

香港學術評審局

HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR
ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION

HKCAA

Chairman: Dr. York Liao

Vice Chairman: Mr. Herbert Hui Ho Ming

**ACCREDIT
NOTE**

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Establishment of a Qualifications Framework and its Associated Quality Assurance Mechanism

In February this year, the Government decided to establish a seven-level Qualifications Framework (QF) and its associated quality assurance mechanism, which will cover all qualifications (including professional qualifications) at levels equivalent to Secondary 3 and above in the academic, vocational and continuing education sectors.

The Government has recognized that the existing education and training system is inadequate in fostering a vibrant, flexible and responsive environment that promotes lifelong learning. There is a proliferation of qualifications in the market which lack common benchmarks of quality. Both learners and industry have been uncertain about the outcomes of education and training and whether their needs are met.

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To address these inadequacies and to foster an environment conducive to lifelong learning, the Government decided to implement the QF, which provides clear information on the standard of courses, qualifications, education and training providers. With the introduction of the QF, there will be more flexible and diversified progression pathways to suit individual needs. The framework will bring about a wider recognition and portability of qualifications, especially for those skilled workers who have low educational attainment. The quality of the training courses will also be enhanced as they will have to be quality assured if they wish to gain registration onto the framework and be marketed with the QF brand.


The Government has entrusted the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA) with the role in overseeing quality assurance of qualifications under the QF, except those awarded by the self-accrediting institutions. HKCAA will also maintain a Qualifications Register, which will operate as a web-based database of information on qualifications, courses and institutions that are recognized under the framework. HKCAA is deliberating on the recommendations arising from its Self-Review to prepare for the expanded role under the QF. The Government is working closely with HKCAA to assist the Council to undertake the reform in preparation for its new responsibilities.

To ensure the relevance of qualifications and related training in the vocational sector, the Government is setting up Industry Training

Advisory Committees (ITACs) in different industry sectors. ITACs serve to establish Industry Training Specifications (ITS), which comprise competency standards, qualifications and assessment guidelines for individual industry sectors under the QF. We are reaching out to key stakeholders including employers, employees, and professional bodies to promote the QF and encourage them to form ITACs for the industry sectors. We will also count on HKCAA to provide input to ITACs in the course of drawing up the ITSs. We have already formed ITACs in four industry sectors, namely, Printing & Publishing, Watch & Clock, Chinese Catering and Hairdressing. It is our plan to set up around seven ITACs in 2004.

Upon the smooth operation of some pioneer ITACs, we shall proceed to launch a publicity and public education campaign targeting schools, training providers, parents, employers and the general public to promote the concept of lifelong learning and the benefits of the QF. As regards the development of the first ITS, the exact timing

will be subject to the progress of individual industries. We hope that ITSs for the first four industries may be completed by the end of this year. Training providers can then make use of the ITSs to design training programmes which help learners acquire those competencies specified by the industries.

In sum, the establishment of the QF is a fundamental step to upgrade the quality of our human capital and provide individuals with opportunities to optimize their potential when Hong Kong is transforming into a knowledge-based and high value-added economy. Whilst the Government will spare no effort in this endeavour, the support of all stakeholders including HKCAA is essential to make it a success. 

Mr. Philip Chok, JP
Deputy Secretary for Education and Manpower
April 2004

The Regional and Global Role of the HKCAA

Ever since the inception of the HKCAA fourteen years ago in 1990, the HKCAA has maintained an international perspective and an international involvement in its work. The establishment of the HKCAA had in fact been built upon a thorough study of accreditation bodies and their practices in different parts of the world, including in particular a study of the UK and US models, which were the most developed and prevalent models in those days.

Since the HKCAA started its full operation in 1991, initially with the accreditation of public degree-awarding institutions, it had never ceased to keep abreast of developments and good practices in other countries. The work of accreditation at HKCAA also places a high priority on the international dimension.

One third of the Council members are senior academics/accreditation experts from outside Hong

Kong. There is, in addition, a Register of Subject Specialists containing some 1,500 names in various subject disciplines from within Hong Kong and other areas/countries, which the HKCAA draws upon for advice and for participation in accreditation activities.

But the HKCAA has not been playing merely a passive and receiving role on the international scene. We foresaw, right at the time of inception, that globalization is the growing trend and that no single country, or system, can remain isolated and that we must learn from each other in order to progress. That was the line of thinking which prompted the HKCAA to initiate the founding of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) in Hong Kong in 1991.

