

The HKCAA – Now and Future

評審局的現在與未來





Being a public body for a public purpose
以公眾利益為目標的公營機構

The Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation Ordinance

The Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA), a public body incorporated under the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation Ordinance (Chapter 1150), was established in 1990 as an independent statutory body to provide authoritative advice to the Government on the academic standards of degree programmes in higher education institutions in Hong Kong. It has since extended its accreditation and other assessment services to privately-funded institutions and programmes at sub-degree and secondary school levels.

The HKCAA Ordinance provides for the Council's establishment, powers and functions and may be amended only by the Legislative Council. The powers to appoint Members of the Council, approve budget and set fees lie with the Government and are exercised by the Secretary for Education (formerly the Secretary for Education and Manpower).

香港學術評審局條例

香港學術評審局(評審局)，是根據《香港學術評審局條例》(第1150章)於1990年成立的獨立法定機構，負責就本港專上院校所舉辦之學位課程的學術水平，向政府提出具權威性的專業意見。自此，評審局的評審及評估服務已拓展至私立院校，副學位及中學教育程度等層面。

《香港學術評審局條例》對評審局的設立、權力及職能作出規定。任何條例的修訂，均須經立法會通過。評審局成員的委任、收支預算及收費的釐定，由教育局局長(前教育統籌局局長)作出決定。

角色與職能

香港學術評審局之角色與職能包括：

1. 透過學術評審工作，就院校的學術水平提供權威性的獨立意見，工作範疇包括院校評審、課程甄審或重新甄審，及/或檢討院校的整體學術水平；
2. 評審院校的學術及整體水平，釐清其透過自行質素保證機制，開辦課程的能力。具備此資格的院校，須定期通過評審局進行的院校覆審；
3. 就學術評審及學術水平方面的事宜，向政府及非政府機構提供意見；
4. 傳佈與學位課程相關的學術標準資料及推廣學術評審的方法及程序；
5. 與香港以外的評審機構建立關係，並保持緊密聯繫，定期探討該等機構的學術評審制度；
6. 舉辦或協辦學術會議、研討會及各類相關活動，以推廣學術評審的工作；
7. 就如何保持或監察學術水平事宜，進行或以委託的形式進行研究；及
8. 執行行政長官所批准或指派與學術評審或高等教育有關的其他職能。

Roles and Functions

The roles and functions of the HKCAA are:

1. providing independent authoritative advice on academic standards in institutions of higher education by carrying out academic accreditation of institutions and validation or revalidation of programmes, and/or reviewing the general academic standards;
2. evaluating an institution's ability to conduct programmes quality-assured by itself, subject to periodic reviews conducted by the Council;
3. advising the Government and non-government organisations on matters pertaining to academic accreditation and academic standards;
4. disseminating information on academic standards of degree programmes and the promotion of academic accreditation methods and practices;
5. establishing relationships with accrediting bodies outside Hong Kong and keeping under review the systems of academic accreditation of such bodies;
6. conducting, holding or assisting in seminars, conferences or any other forms of instructional or promotional activity;
7. conducting or commissioning research into the maintenance or monitoring of academic standards; and
8. carrying out such other functions relevant to academic accreditation or higher education as may be permitted or assigned to the Council by the Chief Executive.

The Council Structure

The Council of the HKCAA is appointed by the Chief Executive. It has a membership of eminent academics from within and outside Hong Kong, as well as prominent Hong Kong residents with high standing in commerce, industry or profession. The non-local members are from large educational systems outside Hong Kong, such as Australia, continental Europe, the Mainland, the United Kingdom and the United States. These members provide views and advice from different perspectives and keep the Council updated on and connected to other quality assurance mechanisms in the world. The Council normally meets twice a year in Hong Kong. The Executive Committee of the Council is made up of local members who act for the Council in between Council meetings. The full membership of the Council as at July 2007 is at Appendix 1.

The Council's work is supported by its three standing committees, namely the Qualifications and Accreditation Committee, the Finance Committee (with the Sub-committee on Funds Management), and the Personnel and Administration Committee. The Committees meet four times a year while the Sub-committee will be convened as needed. The membership lists are at Appendix 2.

評審局的架構

評審局成員，由行政長官委任。成員包括本地及非本地的傑出學術界人士和在工商業或專業方面具名望的香港居民。非本地成員來自不同地區，如澳洲、歐洲大陸、國內、英國和美國等。作為評審局的對外橋樑，非本地成員提供海外及國內的學術評審資訊及各方的專業觀點和意見，供評審局參考。評審局成員大會每年於本港召開兩次。評審局的執行委員會由本地成員組成，在評審局成員大會每年兩次會議之間，代理評審局的工作。評審局成員名單（截至2007年7月31日止），表列於附錄1。

評審局的工作，由成員大會下的三個常設委員會執行，分別為資歷及評審委員會、財務委員會和其屬下的資金管理小組委員會以及人事及行政委員會。常設委員會每年召開四次會議，小組委員會會議則因應工作需要而召開。各委員會的成員名單，表列於附錄2。



