculum). Under the language benchmark policy, all serving language teachers will have to meet the relevant language benchmarks by 2005.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



We are pleased to have the honour of the presence of Mr Antony K C Leung, Chairman of the Education Commission to speak at the Conference Dinner on 4 December 2000. The Conference Dinner is a part of an International Conference to be held by the HKCAA on 4-5 December 2000 at the Sheraton Hong

Kong Hotel. The Conference, entitled *Quality & Innovations in Higher Education*, is one significant event of the HKCAA to celebrate its 10th anniversary, and more importantly to fulfil part of its statutory role to promote good practices of academic accreditation and quality assurance, and to assist in maintaining and monitoring academic standards. Details are available in the previous issue of *Accredit Note* and the HKCAA site (<http://www.hkcaa.edu.hk/announ.html>). Although the deadline for the submission of paper proposals for the parallel sessions has passed, however, to encourage more academics to share their experiences in quality and innovations in higher

education with their peers from different parts of the world, submissions of proposals for the poster sessions are still welcome. The registration fee for participants is HK\$3,000/US\$400.

Lastly, we are still looking forward to more sponsorship, which might be addressed to the Conference as a whole, particular items of the Conference, or the sponsorship of delegates from particular institutions/countries. Inquiries concerning the Conference should be directed to the Conference Secretariat:

Conference Secretariat

c/o Ms Eva Lai
Swire Travel Ltd
18/F, Devon House
Taikoo Place
979 King's Road
Hong Kong
Tel : (852) 2579 6824
Fax : (852) 2590 0099
Email : hkchina@swiretravel.com

VISITS TO THE HKCAA

Edexcel

The HKCAA Executive Director Ms W S Wong and Assistant Registrar, Dr Marina Wong met with the representatives of Edexcel Mr John Kerr, Director and Mr John Black, Manager, Compliance and Regulation Unit on 17 March 2000. The Edexcel is the third largest organization in UK which awards qualifications including A-level, GCSE, HD, and HND covering over 1,100 subject areas.

During the visit, the Director of Edexcel Mr John Kerr expressed an interest in knowing the work of HKCAA as well as the procedures for non-local institutions to conduct courses in Hong Kong. The Non-local Higher and Professional Education (Regulation) Ordinance was explained to the visitors together with the assessment procedures of non-local courses.

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

Mr David Buckingham and Ms Nicola Channan of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom, visited the HKCAA on 29 March 2000. The visitors were met by the HKCAA Executive Director and were given information about the current development of quality assurance in the higher education sectors in Hong Kong. The visitors were in particular interested in the HKCAA experience of assessing the non-local courses in Hong Kong, and informed the HKCAA of the role of the QAA in monitoring the UK's offshore courses.

Meeting with Visitors from Central Queensland University, Australia

The HKCAA was visited by Professor Lauchlan Chipman, Vice-Chancellor and President, and Ms Debbie Clayton, Dean of International Program

Central Queensland University on 24 March 2000. The purpose of the visit was to understand the HKCAA's role in the accreditation process, and to exchange ideas of quality assurance. During the

meeting, the HKCAA Executive Director provided an overview of quality assurance issues which non-local institutions needed to be aware of in offering programs in Hong Kong. In addition, general advice was given to Professor Chipman and Ms Clayton regarding their plans to offer distance programs in Hong Kong.



Visitors from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and the HKCAA Executive Director Miss W S Wong

It was also mentioned in the meeting that the HKCAA was prepared to consider conducting accreditation for non-local courses if requested. This would be a benchmarking exercise different from the registration process under the Ordinance.

Professor Chipman and Ms Clayton were welcomed by the HKCAA Executive Director, Miss W S Wong, and Registrar, Dr F Yuen.

Meeting with Visitors from the Australian Education International

The HKCAA was paid a visit by Ms Ivy Ngan, Director, Australian Education Centre and Mr Iain Watt, Counsellor (Education and Training) of Australian Education International on 8 June 2000. The visitors were provided with an overview of the work of the HKCAA specifically in relation to Qualification Assessment. During the meeting, the visitors were given an understanding of the (local) benchmarks used for assessing and comparing qualification from outside Hong Kong. The visitors were welcomed by the HKCAA Executive Director, Miss W S Wong and Registrar, Dr F Yuen.

