

The HKCAAVQ Newsletter gathers information on news and events relating to 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 builds partnership with KHDA

HKCAAVQ and the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), Dubai, have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to strengthen cooperation on quality assurance matters. The Agreement was signed by Prof William Lee, Executive Director of HKCAAVQ, and Dr Warren Fox, Chief of Higher Education of KHDA, during the Quality Beyond Boundaries Workshop held on 21 April 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.

KHDA is a regulatory authority of the Government of Dubai and is responsible for the growth, direction and quality of private education and learning in Dubai. Dubai has a high number of international branch campuses, the agreement forms the basis for collaboration in quality assurance of institutions operating in both places.



### HKCAAVQ granted ENQA affiliate status

HKCAAVQ has been granted affiliate status from the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). ENQA is an umbrella organisation which represents quality assurance organisations from the European Higher Education Area member states. The ENQA affiliation status would allow HKCAAVQ to keep abreast of the quality assurance developments in Europe and to establish closer links with other ENQA agencies.

**AFFILIATE OF**  
**ENQA**

### Information Session for Macao Consultancy

As part of the consultancy project commissioned by the Tertiary Education Services Office (Gabinete de Apoio ao Ensino Superior, GAES) of the Macao Special Administrative Region to develop evaluation tools under the proposed Macao's Higher Education Evaluation Framework, HKCAAVQ presented the Generic Outcomes Standards Framework to the Macao higher education sector on 19 March 2015. A total of 32 representatives from 10 higher education institutions attended the information session. The framework will be tested during a pilot study using the evaluation guidelines developed by HKCAAVQ for GAES.

HKCAAVQ can provide consultancy services concerning quality assurance and the standards of academic and vocational education and training. Interested parties can visit the [consultancy web page](#) of our website or contact our staff on +852 3658 0147 for details including terms and conditions.

### Participation in the International Conferences

HKCAAVQ maintains strong networks with other quality assurance practitioners around the world by participating and presenting in international conferences. In the last quarter, we participated in or delivered speeches in five international conferences, they include:

- A paper on the implementation and challenges of Programme Area Accreditation was presented at the Asia-Pacific Quality Networking (APQN) 2015 Conference, Kunming.
- Ms Dorte Kristoffersen, Deputy Executive Director (Academic) talked about quality assurance and regulation of online higher education at the Educating Online in South East Asia: A workshop for higher education policy makers and practitioners, Kuala Lumpur
- International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in higher Education (INQAAHE) 2015 Conference, Chicago
- Quality Beyond Boundaries (QBB) Meeting – Club of Hubs Workshop, Kuala Lumpur. QBB is 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 in quality assuring International Branch Campuses.
- Sino-Australia Forum on Transnational Education and Student Mobility organised by Australian Education International (AEI) and the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), Beijing

## New Developments in HKCAAVQ Capacity Building Provisions

Many institutions/organisations, and HKCAAVQ Specialists have now, seven years after the launch of the QF in 2008, acquired considerable accreditation experience. HKCAAVQ therefore considers it to be appropriate and timely to reflect this development and provide more in-depth support to our stakeholders in the format of thematic workshops.

### Workshop on Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA) and Re-accreditation (re-LPA) of Associate Degree (AD) and Higher Diploma (HD) Programmes

Currently, HKCAAVQ offers bi-monthly workshops for the preparation of Initial Evaluation (IE) and LPA for institutions/organisations aiming at providing programmes at QF levels 1-3. In response to the needs of and requests from institutions/organisations, a series of thematic workshop on LPA and re-LPA of AD and HD programmes at QF level 4 was held on 31 March 2015 and 15 April 2015. They were attended by more than 50 representatives from institutions/organisations. Participants appreciated a focused discussion on the features and accreditation requirements of AD and HD programmes, and expressed a wish for a re-run of the workshop such that more colleagues can participate.