At the same time that we pursued our international links, we also developed our regional

network, and the efforts, quite appropriately, started with liaison and cooperation with our counterparts and educational authorities on the Mainland, resulting in memoranda of cooperation, joint seminars and international conferences, mutual study of accreditation practices and other activities. On many of these occasions we shared with our Mainland associates, not just our experiences in Hong Kong but also good practices we have learnt from other countries. Interestingly, on many occasions, we are told, the HKCAA's model of an independent statutory body in academic accreditation was considered a novel idea by our Mainland counterparts and a source of inspiration.

It is in the area of the regulation of imported/non-local courses that Hong Kong catches the attention of not only its regional neighbours but also that of many countries in other parts of the world which are large importers of educational provision and which share similar problems with Hong Kong. In a recent Drafting Meeting organized by UNESCO/OECD in Paris on the Quality of Cross Border Education, with participation from more than 50 countries, the case of Hong Kong, which is among the first places to introduce legislative control for non-local courses, drew the attention of many participants. It was noticeable that of the participating countries, less than one third had erected a quality assurance system for the regulation of either local or imported education. Hong Kong's model of implementing a form of regulation which strikes a balance between strict control on the one hand, and allowing a free market and consumer choice on the other, was regarded by many as a successful example where the government and the quality assurance body work together to safeguard the quality of imported education. We are much encouraged that our experience in Hong Kong is being drawn into the UNESCO/OECD initiative of drafting guidelines for the quality of cross border education.

It is perhaps because Hong Kong has always

been outward looking that we continue to forge links regionally and internationally. Following our efforts to initiate the founding of INQAAHE, in 2003, the HKCAA hosted a meeting in Hong Kong to facilitate the establishment of the Asia Pacific Quality Network for the quality assurance organizations in the region. It is a timely effort as quality assurance is still developing or at an early stage of development in many of the countries in the region, and cooperation between countries in this area is still weak. Thus we need each other's support for growth and progress in quality assurance. It is gratifying, therefore, to see that our efforts are being recognized when recently, at a Symposium/Workshop organized by the World Bank in Bangkok, the World Bank acknowledged the need of the Asia Pacific region to develop quality assurance and expressed its support, in principle, for quality assurance initiatives in the region. In this connection, the Asia Pacific Quality Network, with Hong Kong being one of the conveners, will work to formalize its structure and constitution in the near future.

The HKCAA has succeeded in putting Hong Kong on the world map of quality assurance, even though we have only a small territory and a small system in comparison with many. But we must not be complacent. My recent visit to the Gulf Region brought to my attention many new and budding systems, and there is evidence that latecomers have many new ideas and there is also much we can learn from them. Globalization does not mean the dissemination of one particular model or system but it should mean exchange, cooperation, and respect for each other's systems. 🇭🇰

Miss W S Wong
Executive Director
May 2004

(The HKCAA bid farewell to Miss W S Wong in June 2004 after 14 years service in the Council.)

Farewell to Professor John C Y Leong and Inauguration of Dr. York Liao as HKCAA Chairman

The Council Dinner, held on the evening of the Council Meeting in September 2003, was a special occasion to honour the departing Chairman, Professor John C Y Leong and also to welcome the incoming Chairman, Dr. York Liao. The dinner was honoured by the presence of Professor Arthur K C Li, Secretary for Education and Manpower, and Dr. Alice Lam, Chairman of the University Grants Committee. The Secretary shared with the Council and guests his thoughts on the quality of higher education in Hong Kong. The Vice Chairman, on behalf of all Council members, expressed appreciation to the Chairman, Professor John C Y Leong, for his brilliant and inspirational leadership over the years. The Executive Director also expressed gratitude on behalf of Secretariat staff for the guidance and encouragement by the Chairman in the past, conveying good wishes to the Chairman for his future endeavours. At the same time, the Council extended a warm welcome to the incoming Chairman, Dr. York Liao, looking forward to the continued success and growth of the Council under his leadership. 🇭🇰