COUNCIL MEETING

The Twenty-first Meeting of the HKCAA was held on 9 June 2000.

The Council received activity reports on accreditations conducted for the Caritas Francis Hsu College, the Hong Kong Institute of Education and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and a progress report on the planning of the validations of new degree programmes of the Shue Yan College.



The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph Wong (fifth from left), attending a Council meeting on 9 June 2000

At this meeting, the Council also discussed policy and

special issues on qualification assessments and reviewed our advisory role under the Non-local Higher and Professional Education (Regulation) Ordinance in respect of the assessment of non-local courses and the monitoring of conditions and of annual returns for these courses.

The meeting considered consultancy projects being proposed by Government bureaux and professional bodies. It also considered the Council's budgets and estimates for 2000/2001. Progress on the planning of the HKCAA International Conference was also reported at the meeting.

The Secretary for Education and Manpower Mr Joseph Wong attended part of the Council meeting and discussed the involvement of the HKCAA in a number of forthcoming projects. Mr Wong called upon the HKCAA to contribute towards the quality assurance of new educational initiatives in Hong Kong.

COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE HKCAA

Chairman

Professor John Leong Chi Yan, OBE, JP
Head
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
The University of Hong Kong

梁智仁教授 (local academic member)

Vice-Chairman

Mr Edmund Leung Kwong Ho, OBE, JP
Chairman
Hyder Consulting Limited

梁廣灝先生 (local non-academic member)

Non-local Academic Members

- Professor David Dunkerley
Professor & Head of Sociology
University of Glamorgan
UK
- Dr Judith S Eaton
President
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
USA

- Mrs Marie-Odile Ottenwaelter
Chargée de mission
Conférence des Directeurs d'IUFM
Maison des Universités
France
- Dr Christian Thune
Director
The Danish Institute of Evaluation
Denmark

- Professor Kwong Lee Dow
Deputy Vice Chancellor
The University of Melbourne
Australia

- Professor Xu Demin 徐德民教授
School of Marine Engineering
Northwestern Polytechnical University
PRC

Local Academic Members

- Professor Peter N Dobson, Jr 杜家磊教授
Associate Vice-President
for Academic Affairs
Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology
- Professor Fan Yiu Kwan, JP 范耀鈞教授
Dean, School of Business
Hong Kong Baptist University

- Dr Richard Ho Man Wui, JP 何文匯博士
Registrar
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Professor Wong Hoi Kwok, BBS, JP 王海國教授
Principal
College of Higher Vocational Studies
City University of Hong Kong
- Professor Danny Wong Shek Nam 黃錫楠教授
Vice President (Academic)
The Open University of Hong Kong

Local Non-Academic Members

- Mr Herbert Hui Ho Ming 許浩明先生
Managing Director
Sunevision Holdings Limited
- Dr Eddy Li Sau Hung, BBS 李秀恆博士
Managing Director
Campbell Timer Limited
- Mrs Elizabeth Li 李吳伊莉女士
Managing Consultant
Elizabeth Li Management Consultants Ltd

- Mr Martin Liao Cheung Kong 廖長江先生
Barrister-at-law
- Mr Raymond R Wong, SBS 黃應士先生
Assistant General Manager
Television Broadcasts Ltd
- Mr Roger Yuen Kwong Ming 袁光銘先生
Executive Director
The Hongkong Chinese Bank Ltd

Executive Director

- Miss Wong Wai Sum (Ex-Officio) 黃慧心女士

HKCAA Professional Staff

(as at 20 August, 2000)

Mr K S Chan	Registrar
Dr Rosanna Chan	Registrar
Mr Felix Leung	Registrar
Ms Connie Lok	Registrar
Dr Felix Yuen	Registrar
Mr Jordan Cheung	Assistant Registrar
Dr Marina Wong	Assistant Registrar
Mr Eric Yuon	Assistant Registrar