### A Closer Look at Vocational Accreditation – Why, What and How

On 23 April 2015, at the invitation of the Hong Kong Retail Management Association, HKCAAVQ conducted a tailor-made workshop titled “A Closer Look at Vocational Accreditation – Why, What and How” to help its member companies to understand the use of the Retail Specifications of Competency Standards (SCS) in developing SCS-based Programmes and the various requirements and standards associated with vocational accreditation. A total of 25 participants from 17 companies attended the workshop. During the workshop, HKCAAVQ made use of real-life examples from the retail industry to highlight key topics and to stimulate discussions that are important to the participants. Feedback gathered from the participants showed that the workshop met the stated purpose and increased participants’ understanding of vocational accreditation.



### Workshop on Questioning Techniques

On 21 April 2015, HKCAAVQ conducted a thematic workshop for Specialists on the topic of Questioning Techniques. The workshop was attended by around 40 Specialists; some of them were experienced panel members and chairs. During the workshop, HKCAAVQ explored with Specialists the strategies for collecting evidence through effective framing of questions. Concepts were put into practice through simulation exercises in handling different styles of feedback from institutions/organisations. The workshop was well received and Specialists expressed appreciation of the activities and practicability of the training, and requested more similar training opportunities in the future.

HKCAAVQ will continue to provide more focused and in-depth training to stakeholders, with the goal of enhancing the quality of education and training in the local sector.

## HKCAAVQ in Numbers

Summary Accreditation Reports Online: 270

(as of 21 May 2015)

Initial Evaluation (IE): 33

Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA): 34

Initial Evaluation + Learning Programme Accreditation (IE + LPA): 16

Learning Programme Re-accreditation (Re-LPA): 162

Learning Programme Accreditation + Re-accreditation (LPA + Re-LPA): 25

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

### Qualifications Register

As of 15 May 2015, there are 7,695 qualifications on the Qualifications Register. Click [here](#) to view detailed breakdown of the May statistics.

Note:

“LPA” and “Re-LPA” were previous known as “Programme Validation” and “Programme Revalidation” before the update of the Four-Stage QA Process Guidelines in August 2014.

## Feature



Dr Judith S. Eaton

## Much has happened - Much is still to come

### Dr Judith Eaton commends Hong Kong's commitment to quality education in a time of change

My involvement in Hong Kong began in 1998 when I was asked to join what was then called the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation. I served on this body until 2004, when I was asked to join the University Grants Committee (UGC). Most recently, I serve on the UGC Quality Assurance Council.

Much has happened with quality assurance and higher education during these years. Not only has Hong Kong higher education grown and diversified, it has made significant strategic changes in its structure and commitments. Where else in the world can we look at a 15-or-so-year period and find, for example, the establishment of associate degrees and community colleges? A comprehensive restructuring of undergraduate education from three to four years (3+3+4)? The creation of a Qualifications Framework and Qualifications Register? The colleges and universities serving as a regional educational hub? Enormous gains in addressing student learning outcomes? The creation of a new quality audit system? The establishment of major new ties internationally, in this case, Mainland China? All of this has taken place in Hong Kong.

Yes, many such activities have been undertaken in other places in the world, but few if any such places have been willing or able to pursue all of this substantive change for so many so quickly. And, all of these changes have resulted in significant improvement and enhancement of Hong Kong teaching, learning, research and service.

I have often remarked about the powerful investment that Hong Kong sustains in higher education. This is about much more than financing a strong system. It involves a deeply held belief in the importance of excellence all of the time. It involves an urgency about the value of higher education for Hong Kong and all its citizens. Hong Kong is a wonderful example of how a determined and dedicated society and government move forward with an

ambitious higher education agenda. Many of the rest of us have much to learn from Hong Kong's steadfastness of purpose and commitment to efficient action that produces meaningful, useful and valuable change.