▲ Professor John Leong, HKCAA Chairman, pictured with HKCAA Executive Director Miss W S Wong, Mr. Edmond Leung, former HKCAA Vice Chairman, Dr. Andrew Chuang, former HKCAA Chairman, Dr. York Liao, incoming HKCAA Chairman and Mr. Herbert Hui, HKCAA Vice Chairman, at Council Dinner held in September 2003



► Professor John Leong, HKCAA Chairman, on behalf of the Council giving a souvenir to Professor Arthur Li, Secretary for Education and Manpower, on occasion of the Council Dinner held in September 2003

At the Council Dinner Mr. Herbert Hui, Vice Chairman of the HKCAA, delivered the following farewell speech for Professor John C Y Leong

Honoured Guests and Council Members
Tonight is an important occasion for the Council, as on this occasion we have to bid farewell to our current Chairman Professor John Leong. Professor Leong has been with the HKCAA since 1996, appointed initially as Vice Chairman, and in 1999 he succeeded Dr. Andrew Chuang as Chairman of the HKCAA. Professor Leong is leaving the chairmanship and the HKCAA for a good reason: he will take up the position of President of the Open University of Hong Kong towards the end of the year. While we congratulate Professor Leong on such a prestigious and important appointment, we, fellow Council Members, will sadly miss the



◀ Mr. Herbert Hui, HKCAA Vice Chairman, giving a speech at the Council Dinner

excellent leadership he has been giving to the Council especially during the last few years which have seen many pivotal changes to the HKCAA.

We have seen the exciting new developments of the Council in the last few years, into new areas hitherto not subject to the quality assurance regime: non-local courses, Associate Degrees, continuing education, private colleges, and now a Qualifications Framework for Hong Kong.

Professor Leong is one of the most hands-on Chairman I have worked with. He gives the most careful and thorough consideration to all matters of the Council, both at the policy and operational levels. He chaired all the Institutional Reviews himself, of the degree-awarding institutions; plus others. As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Non-local Courses, he chaired all the meetings during a period of feverish activity in 1997/1998, involving also in the appeal process of the non-local courses, and winning the appeals as well.

It takes tremendous faith, hard-work, and dedication, and above all, a sense of mission to steer the Council during such challenging times. And Professor John Leong has all these superb qualities, and much more, which have earned him, respect and support from Members of the Council, colleagues in higher education, and the Government, including those in the institutions accredited by the HKCAA. It is no easy nor an enviable task to be at the helm of a quality assurance body with a regulatory role. It takes tremendous skills to steer a right balance between the demands of quality, and the realities of what is achievable in different circumstances. Being a surgeon by profession, Professor Leong has no doubt brought the best qualities of his profession to the HKCAA chairmanship. He will always do what he believes is right and necessary for the upkeep of quality. There can be no compromise, just as the surgeon will not refrain or deviate from performing the necessary operation once he decides there is a need for it. But at the same time he is keenly aware of the human situation and the fact that people, as well as institutions, are individually different. He is aware of the human frailties as well as the external constraints which sometimes detract us from pursuing or achieving the highest in quality. With complete candour, fairness, and patience, he never ceases to inspire all those around him and convince them of the necessity for quality in education. This kind of faith has now



▲ Dr. York Liao, incoming HKCAA Chairman, speaking at the Inauguration as HKCAA Chairman at the Council Dinner held in September 2003

become almost personified by you, Professor Leong, and you have spread the gospel of quality assurance so well that it is now spread wider and further each year in the education community.

Other than upholding the principles of quality assurance in education, more significantly, Professor Leong has staunchly upheld the principle of independence of a quality assurance body. He believes, rightly, that this independence is crucial to the integrity of the quality assurance process. Under his tireless efforts the HKCAA has grown from strength to strength, and has become more well known both locally and internationally.

But as the gate-keeper of quality, the HKCAA must also demonstrate that it adheres to the principles of quality assurance itself. For this reason, and in preparation for an expanded and new role in future, Professor Leong has led the Council in a Self-Review process, examining our strengths and weaknesses and room for improvement. And who is better, and more qualified than a renowned surgeon to help us with a self examination?

Professor Leong is one of that privileged and gifted class of people who are able to devote his energies to many accomplishments at the same time. On top of his full-time teaching and administrative duties as head of the Orthopaedic Department of the University of Hong Kong, Chairman of the HKCAA, and Chairman of Hospital Governing Committee of Castle Peak Hospital, President of the World

Orthopaedic Association, and other commitments, Professor Leong finds enough time to pursue his medical research and has reached new heights, leading to his admission in 2002 as an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which is the highest accolade for scientists in China, and also being the first medical doctor in Hong Kong to receive this honour.