Toast by present and past Council members at the HKCAA Tenth Anniversary Dinner

Interview with Dr Andrew S L Chuang, SBS, JP, former Council Chairman 1992-1999



Dr Andrew Chuang was appointed as a member of the Council in 1990, the year when the HKCAA was formally set up by law. One year later, he was appointed as Vice-Chairman, and after a further year, in 1992, appointed as the Chairman of the HKCAA. Not only is he the longest serving chairman, he

has also been the longest serving member of the Council.

On the dawn of Dr Chuang receiving the Silver Bauhinia Star Honour, the editorial team took the opportunity to talk to Dr Chuang.

Reporter:

On behalf of all the staff of the HKCAA, congratulations to you for having been conferred the Silver Bauhinia Star honour by the HKSAR Government.

Dr Chuang:

I am much honoured and delighted to receive the award. In a way, the award is also a reflection of the government's recognition of the importance of HKCAA's contribution to the quality assurance of higher education. Since I have been associated with the work of the HKCAA for over nine years, this is particularly gratifying.

Reporter:

Indeed, you were the longest serving Council Chairman and have seen the changes that the HKCAA has gone through. Can you tell us something about the early days of the HKCAA?

Dr Chuang:

When the Council was set up by statute in 1990, it was meant to become the flag-bearer of academic quality in the territory. But a statutory instrument does not create instant recognition. It is only through hard work that the Council's role as the purveyor of quality in education is built up and its image as such comes to be recognized, by the academic community both local & overseas, by government, and by the community at large.

Starting in June 1990, the HKCAA took over the work of accreditation for degree programmes in the polytechnics and colleges in Hong Kong, which had formerly been performed for the Hong Kong Government

by the UK's Council for National Academic Awards. There was no local predecessor to the HKCAA, and being the only organization of its nature, the Council had to build up its own procedures and criteria for accreditation work, and there was little time to do this, for within months of its establishment, the Council began its accreditation activities in earnest. The initial estimate of the Council's work was to conduct about 14 accreditation exercises each year; its workload in the first year alone turned out to be 30 validations, and in subsequent years between 40 to 50 exercises. The Council's initial years coincided with a period of fast expansion in the tertiary sector.

These initial years have forced the HKCAA to grow up very fast. Assisted by the wisdom and experience of its international members on the Council, and the consultants on its Register of Subject Specialists, it has carried out its quality assurance work with confidence and with integrity, and with what I would regard as a high degree of professionalism.

Reporter:

Do you think the local community is aware of the services provided by the HKCAA?

Dr Chuang:

As you know, over the years, the Council has been approached by various government departments, organizations, and individuals, to provide advice and assessment on academic standards and qualifications, most of which relate to qualifications acquired outside Hong Kong. Such demand for our services had grown significantly over the years. The Council has also worked with other professional bodies in Hong Kong, sharing our experiences in accreditation and providing consultancy services as appropriate. Through the provision of impartial advice and expert service, not only has the Council established its quality maintenance role and reputation, but it has also helped to arouse and focus the attention of the community on issues of academic quality.

Reporter:

What leading quality assurance role does the HKCAA play on the international scene?

Dr Chuang:

In order to ensure that the standards applied are international comparable standards, the HKCAA has to keep abreast of developments in other places and to be in touch with educational institutions and accreditation authorities in other countries. I think the Council has

done quite well on these accounts, having established close relationships with its counterparts in the UK, the US, Canada, Australia, Mainland China and Taiwan, Korea, India, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, and others. In addition, one important milestone in its international work was the establishment of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education. The HKCAA should be credited for spearheading the movement towards an international assembly of quality assurance agencies.

Reporter:

As a question of interest, when 1997 saw the change in political sovereignty in Hong Kong, have you at that time pondered upon the impact of this change upon the role and future directions of the HKCAA?