Effective quality assurance is, of course, essential to an ambitious higher education agenda. It is not only that colleges and universities grow and diversify in number and services, but also that they do so while, at the same time, sustaining and enhancing excellence. Hong Kong's commitment to higher education has been matched by investment in its capacity for quality review. The Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation and Vocational Qualifications and the University Grants Committee's Quality Assurance Council both demonstrate that, as higher education changes, quality is always at the forefront of consideration, assuring the best of education to meet the needs of students and society. The growth and changes in these quality review bodies themselves is part of Hong Kong's ongoing dedication to higher education.

There are considerable challenges confronting Hong Kong higher education today, many of which confront other places as well. These include an enormous continued concern for quality in higher education, the adequacy of higher education financing and the challenge of alternative providers of higher education such as massive, open online courses and badge platforms. They include the ever-growing importance of internationalization – students, faculty, curriculum, research – and, with this importance, the twin challenges of both international cooperation and competition. Let's look back in another 15 years. It is reasonable to expect an enormous level of accomplishment and effectiveness of response to these challenges – if we are in Hong Kong.

Judith S. Eaton  
President  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)  
Washington, DC, USA

## News Roundup

- [2015-16 QF Award Scheme for Learning Experiences opens for applications](#)
- [Mr Tim Lui appointed as the new chairman to Education Commission](#)
- [iPASS releases figures of planned Intake of Non-JUPAS Post-secondary Institutions for the 2015/16 Academic Year](#)
- [Hong Kong and Malaysia sign Memorandum of Understanding on education cooperation](#)

## Latest Update

### Updates on the Four-stage QA Process Guidelines and New Accreditation Tools

The *Guidelines on the Four-stage Quality Assurance (QA) Process* under the QF have been updated and published on our website under the “[Four-stage Quality Assurance Process](#)” webpage with effect from 25 March 2015. Subsequent to the external consultations conducted in January and February 2015, the refined *Guidance notes on Initial Evaluation, Learning Programme Accreditation and Learning Programme Re-accreditation (including their submission guides)* for local programmes were also published on HKCAAVQ website in March 2015. The refined guidance notes incorporate new initiatives including graduate profile, credit accumulation and transfer and QF credits; and include a submission guide in specific to the accreditation of postgraduate degree programmes at QF Levels 6 and 7. The refinements made respond to the changing education landscape, and also facilitate operators in preparing a self-evaluative accreditation document. The submission guides on re-accreditation have been revised to focus more on the provision of evidence of outcomes and programme performance.

### Updates on the FAQs about qualifications partially delivered outside Hong Kong

The Qualifications Framework Secretariat has developed a set of criteria to determine whether qualifications partially delivered outside Hong Kong can be registered on the QR. HKCAAVQ has therefore updated the FAQs on the accreditation process and criteria to explain those principles. For details, please refer to Q12 in the FAQs available on the [HKCAAVQ website](#).

### New Mechanism for Recognising QF Accredited Learning Programmes as Qualified CPD Activities under the CPD Programme of IIQAS

Under the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme of the Insurance Intermediaries Quality Assurance Scheme (IIQAS), a new mechanism has been launched to recognise Insurance Learning Programmes and Insurance-Related Learning Programmes accredited under the QF as qualified CPD activities.

Learning programmes on the Qualifications Register (QR) being categorised under the insurance industry will be automatically recognised as qualified CPD activities. Learning programmes on the QR having insurance-related contents but not categorised under the insurance industry can be recognised as qualified CPD activities subject to the vetting of HKCAAVQ. Details of the mechanism and application procedures can be found at “[Assessment and Vetting of CPD Programmes for Insurance Intermediaries](#)”.

### Consultation on a New Classification System for Study and Training in the QR and Scope of Sub-areas for Programme Areas Accreditation

HKCAAVQ has issued a [consultation paper](#) to invite operators’ views and comments on a new classification system for study and training in the QR and scope of sub-areas for Programme Areas Accreditation (PAA). Upon the close of the consultation on 30 April 2015, feedback from 21 operators has been received. HKCAAVQ will consider the suggestions collected for the development of a finalised framework.