Annual Council Dinner 2007
2007年度周年晚宴

Group Photo of Council Members in January 2007
2007年1月的評審局成員合照



- Back row from left:** Professor Philip Yeung Kwok Wing; Professor Wong Yuk Shan, BBS, JP;
Dr Achim Hopbach; Professor Edmond Ko, JP; Professor Gordon Stanley;
Professor John Lee Chi Kin
- Mid row from left:** Dr Chan Wai Kwan, JP; Professor Chan Tsang Sing; Professor Richard Ho;
Professor David Dunkerley; Ms Winnie Ng; Dr David B Wolf; Dr Lewis Luk Tei
- Front row from left:** Mr Peter P T Cheung; Mr Martin Liao Cheung Kong, JP; Dr York Liao, SBS, JP
(Chairman); Professor Arthur Li Kwok Cheung (former Secretary for Education
and Manpower), GBS, JP; Dr Herbert Hui Ho Ming, JP (Vice-Chairman);
Professor Leung Tin Pui, BBS, JP; Professor Pan Yunhe
- 後排左起：** 楊國榮教授; 黃玉山教授, BBS, JP; Dr Achim Hopbach; 高彥鳴教授, JP;
Professor Gordon Stanley; 李子建教授
- 中排左起：** 陳偉群博士, JP; 陳增聲教授; 何焯基教授; Professor David Dunkerley; 伍穎梅女士;
Dr David B Wolf; 陸地博士
- 前排左起：** 張寶德先生; 廖長江先生, JP; 廖約克博士, SBS, JP (主席); 李國章教授 (前教育統籌局
局長), GBS, JP; 許浩明博士, JP (副主席); 梁天培教授, BBS, JP; 潘雲鶴教授

The Secretariat and Council's Office

The Council and its Committees are served by a Secretariat headed by the Executive Director (ED) who is an ex-officio member of the Council and its Committees. In preparation for the challenges arising from new education initiatives such as the Qualifications Framework (QF) and in order to serve a much expanded client base, the HKCAA has recruited a team of high calibre professionals with diverse backgrounds. The size of the Secretariat has grown from 46 staff in August 2006 to 57 by the end of July 2007. Staff members work in teams with multiple responsibilities which facilitate flexible allocation of tasks. Transparent and simple work processes are a priority.

The Secretariat comprises a team of professional staff, namely a Principal Registrar, Senior Registrars, Registrars, and Assistant Registrars and is supported by Executive Assistants who are executive trainees, administrative assistants and project assistants all in one. A small team led by an Office Manager provides the skeleton administrative support. Experienced individuals from sister organisations overseas and established training organisations in Hong Kong are employed as retained consultants to provide expert input, if required. Similarly, we engage part-time professional staff who assist in short term projects, helping to deal with the cyclical upsurge in demand for services. Staff list as at 31 July 2007 is at Appendix 3.

The HKCAA office occupies two floors in the Cambridge House of the Taikoo Place, Quarry Bay. The 23/F houses corporate headquarter functions while services units are located on the 10/F. The open layout of the offices is to encourage and facilitate communication among staff which is intended to improve the quality of the services provided to the public, in addition to achieving cost benefits.

秘書處及評審局辦事處

評審局及其屬下各委員會，由總幹事領導的秘書處提供支援服務。總幹事同時是評審局及各委員會的當然成員。為配合資歷架構的發展及其他教育新方向所帶來的挑戰，同時因應更多元化之服務對象，評審局聘用來自不同背景的优秀專業人才。秘書處的人事編制，亦從2006年8月的46人，增至2007年7月的57人。職員隊伍身兼多項職責，以提高工作分配的靈活性，並著重簡單而具透明度的工作程序。

秘書處的專業隊伍，由首席評審主任、高級評審主任、評審主任及助理評審主任組成，並由行政助理支援。行政助理作為見習行政人員，除了參與評審輔助工作外，亦支援秘書處的行政事務，以及協助處理個別評核個案。秘書處日常主要行政工作，由辦公室經理及少數職員負責。因應工作需要，秘書處會邀請來自海外同類型組織，或本港具規模之培訓機構的資深人士，以顧問形式提供專業支援。此外，秘書處聘請兼職專業人才，以彈性處理因應非常規和工作周期所驟增的工作量。秘書處的全體職員名單（截至2007年7月31日止），表列於附錄3。

評審局辦事處位於鯉魚涌太古坊康橋大廈，總部設於23樓，而前線服務部門則位於10樓。辦公室採用開放式設計，以促進員工之間的溝通，從而提升服務質素，同時增進成本效益。

評審局銳變中的職能

香港學術評審局自1990年成立以來，透過院校評審和課程甄審，就本地高等教育機構所開辦的學位課程，擔當質素保證的工作。獲評審局評審的課程，在政府聘任公務員及批核學生資助申請時，享有認可之資格。在個別情況下，該等課程亦獲其他僱主及教育機構在聘任和進修事宜上認可。