▲ Professor John Leong, HKCAA Chairman, receiving a souvenir from Council Members at the Council Dinner held in September 2003

Now, not long after this illustrious achievement, we have to congratulate Professor Leong once again, this time on his appointment as President of the Open University of Hong Kong.

Accreditation Activities

CCC Kung Lee College

The College is a newly established co-educational senior secondary school sponsored by the Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China (CCC). The College is CCC's latest effort in collaboration with the Hong Kong Government to introduce a new type of education for senior secondary students in Hong Kong. The College has two sections, namely Secondary Section (SS) and Vocational Education & Training Section (VET).



▲ HKCAA Validation Panel pictured during Validation Visit at CCC Kung Lee College

Although we are sad in bidding you farewell, Professor Leong, we know we can continue to count on your continuous support to the HKCAA. We believe, you will never be too far away, or too busy, to give us your advice and blessings in future. 同



▲ HKCAA Council Members pictured with the Chairman, Dr. York Liao, at the Council Meeting convened in December 2003

In September 2003, the College began to offer a Higher Diploma in Logistics and Business Practices programme to Secondary Five leavers in addition to the Secondary Four programme offered to Secondary Three leavers. The HKCAA was invited by the College to conduct an Institutional Review on 2-3 October 2003. The HKCAA appreciated the innovative model adopted by the College for mounting academic and vocational programmes at the same time. The Panel was impressed by the College mission and the staff's passion to serve the academically less able secondary school leavers who might otherwise be deprived of further educational opportunities. The College was granted the status of an accredited institution for five years from 2003/2004 to 2007/2008 inclusive.

The Higher Diploma in Logistics and Business Practices is the first programme offered by the VET. The programme was validated by a HKCAA Panel comprising local and international academics and experts on 7-8 October 2003. The Panel recommended the implementation of the programme from 2003/2004. 同

The Art School of Hong Kong Arts Centre

The Hong Kong Arts Centre, a self-financed statutory body established in 1977, upgraded its Education Department to The Art School (TAS) in January 2000 to underline its commitment to Visual and Applied Arts education in Hong Kong and the region.

The HKCAA conducted an Institutional Review in September and validated two Higher Diplomas of The Art School in October 2003. As a result of the Institutional Review conducted on 8-9 September 2003, TAS was granted the status of an accredited sub-degree (Higher Diploma) granting institution as from 2003/2004.

The TAS Higher Diploma in Media Arts with Majors in Computer Animation, Digital Video and Cinema, and Multimedia Arts was validated on 8-9 October 2003 by an HKCAA Panel comprising overseas and local academics and practitioners and was granted approval for four student intakes

from 2003/2004 to 2006/2007 subject to two requirements. On 13-14 October 2003 the TAS Higher Diploma in Communication Design (Graphic Design) Programme was validated by another HKCAA Panel comprising overseas and local academics and practitioners and was approved for four student intakes from 2003/2004 to 2006/2007 subject to two requirements.



▲ The HKCAA Programme Validation Panel photographed with Senior Management at The Art School of Hong Kong Arts Centre during the Validation Visit

Yew Chung Education Foundation



▲ The HKCAA Panel pictured with the Foundation's representatives during the Review of Plans meeting at HKCAA Secretariat

The Foundation commissioned the HKCAA to conduct a three-stage accreditation of Yew Chung College of International Studies and its proposed Associate Degree programme. The Review of Plans was the first stage of the accreditation process, to be followed by the Institutional Review of the College and a programme validation.

A panel of local academics and subject specialists in liberal arts/general education was assembled. A meeting for the Review of the College's institutional

and programme plans took place on 1 December 2003. The panel was satisfied that the College had taken significant steps in developing an appropriate institutional structure and processes for the College, as well as formulating a campus development plan and curriculum development framework of its proposed Associate Degree programme. It supported the general direction taken by the College to carry forward its proposed plans and recommended approval of the College's plans.

The approval of plans gave the Foundation an initial indication that its plans are in the right direction and offered support for the College Steering Committee to proceed further and commit additional resources. The approval was, however, not an endorsement of the College's submission in full. There would be a number of issues requiring follow-up action, which had been highlighted in the HKCAA Report. The College was recommended to consider and act on these issues in the Institutional Review and the subsequent programme validation to be scheduled later.