Dr Chuang:

I recall as 1997 was approaching, many friends and colleagues asked about the future position of the HKCAA and whether there would be any changes brought about by the change in Government. When our Council sent a delegation to China in 1995, we already posed these questions to the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, whose officials gave a very positive reply and assured our Council and similar organisations playing an advisory role to Government of their continuation of present roles after 1997. Thus no major change in policy was foreseen either for the role or the

functions of the Council. I was pleased to see that this was indeed the case after the hand-over, and moreover, during the previous years of liaison with education authorities on the Mainland, I was heartened to find that the work of the Council is viewed positively by our counterparts on the Mainland.

Reporter:

One of the changes created by the

HKCAA was that institutions formerly accredited by the HKCAA developed their own quality assurance systems and that led to their eventual achievement of self-accrediting status. Do you think it is desirable for all institutions to be self-accrediting eventually?

Dr Chuang:

It is certainly desirable for institutions to develop their

capacity for monitoring the quality of their programmes. However, self-accreditation should not be regarded as the final stage of development whereby institutions are free from all forms of external scrutiny. It is important that there continues to be in place some form of external review, which is entirely independent of the institution itself. This will ensure there is external monitoring of the effectiveness of the institution in upholding quality. It also fulfils the need for accountability to stakeholders and to the community.

Reporter:

Do you imply that institutions should not be trusted to take care of their own quality?

Dr Chuang:

It is not a question of trust. External processes do ensure independence. They should also be seen as positive ways of providing feedback to the institution and providing assurances to the public.

Reporter:

How would you rate the situation pertaining to the quality assurance of education in Hong Kong?

Dr Chuang:

Hong Kong is still ahead of many places in the world in having set up a quality assurance body in the HKCAA, and in the development of internal quality assurance in the institutions. But there are still many gaps in the system, such as in the private education, post secondary and continuing education sectors. And there is as yet no comprehensive quality assurance for the whole education sector.

Reporter:

Is there any specific area where you wish greater control of quality could have been introduced?

Dr Chuang:

Personally, I feel the operation of non-local courses by overseas/non-local institutions still remains an area of concern, despite the introduction of legislation. There might be greater assurance of quality if some form of accreditation of these courses to meet local benchmarks can be introduced.

Reporter:

Do you feel that the role of the HKCAA has been well recognized?

Dr Chuang:

It is gratifying to find that there has been increasing recognition of the Council's role and the value of its services. However, there may still be some quarters in



academia or in society where there is mis-conception or mis-apprehension of the HKCAA's role, and where people still regard external scrutiny as an encroachment rather than as a positive asset, which is the way it should be viewed. At the same time, we mustn't forget that around the world external quality assurance bodies are not always accepted with open arms!

Reporter:

What do you see as the future task of the HKCAA?

Dr Chuang:

The Council is now privileged to be under the new leadership of its Chairman, Professor John Leong, who will no doubt take the HKCAA to a new era and new heights of achievement.

I believe the HKCAA will continue with its quality assurance role with those institutions for which the Council still has a statutory responsibility. More significantly, the Council might increasingly render its quality assurance services available to other sectors of the community, including the professions, government departments, new and developing tertiary institutions, and private organizations and individuals. I believe that knowledge about quality in education should not be the preserve of any one sector of the community alone, but should be available to the community at large. The resources and expertise residing in the Council are more fully utilized if the Council will continue to expand its services to the general public. In reflecting upon its role, I am convinced that this is the direction by way of which its mission might continue to unfold. I am confident that the HKCAA has an increasingly valuable role to play, in serving the community of Hong Kong and eventually the

bigger community of China.

Reporter:

How would you like to sum up the HKCAA's ten years of development?

Dr Chuang:

Ten years is not a very long time, but in terms of the fast pace of growth and change in Hong Kong, ten years can be a long time! In terms of the development and growth of the HKCAA, these ten years have been very fruitful years. The Council has grown from very small beginnings to maturity. It has undertaken what I believe is useful work for the higher education sector of Hong Kong and it has also undergone changes itself. We must of course not forget the original work of the Provisional Council

for Academic Accreditation and the Planning Committee for Academic Awards which paved the foundation for the HKCAA and the hard work of all the former and present HKCAA staff and Council members. Without them, the HKCAA would not have been able to grow from strength to strength in the ten years

after its formal establishment in June 1990.

