

The HKCAAVQ Newsletter gathers information on news and events relating to the HKCAAVQ and its fields of interest. This Newsletter is usually sent out quarterly to all HKCAAVQ Council Members, its quality partners and anyone interested in the work that we do.

## Spotlight

### HKCAAVQ Signs MoU with QQI

The HKCAAVQ and the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU was signed by Prof William Lee, Executive Director of the HKCAAVQ, and Dr Padraig Walsh, Chief Executive of the QQI, in Dublin on 30 October with the aim of establishing a close partnership to enhance external quality assurance (QA) and improve the quality of education and training in Hong Kong and Ireland. QQI was established in 2012 through a merger of Ireland's existing QA bodies. It is responsible for the external quality assurance of further and higher education and training and validates programmes and makes awards for certain providers in these sectors. It is also responsible for the maintenance, development and review of the National Framework of Qualifications.

### HKCAAVQ/NIAD-UE Joint Workshop

The HKCAAVQ and the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE), Japan, jointly organised a workshop in Hong Kong on 29 September. Themed "Recognition and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Transnational Education, Experience Sharing from NIAD-UE and HKCAAVQ", this workshop is the second joint endeavour between the HKCAAVQ and our partner agency in Japan to enhance mutual understanding of both agencies' work and QA models. The workshop discussed commonalities and differences between our two systems, such as the mechanism for evaluating transnational programmes.



## Annual Operators Briefing

The Annual Briefing on Accreditation for operators was held on 31 October. The event was attended by some 90 representatives of academic and vocational operators. At the beginning of the briefing, Ms Dorte Kristoffersen, Deputy Executive Director (Academic), presented to participants latest development of the HKCAAVQ, including the implementation of the For-Stage QA Process review, publication of summary accreditation reports, INQAAHE Review to be undertaken by the HKCAAVQ and our support to the implementation of the Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT). After her speech, representatives of the HKCAAVQ also shared with participants feedback on our accreditation services collected in the annual Operators' Survey, as well as the experience sharing in conducting accreditation. The Annual Briefing is one of the major initiatives taken by the HKCAAVQ to strengthen communication with our stakeholders, it also provides an open platform for exchange of views on our services for continuous improvement.

## Participation in the International Conferences

The HKCAAVQ maintains strong networks with other QA practitioners around the world by participating and presenting in international conferences. In the last quarter, we were invited to participate in and deliver speeches in six local and international conferences, they include:

- Quality Beyond Boundaries II Submit, London, a special forum for the countries that are most active in transnational education either as sending or receiving countries to exchange and share ideas on the quality assurance challenges of the International Branch Campus model.
- Australian International Education Conference 2014, "Inventing the Future", Brisbane
- Higher Education Evaluation Center International Forum, "Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Global Experiences and China's Exploration", Beijing
- Higher Education Evaluation International Conference and Pre-Conference Workshop, "Internal and External Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Developments and Trends in Asia", Taiwan
- Conference on Self-Financing Tertiary Education: The Way Forward, Hong Kong
- HKQF Conference 2014, "Qualifications Across Boundaries: Perspectives of Hong Kong Qualifications Framework and European Qualifications Framework", Hong Kong

## Workshop for Macao Polytechnic Institute

A tailored-made workshop was arranged for Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) on 21 August to help its staff gain understanding of our accreditation criteria and practice through a series of interactive training activities and discussions. The workshop also invited Dr Shirley Hung, former Chairperson of the Social Worker Registration Board, to share with participants her experience in accrediting social work programmes for different institutes in Hong Kong.

The HKCAAVQ offers tailor-made workshops upon request. Interested parties please contact our staff on +852 3658 0147 or email to [workshop@hkcaavq.edu.hk](mailto:workshop@hkcaavq.edu.hk).

## Visits to HKCAAVQ

A delegation consisting of representatives from the Department of Education of Guangdong Province and the Open University of Guangdong visited the HKCAAVQ on 17 November to learn about the QA system in Hong Kong as well as our accreditation process, standards and criteria.

Taking the opportunity of attending the HKQF Conference on 26 November, a delegation from the European Commission, the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Advisory Group and QA practitioners from New Zealand and Indonesia visited the HKCAAVQ on 27 November to understand the vision, mission, structures and QA approach of HKCAAVQ. The discussion provided these international experts with a general overview of the QA system in Hong Kong.

