

Executive Director's Message

總幹事序言



Executive Director 總幹事
Peter P T Cheung 張寶德

香港學術評審局從來不是一所監管機構，評審亦不相當於簽發牌照。即使評審局在2007年10月1日改組為香港學術及職業資歷評審局，亦不會改變這些根本要素。

評審局，作為法定及自負盈虧的機構，因應客戶的需要，提供專業評審服務，同時亦貫徹主旨，以公眾利益為大前提。過去一年，我們構思新的發展，實踐新概念，但我們的基本原則如「切合目標」、「同行評估」及「評審以證據為本」維持不變。推出「學科範圍內自行評審資格」就是一個好例子，透過這個新的計劃，擁有相當經驗的院校可獲賦予權力，於有效期內開辦指定學科及級別/程度的獲認可課程，而毋須事先取得批准。這充分反映評審局的理念：就是讓質素保證融入院校管理文化，而廣義上的質素保證也與院校本身的質素保證程序相輔相成。

The Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA) has not been conceived as a regulatory body and accreditation is not licensing. The changeover to the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), which took place on 1st October 2007, has not changed these fundamentals.

The Council remains a statutory and self-financing body which seeks to provide a professional service, responding to needs of our clients but maintaining at the same time our character as a public body for a public purpose. In the past year we have developed new ideas and operationalised new concepts. But principles such as 'fitness for purpose', 'peer review' and 'evidence-based accreditation' are intact. One good example of the new approaches is the introduction of the Programme Area Accreditation status whereby an institution with a sound track record is given standing authority to launch accredited programmes without the need to seek prior external approval, in specified areas, at specified levels and for a specified period. This reflects our belief that quality assurance is most secure when it has become part of an institution's culture and safeguards are most efficient when embedded in an institution's own quality assurance procedures.

A degree of externality is always necessary for any QA system to be effective and to be self-perfecting. This is why even fully autonomous institutions will appoint advisory committees and external examiners. Externality, however, is not the only value offered by an independent accreditation agency. We offer enhancement as well. In this respect we are very much encouraged by the resounding success of the Hong Kong Shue Yan University, which is the first private university in Hong Kong and which has gained Programme Area Accreditation status. The acknowledgement by the President of the University, Dr. Henry Hu, that Shue Yan's success is attributable to the advice and support of the Council's Panels and that Shue Yan's long association with the HKCAA has helped with the development of its own quality assurance process and upgrading of standards, is most gratifying.

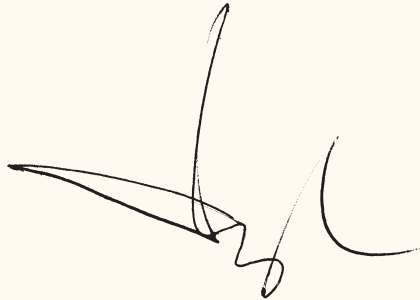
The new AAVQ Ordinance appoints the HKCAAVQ as the Accreditation Authority and the QR Authority for the Qualifications Framework. Looking into the future, the challenges for this Council are many. We shall have to serve a much larger and diverse client base. We shall need a larger pool of specialists from the industries and we shall need to maintain close liaison with almost all walks of trade. We shall streamline our procedures and lighten the financial and administrative burden on our clients. For courses at lower levels of the Qualifications Framework and for vocational education and skills training, we shall explore a parallel-track approach to process cases of the same genre in bulk and others individually. And it is an interesting development that for many of these courses, we shall use Chinese as the working language.

適當的外來監察，往往是必須的，從而令質素保證系統更加有效和自我完善。因此擁有完全自主的院校，都會委任諮詢委員和校外考官。但獨立評審機構的貢獻，卻不止外來監察，我們更致力促使教學質素的提升。樹仁大學能成功成為本港首間私立大學，令我們非常鼓舞。更值得欣慰的是，樹仁大學校監胡鴻烈博士表示，他們的成功有賴評審小組成員的建議和支持，以及評審局一直協助該校質素保證程序的發展，從而提升了學術水平。

根據新的《學術及職業資歷評審條例》，評審局獲委任為資歷架構下的「評審當局」和「資歷名冊當局」。展望未來，評審局將面對很多挑戰，評審服務對象更廣，更多元化。我們不但需要招募更多不同行業的專家，而且要與各行各業建立及保持緊密聯繫。我們會透過簡化評審程序，減輕課程營辦者的財政和行政負擔。對於資歷架構內屬較低資歷級別，以及職業教育和技術培訓的課程，我們將研究雙線並行的模式，因應情況統一處理多種同類型的課程，或進行個別評審。同時我們也會在進行該類評審時，按實際需要，以中文為工作語言。

無可避免，評審局的將來，與資歷架構成功與否息息相關。就此，我認為資歷架構的成功，不在於資歷名冊在多短時間可以涵蓋多少個課程。我們更應當關注的是，教育質素是否得到保障和提升，和資歷架構能否在社會上達到預期的效果。

As it is bound to be the case, the HKCAAVQ's future success will be closely associated with the success of the Qualifications Framework. There, my proposition is that success of the Qualifications Framework should not be judged by how many or how quickly courses get onto the Qualifications Register. We should be concerned about whether the quality of education is protected and promoted, and whether in truth the Qualifications Framework will have the desired impact on our society.



Peter P T Cheung
Executive Director
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張寶德
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