## Around the World

### Asia Pacific

- The Ministry of Education, PRC, has created the Joint Education and Supervision Information Platform which enables Sino-foreign higher education ventures to apply and register for approval and assessment by the Chinese government and publish materials online. Click [here](#) to view details (information available in Chinese only).
- The European Union (EU) and ASEAN have officially launched a project known as “European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE)”. The SHARE programme will support the development of the ASEAN Qualification Framework and quality assurance, as well as strengthening the ASEAN Credit Transfer System and ASEAN-EU Credit Transfer System. Click [here](#) for details.

### Australia

- The Australian government has set out a Draft National Strategy for International Education to boost international student numbers. Click [here](#) to view the consultation paper.

### Europe

- In 2013 the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) was granted funding for a European project entitled “Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education” (QACHE) to look into different ways in which European QA agencies and higher education institutions address the accreditation and quality assurance of the programmes delivered outside of their countries. A final report will be published later this year followed by a final conference to be held in Paris in November 2015. Visit the [QACHE website](#) for details.

- The European Higher Education Area adopted the revised Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) at the 2015 Ministerial Conference and Fourth Bologna Policy Forum in Armenia in May. The European Commission has published a report entitled “The European Higher Education Area in 2015: Bologna Process Implementation Report”. Click [here](#) to view the report.

## Global

- INQAAHE announced Jagannath Patil, Adviser in charge of National Assessment and Accreditation Council of India (NAAC), as its new President. Click [here](#) to view the INQAAHE Election 2015 results.
- OECD published a report titled “Schools for 21st-Century Learners Strong Leaders, Confident Teachers, Innovative Approaches” to identify school and system-level policies that promote effective school leadership, strengthen teacher’s sense of self-efficacy and encourage innovation. Click [here](#) to view the full report.
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) announced the World University Rankings by Subject. Click [here](#) to view details.
- The Times Higher Education announced the 100 Under 50 Rankings 2015. Click [here](#) to view details.

## Malaysia

- The Malaysian Government has launched the Malaysia Education (Higher Education) Blueprint 2015-2020. Click [here](#) to view the blueprint.

## Taiwan

- The Ministry of Education, Taiwan, has outlined plans to merge universities and call for cutting college enrolment quotas by 40% by 2023. View *Taipei Times’* [report](#).

## UK

- The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) has published a consultation proposing a new framework describing all regulated qualifications in England and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. Under the proposed new approach, qualifications would no longer have to be unitised or credit-bearing, but could be if that was the best way for the qualification to meet its purpose. Click [here](#) to view the consultation paper.

## USA

- The presentation materials at the 2015 CHEA Annual Conference Presentations are now available on the [CHEA website](#).

## Upcoming Events

### HKCAAVQ 25th Anniversary

2015 marks the 25th Anniversary of HKCAAVQ. To celebrate this special occasion, HKCAAVQ will organise a series of thematic seminars and invite prestigious quality assurance experts to share with our stakeholders their experiences and insights on various topics about quality assurance of higher education and vocational education and training. A gala dinner and an open house will also be arranged to celebrate our accomplishments and strengthen our network with the community.

To kick off the celebration, a seminar on transnational education will be organised on 15 September 2015 at Youth Square, Chai Wan. We will invite an international speaker to speak on effective governance and quality assurance of transnational education and with comments from local experts. Participation will be by invitation. For enquiries, please send an email to [info@hkcaavq.edu.hk](mailto:info@hkcaavq.edu.hk).

### Annual Operators’ Briefing

The Annual Operators’ Briefing is one of the major events held by HKCAAVQ to strengthen communication with our stakeholders. It also provides an open platform for exchange of views on our services that contribute to our continuous improvement. This year, the Briefing will be held on 5 November 2015 at the HKFYG Auditorium, Quarry Bay. Invitation will be extended to operators in September.

## Contact us

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