## News Roundup

### Expressions of interest invited for development of SCS-based Training Packages

The Education Bureau has invited expressions of interest from organisations interested in participating in the 2014-15 tendering exercise to develop Specification of Competency Standards (SCS)-based Training Packages. Interested organisations are required to return a completed Expression of Interest reply form to the QF Secretariat on or before 11 December 2014. For more details, please visit the QF website at [www.hkqf.gov.hk/TrainingPackages](http://www.hkqf.gov.hk/TrainingPackages).

### Consultancy report on good practices on governance and quality assurance of self-financing post-secondary education sector released

The Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education (CSPE) has completed a consultancy study on the topic of "Local and International Good Practices in the Governance and Quality Assurance of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Sector" and released its report in August 2014. The full report and the executive summary can be downloaded from the website of the Concourse for Self-financing Post-secondary Education at [www.cspe.edu.hk](http://www.cspe.edu.hk).

## Estimated and Actual Intakes of Locally-accredited Self-financing Full-time Post-secondary Programmes

In response to a question from the Dr Hon Kenneth Chan, Member of the Legislative Council, in relation to the operation of self-financing post-secondary institutions, the Education Bureau released the estimated and actual intakes of self-financing sub-degree, top-up degree and undergraduate programmes by institution in the last two academic years. The figures are available on the [Government's website](#).

## New Round of Applications under QESS Launched

The Education Bureau has launched a new round of applications for the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS) under the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund. Further details about the QESS are available at the Concourse for Self-financing Post-secondary Education at [www.cspe.edu.hk/content/Overview-Measures-Fund-QESS](http://www.cspe.edu.hk/content/Overview-Measures-Fund-QESS).

## HKCAAVQ in Numbers

### Summary Accreditation Reports Online: 95

(as of 21 November 2014)

Initial Evaluation:	24
Programme Validation:	19
Initial Evaluation + Programme Validation:	10
Programme Revalidation:	39
Programme Validation + Programme Revalidation:	3

Click [here](#) to view Summary Accreditation Reports.

### Qualifications Register

As of 14 November 2014, there are 8,035 qualifications on the Qualifications Register. Click [here](#) to view detailed breakdown of the November statistics.

## Accreditation Exercise Highlights

### Accreditation for Chi Lin Buddhist Secondary School

The HKCAAVQ conducted an Initial Evaluation (IE) at QF Level 1-3 and Programme Validation (PV) exercise at QF Levels 1-2 for the Chi Lin Buddhist Secondary School on 23 October 2014. Upon the successful accreditation of two programmes in Vegetarian Cookery, the School will be able to award students with SCS-based vocational qualifications that are recognized under the Qualifications Framework, namely "Certificate in Vegetarian Cookery Application and Food Hygiene" at QF Level 2 and "Foundation Certificate in Vegetarian Cookery" at QF Level 1. These are first programmes that will be included in the school curriculum to be offered alongside the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE). The Panel was impressed with the good quality of the training staff, training programmes and the School's teaching facilities.

## Institutional Review for The Open University of Hong Kong

The HKCAAVQ conducted an Institutional Review (IR) exercise for The Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) in June 2014. This is the fifth IR exercise the Council conducted for the OUHK (or the former Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong). The review was conducted by a Panel comprising seven local and international expert, which focused on how the OUHK assures the academic standards of its awards and the quality of students' learning experience.

Throughout a three-day on-site visit at OUHK's Ho Man Tin Campus and Kwai Hing Learning Centre, a range of different sessions were arranged including meetings with its academic and administrative staff, students, graduates, tutors and other external examiners. After careful deliberation on each of the review areas, the HKCAAVQ concluded that the OUHK has an effective and elaborate QA mechanism to assure the quality of its programmes, has drawn considerable references from external advisors in maintaining the academic standards of its programmes, and has taken steps to enhance the learning experience of students. The HKCAAVQ also commented the OUHK for its distance learning programmes and the positive feedback from students and graduates on the learning opportunities provided by the University.

"The Institutional Review is an effective self-evaluation process that helps us to identify the areas for improvement and the successful initiatives for further development," said Prof Danny Wong, Vice President of the OUHK. "During this exercise our colleagues appreciate very much that HKCAAVQ had worked in partnership with us so that we knew and accepted fully what we had to go through. We knew what were expected, and were able to know our shortcomings even before the physical visit. We believe this is a good experience to our academics, particularly to the younger ones who had not gone through an exercise like this before."