Hong Kong Shue Yan College

Hong Kong Shue Yan College is the first privately funded degree-granting institution in Hong Kong.

The HKCAA was commissioned by the College to conduct an academic review of the College in December 2003. The purview of the academic review was to evaluate and assess, from the baseline of the previous review conducted by the HKCAA in 2000, the continued evolution of the College's processes for the development and delivery of degree programmes. Since the review conducted in 2000, the College has offered five bachelor's degree programmes in Accounting, Chinese Language & Literature, Journalism & Mass Communication, Social Work and Business Administration.



▲ The HKCAA Panel photographed with Senior Management and Staff of Hong Kong Shue Yan College during the Validation Visit



▲ Dr. Henry Hu, President of the Hong Kong Shue Yan College pictured with Miss W S Wong, Executive Director, at the Topping-out Ceremony of the Residential and Amenities Complex of the College in May 2004

The Review Panel chaired by Professor Dunkerley, HKCAA Council Member, visited the College in early December 2003. The Panel was pleased to witness good progress made by the College in response to the recommendations put forth by the HKCAA in the 2000 Review.

In December 2003 and March 2004, the HKCAA Panels validated and approved the College's sixth and seventh degree programmes, Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Counselling and Psychology and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics respectively. The Panels recommended the implementation of the programmes from 2004/2005.



The Hong Kong Institute of Education

On 11-13 February 2004 the HKCAA revalidated and approved for five further student intakes from 2004/2005 the four-year full-time and three-year mixed-mode Bachelor of Education (BEd) (Honours) (Secondary) programmes, targeting two distinct groups: prospective senior secondary school leavers and in-service certificate teachers wishing to upgrade to graduate teachers.

The review of the two-year full-time BEd (Primary) and revalidation of the three-year mixed-mode BEd (Primary) programmes were jointly conducted and approved on 10-12 March 2004 by



▲ The HKCAA Validation Panel pictured during the Validation Exercise at the Hong Kong Institute of Education

an HKCAA Panel comprising educational specialists from Canada, Australia, UK as well as local academics and a primary school principal. An one-year extension of the full-time programme was approved, as it had

Caritas Francis Hsu College

In 2001 the College was registered as a recognized Post Secondary College in Hong Kong, in accordance with the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320). Presently, the College offers four accredited Associate Degree and four accredited Higher Diploma programmes, among other Diploma and top-up Bachelor Degree programmes. The College aspires to become a recognized degree-conferring self-accrediting higher education institution and eventually a constituent college of a Catholic University in Hong Kong.

The HKCAA was invited by the College to validate a proposal for a full-time Associate of Social Science in Social Work programme. The validation was conducted and approved by an HKCAA Panel

The Vocational Training Council

The Vocational Training Council (VTC), as the major provider of vocational education and training in Hong Kong with the mission of providing continuation and optimisation of vocational education and training in Hong Kong, commissioned the HKCAA to conduct an Institutional Review of the VTC and a series of accreditation exercises on a selection of its programmes at Higher Diploma, Diploma and Certificate levels.

The review and the accreditation exercises were conducted for the purpose of assessing the appropriateness of the Council's institutional and academic/training environment pertaining to its Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) and School of Business and Information Systems (SBI), and Training and Development Centres and to advise, as appropriate, on improvement measures for the IVE, SBI and the Training and Development Centres in relation to their structures and processes, including their quality assurance processes for monitoring the standard of programmes.

been admitting graduates of the Certificate of Education programme, which is being phased out. The mixed-mode programme was further approved for four intakes from 2004/2005. 🏠

comprising international and local academics as well as a local practitioner on 17-18 February 2004. 🏠



▲ The HKCAA Validation Panel pictured during the Validation Exercise at Caritas Francis Hsu College

The Institutional Review was conducted on 16-17 and 19-20 January 2004 by an HKCAA Panel comprising overseas and local academics and practitioners with the outcome that the Panel, much impressed with VTC's unique role and its many contributions in the provision of vocational education and training opportunities in Hong Kong, reaffirmed the Council's role and aspirations and plans for future development. 🏠



▲ The HKCAA Panel photographed during the Institutional Review Visit at the Vocational Training Council

HKCAA's Other Services

Continuing Education Fund - Introduction of New Sectors and Competencies

In January 2004, the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) announced that the coverage of the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) be extended to include additional sectors and skill domains. One of the new sectors is "Creative Industries" under the CEF to cover courses in advertising, digital entertainment, films, television and video. At the same time, the existing "China Business" sector has also been expanded and renamed "Business Services" to include business management training competencies under the Fund. Courses in French, German and Japanese are also introduced to the "Language" skill domain.

