

Notes of the Third Meeting of the Second Term of Liaison Panel for Accreditation of Vocational and Professional Education and Training (LPAVPET) at 2:30p.m. on 16 June 2022 via Zoom.

Present: Dr CHIU Sau Mee (Chair)
Ms Cecilia KUK
Mr David LEUNG
Mr NG Ah Ming
Professor LI Chung
Professor Agnes TIWARI
Dr WONG Chi Mei
Mr Daniel CHAM
Ms Anna LUI (Secretary)

Absent with apologies: Mr Victor LAM
Ms CHUNG Lai Kuen
Ms Cecilia TAM
Mrs Vivian CHEUNG

In Attendance: Ms Helen YAU
(HKCAAVQ Staff) Mr Sam HO
Ms Lizt WONG

In Attendance: Ms Charmaine LEE
(Potential Members of Mr HUNG Chi Chung
LPAVPET) Mr Richard CHENG
Ms CHUNG Yim, Carol
Mr Simon LEUNG
Mr AU Kwok Chung

WELCOME

Chair welcomed Members to the third meeting of LPAVPET and expressed appreciation of the participation of the Members.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As the current term of office of the LPAVPET would end on 30 June 2022, Chair took the opportunity to thank all existing Members for their continuous support and contribution to the LPAVPET. To facilitate a better understanding of the work of the LPAVPET, potential members for the next Term of office were invited to be observers at the meeting.

2 BRIEFING ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF HKCAAVQ'S ACCREDITATION SERVICES

2.1 Outcome of External Review of HKCAAVQ by ENQA

Members noted that HKCAAVQ has undergone an external review coordinated by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (hereafter refer to as ENQA) on evaluating HKCAAVQ in meeting the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). HKCAAVQ is the first quality assurance agency in the Asia-Pacific region and outside the EHEA and Europe to have obtained “substantial compliance” in the external review. The Panel were delighted to learn that HKCAAVQ's work on quality assurance has gained global recognition.

2.2 Accreditation Services in support of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) Initiatives

HKCAAVQ shared with the Panel the current consultancy work in support of the development of the education and training sector in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) including Macao and Guangdong Province. Members welcomed the initiatives in GBA and exchanged views on the possibilities of further enhancing collaborations in accreditation services for vocational qualifications across the regions.

Members were briefed of the latest development of collaborative programmes. Since 2019, HKCAAVQ has launched the accreditation services for collaborative programmes under the HKQF. In January 2022, HKCAAVQ accredited the first batch of collaborative programmes involving five higher diploma programmes operated jointly by two of the member institutions of the Vocational Training Council (namely Hong Kong Design Institute and Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education) and Shenzhen Polytechnic. Members considered that there would be a growing demand for the accreditation of collaborative programmes among institutions across the regions in the VPET sector.

2.3 Consultancy Studies, Facilitation, Training and Development (T&D) Services

- a) *From Applied Learning, DYJ(DAE), Sub-degree, to Applied Degree programmes*

HKCAAVQ updated the members with the latest development of the VPET pathway from Applied Learning, Diploma Yi Jin (DYJ), Associate Degree (AD) and Higher Diploma (HD) to Applied Degree. Members noted that the VPET pathway features an applied pedagogical approach to learning, teaching/training and assessment. Members appreciated that the pathway offers more options for learners to progress along the VPET pathway which may cross over between academic and VPET sectors.

Members noted that the four-pilot applied degree programmes would be launched in the Academic Year 2022-23 and HKCAAVQ would work with various institutions to operationalize the implementation details, consolidate possible issues, and conceptualize the implications for higher education system as a whole. The Panel were appreciative of the new provision and reminded that the possible labelling effect should be considered when deciding on the award titles for the new type of degree qualification.

b) Professional Diploma Meister, Online Learning Programmes, & CPD

Members were informed that a new type of qualification for seasoned practitioners, “Professional Diploma Meister” has been approved by the review panel on award titles of the Education Bureau. Members were briefed of the key features of the accredited programme bearing the new award title “Professional Diploma Meister” which was developed to be the first bespoke skills-based programme in the lift and escalator specialisms.

Members were also briefed with the latest development of accreditation of online learning programmes (OLP). HKCAAVQ shared with Members the definition of OLP, eligibility to apply for OLP accreditation service, information of accredited OLP on Qualification Register and the challenges in delivering OLP. HKCAAVQ advised the Members that useful reference could be made to the Submission Guide for Accreditation of Online Learning Programmes published on the HKCAAVQ website.

Members also noted that HKCAAVQ, appointed by Insurance Authority as the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Assessment Authority responsible for the assessment and vetting of CPD activities, has launched new types of assessment services on e-learning activities and activities via online platform (virtual classrooms). Members noted that there would be a growing trend towards the use of online learning modes

in conducting CPD activities with the advancement of technology.

3 DISCUSSION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN HONG KONG

3.1 Members exchanged their experience in offering work-based learning and shared the view that work-based learning activities vary widely in duration and content in different industries. Members considered that the forms of work-based learning include internships, job shadowing, simulations, apprenticeships and mentorships, depending on the job nature. Members had the general view that a higher degree of industrial involvement, clear and structured guidelines, qualified and reliable supervisors and assessors, regular and effective monitoring measures, varied forms of assessments including supervisors' reports and learners' reflective journals in recognition of learner's progress and achievements as well as proper documentation of assessment records are crucial to promote the quality of work-based learning. Members also exchanged their views on work-based assessments such as the challenges in the conduct of online assessments for vocational programmes comprising practical training components during COVID-19.

3.2 Members shared their views on the development of micro-credentials in the VPET sector. Members noted that micro-credentials are "bite-size" in terms of QF credits, comprising short and focused contents. Bearing the features of flexible delivery and credit transferrable, micro-credentials can be delivered via online, face-to-face or blended modes and can serve as components or standalone qualifications for larger vocational or professional qualifications in the context of HKQF. Members were supportive of the credit transfer arrangements for micro-credentials at programme level and considered that the development of micro-credentials would help widening learning opportunities and facilitate learners to keep themselves updated and upskilled in pursuing lifelong learning. Members also discussed the possibility of shortening the accreditation process with the further development of the differentiation approach for micro-credential accreditation.

3.3 Members were briefed of the initiative of the development of digital credentials in that a project on Digital Credentials Hub (DCH) has been in progress. DCH serves as a learner-based digital platform for micro-

credentials which enables learners to create their personalized e-portfolio of qualifications attained. Members welcomed the new initiative and had the view that the development of DCH would facilitate recognition and transfer of micro-credentials.

4 Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.