"The University believes that the Institutional Review is a valuable exercise through which the University can benefit from external experts and build on its strengths to make even greater strides in promoting quality education. Thus, it will continue to undertake external periodic reviews at an interval of five to six year," he continued.

The HKCAAVQ appreciates the frank exchange of views and the collaborative atmosphere throughout this exercise, and congratulates the OUHK on their efforts to maintain academic standards and progress in enhancing the student learning experience.



## External Review of HKCAAVQ

In 2015 the HKCAAVQ will be externally reviewed against the Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP) in Quality Assurance developed by the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAHE) to have our work benchmarked against international good practices. The HKCAAVQ is currently preparing a critical self-review to reflect on the effectiveness and outcomes of its existing QA procedures; a site visit conducted by a panel consisting of local and international members will take place in mid 2015. Recognition by the INQAHE will demonstrate that our QA work is aligned with GGP.

## Latest Update

### Accountabilities and responsibilities of Deputy Executive Directors

Ms Dorte Kristoffersen joined the HKCAAVQ as Deputy Executive Director (DED) on 6 October 2014. Starting from October 2014, Mr Robert Fearnside will be responsible for directing the vocational accreditation and development activities, while Ms Kristoffersen will be responsible for directing the academic accreditation and audit activities.

### Revised Fee Schedule for Accreditation Exercises

In accordance with Section 5(2)e of the HKCAAVQ Ordinance (Cap. 1150), the Permanent Secretary for Education has, under delegated authority, approved a fee increase of 9% for accreditation services provided by the HKCAAVQ. The revised fee schedule is effective for accreditation exercises with service agreements signed on or after 1 October 2014. The revised fee schedule is available on the [HKCAAVQ website](#).

### Launch of the Second Phase of the CAT Features on the QR

In support of the Education Bureau's Policy for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) under the Qualifications Framework, the HKCAAVQ has enhanced the search function of the Qualifications Register (QR) to identify programmes and operators that have CAT arrangements in place. With the launch of the second phase of the CAT features on QR, users can now conduct searches for operators who operate learning programmes that have CAT information indicated on the QR. For search of these operators and learning programmes, please visit the [QR website](#).

### Review of PAA Scope

Following the review of the Four-Stage QA Process review, a Standing Panel on Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) Scope has been set up to advise on the scope of the programme areas. So far three meetings had been held and a consultation session will be arranged to gauge feedback from Specialists on the proposed programme areas.

## Around the World

### Australia

- New Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015 will be implemented. The new Standards are available on the [ComLaw website](#).
- The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) published new guidance notes on academic governance and corporate governance and on nested courses and workforce planning. The guidance notes are on the [TEQSA website](#).

### Europe

- The revised version of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) has been endorsed by the Bologna Follow-Up Group. The revised ESG are expected to be adopted at the Bologna Process Ministerial Conference in Yerevan, Armenia in May 2015.
- The [European Tertiary Education Register](#) (ETER) has been launched, providing easy access to information on universities in 36 countries, including all European Commission Member States.

### Global

- A new OECD report *Skills Beyond School: Synthesis Report* says that countries should step up their efforts to improve the quality of post-secondary vocational training in order to meet the changing needs of today's job market. Read the report online on the [OECD website](#).

### Ireland

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) opens consultation on new Guidelines for Pre-Higher Education Foundation Awards for International Students. The consultation paper can be downloaded on the [QQI website](#).

### UK

- The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) published a statement on the future of quality assessment. Click [here](#) to view the QAA statement.

### USA

- The Commission on Quality Assurance and Alternative Higher Education – established by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the Presidents' Forum – has issued a paper on its work titled Quality Assurance and Alternative Higher Education: A Policy Perspective. The paper is available on the [CHEA website](#).

## Upcoming Events

2 December 2014

Training workshop for operators on Use of Credit under QF

22-23 January 2015

Staff forum on institutional governance and good practices by Mr John Randall, former Chief Executive, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), UK (The HKCAAVQ is granted by the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS) to organise workshops on international QA perspectives conducted by overseas experts. The good practices gained from the workshops will be incorporated into a web-based knowledgebase which will serve as an information portal to help inspire local institutions in further enhancing their QA capacity.

22- 23 January 2015

Workshop on Initial Evaluation and Learning Programme Accreditation / Re-accreditation

16 January 2015

QR Operators Briefing

## Contact us

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