Since the principle of the Fund is to subsidise training that is conducive to the economic development of Hong Kong, only courses from economic sectors with high growth potential and manpower requirement or relating to skills domains

where our workforce may be deficient, are to be covered under the CEF.

To monitor the quality of the registered reimbursable courses the HKCAA conducted and completed the first round of quality audit on-site inspections in the period December 2003 - February 2004.

Up to 31 May 2004, on the basis of the HKCAA recommendations the EMB has approved 2,774 courses, of which 2,154 courses are offered by the Continuing Education Divisions of local universities and 620 courses by non-university sector providers.

Visit the website (<http://www.info.gov.hk/sfaa/cef/course.htm>) for the list of reimbursable courses.




The Continuing Professional Development Programme for Insurance Intermediaries Quality Assurance Scheme

The HKCAA is pleased to report a noticeable increase in the efficiency of the accreditation process as evidenced by a reduction in the average processing time. This could be attributed to increased experience of the HKCAA in the scheme and a better understanding of the accreditation criteria and procedure on the part of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activity providers.

To date, most CPD activities have been offered by insurance companies for training their own employees. However, more and more educational or training institutions have expressed interest in launching CPD activities that are open to all insurance intermediaries, which is good for the

insurance intermediaries working for insurance companies not offering CPD activities, or offering only a few.

As part of the application for re-accreditation, most CPD activity providers submitted summary findings of participant evaluation, which is an important tool for quality assurance. Even before the expiry of accredited status, most CPD activity providers were cooperative in submitting to the HKCAA for approval any changes in CPD activities, including regular updates on contents and changes in presenters or instructors. All this attested to the broad acceptance of the accreditation scheme and the professionalism of the industry. 

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

2004 Workshop of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)

Miss W S Wong, Executive Director, attended the third Workshop of INQAAHE, organized for its full members (i.e. quality assurance agencies) and hosted by the Ministry of Higher Education, Sultanate of Oman, on 22-24 March 2004, to discuss practical problems and new developments in quality assurance, with about 150 participants taking part in the workshop session which addressed themes such as a code of good practice for quality assurance agencies, INQAAHE's links with regional organizations, accreditation in the Gulf region, publication and dissemination policy, and the future development of INQAAHE. 🇲🇵



▲ Miss W S Wong pictured at a reception with the Executive Director of the Oman Accreditation Board, Mr. Ali Al Mahroqi at the INQAAHE Workshop in Oman

European Forum on Quality Assurance

The German Accreditation Council extended an invitation to the Executive Director of the HKCAA to make a presentation discussing the work of the Asia Pacific Quality Network established in Hong Kong in January 2003. Her paper, entitled "Think Global, Act Local: The INQAAHE Asia-Pacific Sub-Network Forum", was

presented at the Forum Workshop entitled "International Quality Assurance Networks in Higher Education - An Expert Workshop on Experiences in Asia, Europe and Latin America", held in Cologne, Germany in October 2003, which featured representatives from other local area networks of quality assurance agencies. 🇲🇵

UNESCO/OECD Meeting for the Drafting of Guidelines on "Quality Provision in Cross Border Higher Education"

In the context of the increase in cross border provision of higher education, it is recognized that there is a need for new international initiatives to enhance the quality of such provision.

The UNESCO and OECD Secretariats have therefore decided to invite their respective Member States to consider the need for the drafting of guidelines for cross border higher education, intended for recommendation to governments, higher education providers, quality assurance/accreditation agencies, recognition agencies, etc.

Miss W S Wong, Executive Director, represented the HKCAA at the first drafting meeting which took place in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 5-6 April 2004, with representatives from more than 50 countries participating in the meeting in addition to representatives from non-governmental organizations, addressing issues on guidelines for higher education institution providers, quality assurance and accreditation agencies, qualification recognition and evaluation agencies, professional bodies, and governments.

