

**HKCAAVQ obtains “substantial compliance” with the ESG as approved by ENQA, first in the Asia-Pacific region and outside the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and Europe**

- **The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) obtained “substantial compliance” with ESG (2015 version) as approved by ENQA, being the first Quality Assurance Agency in the Asia-Pacific region and outside the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and Europe to attain such recognition.**
- **HKCAAVQ contributes to the development of higher education in the Greater Bay Area with years of experience and globally-recognised standards.**

(Hong Kong / 28 December 2021) The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) announced today that it 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 external review panel of ENQA commended HKCAAVQ “has initiated an enhancement-oriented development over the past years to establish and develop its role not only as a gatekeeper of the Qualifications Register but also as a partner in supporting the quality enhancement of self-financing higher education institutions.

The panel commends the commitment of HKCAAVQ to change reporting practice to align with international norms and to take its sector with it through the careful and measured way in which the move to the publication of full reports has been introduced.”

“EDB is pleased to know that HKCAAVQ has achieved international recognition by ENQA. The recognition from ENQA, a quality assurance agency with long history in Europe has definitely laid the leading role of HKCAAVQ in the higher education industry in the region.” remarked Mr Esmond LEE Chung-sin, JP, Deputy Secretary for Education of the Education Bureau.

The ENQA external review against the ESG covers 14 aspects, including a range of assessments on official status, independence, internal quality assurance and professional conduct of HKCAAVQ, as well as its policies on specialists’ appointment and management, implementation of processes for quality assurance, facilitation of continuous quality enhancement and transparency of accreditation reports.

“We are delighted to see HKCAAVQ’s work on quality assurance has gained global recognition. This encouraging result proved the determination and hard work of HKCAAVQ to meet the highest standards, which would not be possible without the support and contributions from different sectors. Gaining ENQA’s global recognition unequivocally represents a milestone in HKCAAVQ’s commitment to quality assurance, but we shall continue to strive for excellence and explore further strategic development.” said Mr Rock CHEN, SBS, JP, Council Chairman of HKCAAVQ.

Under the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap. 1150), HKCAAVQ may, subject to the prior approval of the Secretary for Education,

conduct accreditation tests outside Hong Kong. “In support of the development of the education and training sector in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), HKCAAVQ has been conducting accreditation with programme operators with operations in Mainland China. The Education Bureau has also promulgated guidelines for registrations of qualifications partially delivered outside Hong Kong on Qualifications Register.” said Mr Albert CHOW, Executive Director of HKCAAVQ.

HKCAAVQ is also working with the Qualifications Framework Secretariat (QFS) in promoting the development of the Guangdong Province’s Lifelong Education Qualifications Framework. “QFS and HKCAAVQ will further strengthen cooperation with the Education Department of Guangdong Province and the Open University of Guangdong and credit bank on mutual recognition of the two qualifications frameworks, and conduct on pilot study on specific industries; we are also in full support of HKCAAVQ on the establishment of quality assurance mechanism including the Qualifications Register in the Guangdong Province.” said Mr Steve LAI, General Manager of QFS. He hopes this development will not only foster the economic cooperation and partnership between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province but also further enhance people mobility in the GBA.

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## **ABOUT HKCAAVQ**

The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), formerly the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA), was established in 1990 as an independent statutory body to provide authoritative advice on academic standards of degree programmes in higher education institutions in Hong Kong. In 2007, the Council was reconstituted under the HKCAAVQ Ordinance (Chapter 1150). The HKCAAVQ took on responsibility for the vocational and professional education and training sector and statutory roles as the Accreditation Authority and Qualifications Register Authority under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Chapter 592).

The HKCAAVQ provides quality assurance and assessment services to education and training institutions, course providers and the general public. In addition to its statutory roles, the HKCAAVQ also provides advisory and consultancy services in education qualifications and standards to government bureaux and other organisations in Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region.

More details available at: <https://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/>

## **About ENQA**

ENQA was first established in 2000 as the European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education to promote European cooperation in the field of quality assurance in higher education. In 2004, it became the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education with the aim to contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of European higher education, and to act as a major driving force for the development of quality assurance across its member agencies.

More details available at: <https://www.enqa.eu/about-enqa/>

External review report available at: <https://www.enqa.eu/review-database/hong-kong-council-for-accreditation-of-academic-vocational-qualifications-hkcaavq/>

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