Happy Tenth Year Anniversary - the HKCAA style!



COMMEMORATIVE ARTICLES FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Professor David Dunkerley*

University of Glamorgan, UK

My association with higher education in Hong Kong actually pre-dates the formation of the HKCAA a decade ago. Back in the 1980s I was rather heavily involved with the London-based Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) that had responsibility for the standards and the award of degrees outside of the university sector in the UK. The CNAA subsequently became obsolete when the UK polytechnics were designated universities with their own degree-awarding powers. The CNAA, in somewhat colonial style, was commissioned to extend its role to the Hong Kong polytechnics, the Baptist College and any other institutions offering or proposing to offer HE level work. As a member of the CNAA's Committee for Social Sciences and Vice-Chair of the Committee for Research, it was not long before I was

invited to participate in validation events in Hong Kong. This, of course, was at the time when the fledgling tertiary institutions were expanding at a prodigious rate both in terms of course provision and student numbers. As a member of a validation team I was able to visit both the polytechnics and the Baptist College.

Subsequently, the Provisional Council was established and, again, I became a regular although not very frequent visitor to Hong Kong institutions.

I was in Hong Kong during the first year of the HKCAA's existence on a memorable visit to the Hong Kong Polytechnic, looking at their programmes in social work and social welfare. It was memorable on two accounts:

first meeting the staff of the Council for the first time and, second, being in the privileged position as Chair of the event to congratulate the programme team on what the validation panel regarded as a world class programme.

I also feel enormously privileged to have been associated with Lingnan University. By happenstance, this association started from the very start of the former Lingnan College's application to offer undergraduate degrees. I chaired the original validation and subsequent review visits for their social science programmes and recall the conditions in which colleagues and students were working at the Stubbs Road site. I like to think that I have made something of a contribution to the spectacular growth of Lingnan and was enormously satisfied, as a member of the UGC accreditation visit in January 1999, to be able to recommend self-accreditation (and all that comes with it) to the UGC. I also recall that a member of my original



course validation team is now Lingnan's President.

In more recent times, as a Council member, I have seen the role of the Council itself change. Its earlier primary role has been somewhat superseded as the Hong Kong tertiary institutions have evolved into universities. But how significant it is that the Council has achieved such a high regard that Hong Kong government, private institutions and the public in general turn to HKCAA for advice and information on such a range of issues. At the same time it has established itself as a beacon on the global stage as witnessed by the innumerable invitations to participate in HE activities world-wide and to be used as a model in many other countries. To describe the first ten years of the HKCAA as spectacular is no hyperbole.

* Professor Dunkerley has been a member of the HKCAA since 1996.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF HKCAA

Professor Kwong Lee Dow*
Deputy Vice Chancellor, The University of Melbourne

Any review of the events and activities in the decade since the founding of HKCAA serves to demonstrate the rapidity and volatility of change and as well, the enduring strength of core values, in education in the 1990's.

Having evolved within the framework of the Council for National Academic Awards in the United Kingdom, our Council has changed its emphasis from preoccupation with accrediting institutions and courses, to quality assurance, as Professor Malcolm Frazer had early anticipated in his address to our first International Conference back in 1991. There he predicted the 1990's would become known as 'the decade of quality', saying "The maintenance and enhancement of quality, and attempts to define and measure quality, are now major issues for higher education in many countries".

For the students and for the economy of Hong Kong, our Council has grappled with the same major issues confronting educators elsewhere: to diversify the nature of expanded educational provision and offerings as more and more students seek education and training beyond secondary school. As we respond to the changing priorities of the economy and of global competition in

business, and respond also to the varied circumstances in knowledge and skill levels of entering students, how do we assure quality, excellence and integrity are maintained as we broaden our scope beyond the limited perspectives of standards from the traditional past?