As a workshop moderator Miss Wong depicted the Hong Kong model of quality assurance for imported education, emphasizing the role of the Government in setting the policy objectives for the regulation of imported courses in Hong Kong, and the roles of the accreditation agency (HKCAA), higher education institutions and credential evaluation agencies.

After this first meeting the UNESCO/OECD Secretariats will start the drafting of the guidelines, making them available for discussion at the next meetings to be held in late 2004 in Tokyo and in Paris in early 2005. 🇭🇰



▲ A view of the plenary session of the UNESCO/OECD Meeting on the Drafting of Guidelines for Cross Border Education

World Bank Symposium on Strategic Choices for Higher Education Reform and Quality Assurance

HKCAA was invited to participate in the regional symposium organized by the World Bank in conjunction with the British Council and the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education of Thailand. Miss W S Wong represented HKCAA at the symposium and chaired one of the plenary sessions.

The symposium, held on 27-30 April 2004 and attended by representatives from some 20 countries as well as from UNESCO and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, featured well-known experts from the World Bank and from around the world, addressing issues including:

- Challenge of the knowledge society for higher education;
- Linkage between higher education and the labour market;
- Quality assurance of higher education;
- Governance and funding issues in higher education; the respective roles of governments, institutions, and buffer bodies; and
- Trade in education services and the implications of WTO-GATS

The symposium was followed by a one-day workshop on the Quality Assurance of Higher Education, attended by representatives of most of the quality assurance agencies in the region. In addition to examining the issue of quality assurance in the host country, Thailand, and other countries in the region, participants were also excited to learn that the World Bank was considering to support developmental initiatives of the Asia Pacific Quality Network, which was formed in Hong Kong two years ago. 🇭🇰



▲ Miss W S Wong pictured with Mr. Jamil Salmi, Education Sector Manager of the World Bank, and Mr. Carl Darlman, Programme Manager for Knowledge of Development, World Bank Institute

Visit to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in the United Kingdom

A productive meeting took place on 1 April 2004 between Mr Alan Greig, who is responsible for the Accreditation Section in the Qualifications Curriculum Authority (QCA), and Miss WS Wong,

HKCAA Executive Director. Mr. Greig provided an update on the latest change to the national qualifications framework in the UK and a description of how accreditation is implemented. 🇭🇰

National Seminar in Shanghai

The Executive Director and Ms Connie Lok, Senior Registrar, attended the National Seminar on the Quality Assurance of Higher Education and the 3rd General Meeting of the Association of Education Evaluation Organizations (教育評估機構協作會) held on 12-14 November 2003 in Shanghai.

The Executive Director was one of the keynote speakers and she presented a paper entitled “The Accreditation Work of the HKCAA - the past, present and the future” at the seminar. 🇮🇪



▲ Miss W S Wong, HKCAA Executive Director, taking part in the Seminar

Seminar in Shenzhen

The Executive Director, Ms Connie Lok, Senior Registrar, and Mr K S Chan, Registrar, attended a two-day seminar hosted by the Chinese Association of Electronic Education (中國電子學會教育分會) in Shenzhen on 15-16 November 2003. The

Executive Director presented a keynote speech on “The Work of the HKCAA and the Quality Assurance of Education conducted by Electronic Media (香港的學術評審工作，與電子媒體辦學的質素保證)”. 🇮🇪

International Symposium on Economic Globalization and Education Industry

The Symposium, held on 7-9 April 2004 at Beijing Normal University, focused on the development of private education in Mainland China, its regulation and growth, and its quality assurance, attracting about 200 participants from all over China, including operators of private educational institutions, academics and research students in higher education.

The main tenet of the recently introduced Regulation on Private Education (民辦教育實施法) was explained by officials from the Ministry of Education. In sum, the Regulation:

- Allows local governments to give support and aid to private institutions and allows private donations;
- Systematizes criteria and procedures for approval;
- Requires private institutions to set up internal management systems;
- Requires private institutions to be independent corporate bodies; and

- Requires private institutions to have independent campuses, and independent financial management.