In Hong Kong, where non-local institutions compete for students more than in most other parts of the world, the Council has recently been called on to benchmark the quality and credibility of courses on offer. An approach is now in place which could provide a valuable role model for other communities facing this challenge.

The need to sustain substantial and practical expertise to attest quality will remain in the foreseeable future. Irrespective of the structural framework, the expertise now built in HKCAA is a resource to be nurtured and extended in the next decade, as it has been in the last.

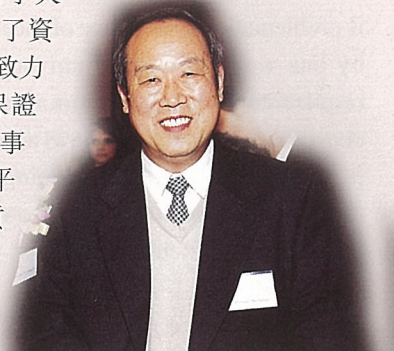
Congratulations to Hong Kong and to HKCAA on reaching this tenth anniversary with a powerful record of educational service and achievement.

* Professor Lee Dow has been appointed a member of the HKCAA since 1992.

任重道遠 再創輝煌

新千年伊始，迎來了香港學術評審局成立十周年誌慶，謹致以最熱烈的祝賀。

十年來，評審局發展迅速，業績卓著。對香港高等院校與學位課程進行了大量的評審工作，開展了資歷諮詢及評估服務，致力於師資培訓，質量保證等，為香港高等教育事業的發展和學術水平的提高作出了重大貢獻，聲望日益提升。



評審局積極開展國際交流活動，同近

二十個國家保持著緊密的聯繫，參與創建“高等教育質量保證機構國際網絡”，舉辦或參加國際學術會議和研討會，不僅增進了國際間的相互合作和瞭

解，而且也促使香港的學術水平在國際上獲得認可。

評審局十分重視與中國內地高等院校、有關政府部門和學術機構保持密切聯繫，並建立良好關係。特別是1997年香港回歸祖國後，這種良好關係得到進一步發展，交流與合作日益加強。兩地在頻繁的交往活動中，加深瞭解，相互促進，共同發展。

面向二十一世紀，高等教育快速發展，教育質素的監管和質量的保證尤為重要。展望評審局的未來，任重而道遠。衷心祝願香港學術評審局有更好的發展，再創更加輝煌的佳績，努力為香港高等教育事業的發展和質量的提高，為香港的繁榮昌盛作出更大的貢獻。

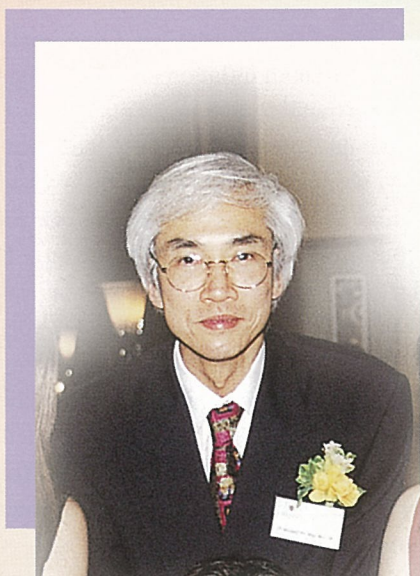
徐德民教授

西北工業大學

〔由1999年起委任為香港學術評審局成員〕

CALLIGRAPHY FROM DR RICHARD HO MAN WUI, COUNCIL MEMBER

Dr Richard Ho is currently the University's Registrar, Chinese University of Hong Kong and was appointed a member of the HKCAA in 1996. Dr Ho was formerly Professor in Chinese and a member of the Hong Kong Regional Council and was instrumental in the cultural development of the New Territories. He is also a veteran writer in Chinese Classics, poetry, and a well-known linguist of Chinese. His remarkable achievement in Chinese calligraphy is demonstrable.



IT'S A QUESTION OF BALANCE: RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS OF PROFESSOR HODSON IN ACCREDIT NOTE, ISSUE 20, MARCH 2000

Kim Watty, Senior Lecturer
RMIT University, Australia

Currently, the balance of staff engagement in university quality initiatives at the School Level is tilted toward notions of 'control and compliance'. The key reason for this is that control and compliance can be measured with objectives and, in many cases quantifiable performance indicators. On the other hand, 'quality enhancements and reflection upon best practice' is a more difficult concept to measure, because of uncertainty in relation to the appropriate performance indicators to specify. In the first instance, quality in relation to higher education is a term, which is not yet clearly defined and agreed upon by the key stakeholders in the process. Anecdotal evidence suggests disparity of interpretation between governments, university administrator, teaching academics and professional bodies. Second, encouraging reflection of best practice in an environment where staff feel

overwhelmed by control and compliance requirements is problematic. Experience of meetings being dominated by one-way delivery of university expectations and requirements is not uncommon. Opportunities for conversations about our role as academics and where best practice in teaching and learning and research may be identified and emulated in our own midst, however, are increasingly difficult to identify.

As academics, our role in shaping the future role of our universities is critical. It is important that we maintain an awareness of the potential critical changes that are occurring in our sector: many under the guise of 'quality'. To ignore these changes or to be selective in our knowledge of current policy as Professor Hodson suggests, may inevitably be at our own peril.

THE QUALITY PAPERCHASE - RESPONSE TO THE MARCH EDITION OF ACCREDIT NOTE (HODSON 2000)

Lisa Payne, School of Mathematical and Information Sciences
Coventry University, UK

In my University, I am involved in 'quality', working as Quality Co-ordinator in my particular subject group. My role is, in part, to ensure my colleagues undertake the necessary control, monitoring and reporting activities. Broadly speaking, they hate and resent it but we're getting good at it.

It is not seen as being adequate that we adopt 'best practice', that we are using whatever process or procedure - we must be able to prove that we do. At a Teaching Quality Assessment visit (TQA) we must be able to refute the allegation "You're just saying you do that. You don't really, do you?" The assessors are expecting to see proof of every aspect of operation. This has major impacts on day-to-day working that substantially increase the volume of paperwork.

For example, prior to their enrolment we give advice to students with Special Needs about the support we will give them. We keep a copy of that letter in the student's file. However to be able to prove this aspect of operation to assessors we'd need to keep a separate copy in a different file simply for the purpose of providing this proof. Now, if we could simply await a specific audit question from the assessors of "When did you confirm the support arrangements you'd provide for Fred Smith?" we could simply extract the copy from the student's file at that time.

As another example: a major element in our support of students is the operation of non-academic tutorials. How do you prove their operation to an assessor? A copy of the timetable doesn't prove that they happen. Maybe collated attendance lists would?

TQA is a process of peer assessment; selected staff go into other institutions to assess their provision. On the face of it that seems ideal - and indeed may be more effective than any of the alternatives I can envisage. However this leads to both inflation of expectations and an enhanced understanding of 'how to play the system'. Staff visit another institution and return to their own with 'shopping lists', seen as good practice, but over a very short space of time they become expectations. Of course, this can be quality enhancement in action. For a 'grassroots' lecturer though this can be seen as 'quality escalation' - the 'quality industry' gone mad. Professor Alison Wolf (THES 2000) puts this as a question as to whether this is the best use of academics' time. Since a group of universities in the UK recently estimated that each TQA visit costs its university £250,000 (c3.1m HK\$), mostly in the form of academics' time, you must have some sympathy with that view.

THES (2000), Trying to box clever, Times Higher Education Supplement, 31 March 2000

STAFF NEWS

In May, the Council said goodbye to Assistant Registrar, Dr Andrew Chan who returned to the United States.

In July, we welcomed two new Professional staff to our Council: Dr Rosanna Chan, Registrar, and Mr Eric Yuon, Assistant Registrar.