Miss W S Wong made a presentation on “Private Education and the Recognition of Qualifications”. In the paper, reference was made to the setting up of a Qualifications Framework in Hong Kong, and the UNESCO’s effort to promote inter-country recognition of qualifications. 🇮🇪



▲ Miss W S Wong speaking at the International Symposium on Economic Globalization and Education Industry in Beijing, April 2004

Visit to the National Evaluation Institute of Academic Degrees and Graduate Education in Beijing

A visit was paid to the new office of the National Evaluation Institute (學位與研究生教育評估所), which is an independent organization established by the Office of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, to conduct accreditation and evaluation of postgraduate education in China.

The National Evaluation Institute carries out the assessment of higher education institutions for the granting of postgraduate degree awarding power, and the approval of new masters and doctoral degrees. It organizes the meeting of subject experts on a periodical basis for the approval of the above. It also conducts periodic evaluation of postgraduate theses for the award of the best thesis. The Institute has built up a database of all postgraduate qualifications awarded in China

since the early 1980s and welcomes enquiries on this database. 🇨🇳



▲ Pictured during a visit to the National Evaluation Institute of Academic Degrees and Graduate Education, with Mr. Wang Ya Jie, Deputy Director of the Office of Academic Degrees Committee, Mr. Wang Zhang Jun, Deputy Director of the National Evaluation Institute, Mr. Lin Meng Quan, and Ms. Liu Ju

Meeting with the Accreditation Office of the Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education in China

Miss W S Wong, HKCAA Executive Director, visited the Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Education on 12 April 2004, to learn about the newly implemented accreditation system for post-secondary education. A meeting was held with the Deputy

Head of the Division, Ms. Hu Xiu Rong (胡秀榮) and Mr. Song Lei (宋磊), Programme Officer of the Hongkong, Macao & Taiwan Affairs Office of the Ministry.



▲ Miss W S Wong pictured with Ms. Hu Xiu Rong of the Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education, PRC

The Division had introduced a system of state-wide evaluation for all post-secondary institutions (public and private) including sub-degree and degree levels in ordinary higher education and adult higher education. The evaluation will be on a 5 yearly cycle and on an institution basis. This system replaces the former systems of Threshold Evaluation (合格評估), Evaluation for Excellence (選優評估) and Random Evaluation (隨機評估). Institutions which had undergone the previous evaluation exercises have all to be subjected to this new system. Evaluation is part of the Ministry's policy to give priority to educational quality, which started in the early 1990s, and is now further intensified as a result of the expansion of the higher education sector. 🇨🇳

Visits

The Council also received visitors from government and academic institutions in Mainland China, from overseas countries and from local institutions, notably:

- Delegations from the Mainland, including the National Centre for Education Development Research of the Ministry of Education, Department of Education of Guangdong Province, and the Chinese Association of Electronic Education (中國電子學會教育分會);
- The National University of Kaohsiung, Taiwan;



▲ Delegation from Guangdong Education Office photographed with HKCAA Chairman Dr. York Liao, Council Members, HKCAA Executive Director, and Officers from the Education and Manpower Bureau on their Visit to HKCAA in October 2003

In April 2004, the Executive Director, whilst in the UK, paid a visit to the HKCAA's founding Chairman, Dr. David Bethell, CBE at his home in Leicester. Dr. Bethell was the Chairman of the Planning Committee on Academic Awards set up in 1986, and later Chairman of the Provisional Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation and the first Chairman of the HKCAA, until he retired from the position in 1992.

Dr. Bethell continued to be actively involved in research and consultancies after his retirement, and has been involved for many years with the assessment of applications for bursaries and scholarships of the Livery

- Deakin University, Australia;
- Mr Warren Grimshaw, Chairman of the Australian Qualifications Framework Advisory Board;
- The UK National Computing Centre Education Ltd;
- The local office of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants;
- Chu Hai College;
- International Office of the University of Southern Queensland, Australia; and
- The Hong Kong Council of Non-Profit-Making Tertiary Institutions



▲ Delegates of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China pictured with Professor T P Leung, Council Member, and Miss W S Wong, HKCAA Executive Director during their Visit to the HKCAA in November 2003

Company of the City of London, which is a worshipful company of Framework Knitters founded in 1627.

Miss Wong was delighted to find Dr. Bethell in good health and still much interested in the development of the HKCAA.



◀ Dr. David Bethell, CBE, founding Chairman of the HKCAA



HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION

Contact Us

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, Accredited Note by 30 November 2004 for the next issue.

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