Dr Rosanna Chan holds degrees from University of Hawaii and Washington University. She served as Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences and Director of Student Affairs respectively from September 1990 to August 1999 at Lingnan University prior to her appointment with the Council.

Mr Eric Yuon holds degrees from the University of London, the University of Kent at Canterbury and the University of Hong Kong. Eric has taught in various

universities in Hong Kong. He has particular interests in youth development and gifted education in Hong Kong.

Mr Felix Leung, Registrar, has rejoined the Council since 8 August 2000 after his return from Australia.

The HKCAA appointed another Assistant Registrar Mr Jordan Cheung in August. Mr Cheung holds degrees from the University of Bristol, the University of Wolverhampton and the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. He has served in various educational institutions in Hong Kong and of particular research interest in civic education and curriculum implementation.

Dr Y K Mok, Registrar, left the service of the Council in August on completion of his employment contract.

Environmental

I do not wish to be sent any further Issues of the *Accredit Note*.

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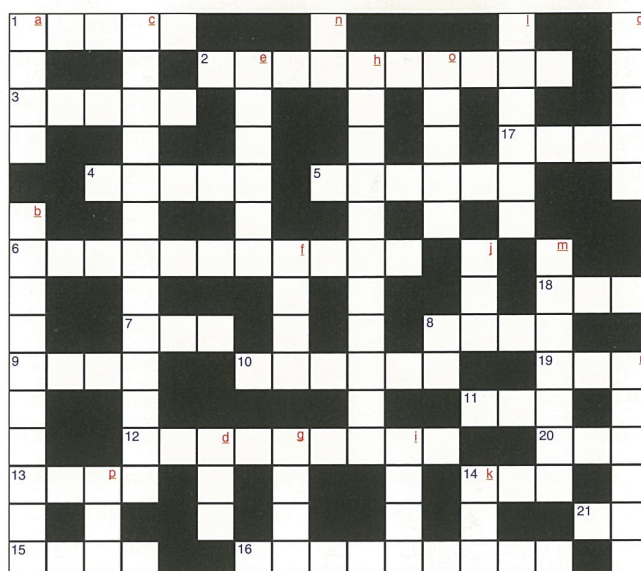
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CONTRIBUTION OF ARTICLES

Any article (or information) relating to accreditation or quality assurance issues in higher education is welcome. Please send your contribution to the Editor, *Accredit Note* by 30 November 2000 for the next issue.

HKCAA 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY QUICK CROSSWORD

To celebrate the HKCAA 10th Year Anniversary, the HKCAA staff have prepared the following Quick Crossword. A souvenir will be presented to the first three correct answers received. The solution and names of the winners will be published in the next edition of Accredited Note.



Across

1. The "Adviser to the Registrar" under the Non-local Higher and Professional Education (Regulation) Ordinance, 1996
2. Basic general truth that underlies something
3. Meal taken at the middle of the day
4. The number of the years that the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation has been formed
5. Became established in a place
6. Yearly return of a date
7. Mixture of gases surrounding the earth
8. The second letter of Greek alphabet
9. Small pointed missile used as weapon or game
10. Opinion given about what to do
11. Glide smoothly over snow
12. Order, rule or law made by a government
13. Common hard metal
14. Things to play with
15. Require
16. The standard used to compare the performance, product or services
17. Painting, carving in the Orthodox Church
18. Unidentified flying object
19. Allow
20. ? a yellow ribbon
21. A term which is very trendy these days

Down

- a. Keep in particular position
- b. One of the HKCAA's roles relating to study programmes
- c. A statutory function of the HKCAA
- d. Time between sunrise and sunset
- e. Wealthier
- f. Fine fragments of rock that have been worn down
- g. Word by which individual person is spoken of
- h. Rejoicing an occasion
- i. Money in coins or notes
- j. Highest value in the card games
- k. A drink we like
- l. An examination of something
- m. A high degree of excellence
- n. Being included
- o. A social gathering
- p. A single unit
- q. The surname of the current HKCAA Chairman
- r. The total number of current HKCAA Council members including the Executive Director (Ex-Officio)