自2000年初，政府銳意擴展專上教育，評審局的評審工作範圍亦延伸至副學位資歷和私立辦學機構。隨著社會對持續進修及中學生升學途徑日益關注，政府亦委託評審局為持續進修基金計劃和其他中學教育課程，例如毅進計劃和應用學習課程，提供評核或質素保證服務。

《學術及職業資歷評審條例》下的資歷架構

2004年2月，政府通過成立資歷架構及相關的質素保證機制，有系統地將認可的主流教育、職業培訓及持續進修等資歷分為不同級別，提供一個促進終身學習的平台。《學術及職業資歷評審條例》將資歷架構之認受性確立於法定之質素保證機制之上。2007年5月，立法會通過有關條例草案，資歷架構預計於2008年正式推行。評審局之職能，將會隨著資歷架構之實施而有重大改變。

The Evolving Roles of the HKCAA

Since its establishment in 1990, the HKCAA has been performing an important role in assuring the quality of degree programmes offered by local higher education institutions through two kinds of accreditation activities, namely institutional review and programme validation. HKCAA-accredited programmes are recognised by the Government for the purpose of civil service appointments and granting of students' financial assistance. They are also given due recognition on individual cases by other employers and educational institutions for employment and further study purposes respectively.

The Government's initiative in early 2000 to expand post-secondary education has led to an expansion of the scope of HKCAA's accreditation activities embracing sub-degree qualifications and privately-funded institutions. At the same time, with greater attention given by the community to continuing education and progression pathways for secondary school students, the HKCAA has also been commissioned by the Government to provide assessment or quality assurance services for the Continuing Education Fund scheme and alternative secondary school education programmes, notably the Project Yi Jin and Applied Learning courses.

Qualifications Framework under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance

The Government approved the introduction of the QF and its associated quality assurance mechanism in February 2004 to provide a platform to promote lifelong learning and systematically categorise recognised qualifications of academic, vocational and continuing education into different levels. The Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (AAVQ) Bill, which provides for the quality assurance mechanism to underpin the QF, was passed into law by the Legislative Council in May 2007 and the QF is expected to be officially launched in 2008. The implementation of the QF will substantially change the remit of the HKCAA.

Under the provision of the AAVQ Ordinance, the HKCAA is to be re-established as the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) which will become the Accreditation Authority and the QR Authority under the QF. To empower the HKCAAVQ to take on these statutory roles, the HKCAA Ordinance has been amended through legislative process. The HKCAAVQ Ordinance (Chapter 1150) comes into being on 1 October 2007 when the Council enters into a new era with expanded functions while remaining as an independent and self-financing accrediting body in Hong Kong.

The HKCAA has been called upon to take on these pivotal roles under the QF because of its profound experience in quality assurance and accreditation work, well-proven procedures and time-honoured standards, and on account of its independent status as a statutory body.

根據《學術及職業資歷評審條例》，香港學術評審局將正式改組為香港學術及職業資歷評審局，並成為資歷架構的「評審當局」及「資歷名冊當局」。為賦予評審局權力以履行法定的職責，《香港學術評審局條例》已通過立法程序作出修訂。隨著《香港學術及職業資歷評審條例》（第1150章）於2007年10月1日正式生效，評審局將進入一個新紀元，肩負更多之職能，同時繼續為獨立及自負盈虧的評審機構。

評審局之所以獲委以重任，全憑過往豐富的質素保證與評審工作經驗，加上完備的評審程序及經得起時間考驗的評審標準，以及其作為獨立法定機構之地位。



Council Members and Secretariat Staff at 2007 Annual Dinner
2007年度周年晚宴評審局成員與職員合照

評審局在新法例下的職能

香港學術評審局之改組，標誌著其角色上的轉變，其職能及權責亦隨之擴大。作為資歷架構下之「評審當局」，香港學術及職業資歷評審局在發展和實施評審標準及機制方面，擔當重要的角色，以確保資歷架構的完整性。根據法例，所有非自行評審營辦者所頒發的資歷，必須成功通過「評審當局」的質素保證程序，方可上載於資歷名冊，獲資歷架構認可。此外，評審局還負責在「過往資歷認可」的機制下，為評估機構進行評審，評估機構須成功通過評審，方可獲教育局局長委任。

根據法例，評審局亦獲委任為「資歷名冊當局」，專責管理資歷名冊。資歷名冊是個網上資料庫，免費提供獲資歷架構認可的資歷及相關的營辦者和課程資料。「資歷名冊當局」有權載入或除去名冊所載列的資歷，並決定資歷的有效期。

為要承擔資歷架構下之法定職能，評審局歷年來開展了多方面的籌備工作。(本年度的工作詳見「跨步向前」一章。) 資歷架構預計於2008年正式推行，評審局已整裝待發，肩負「評審當局」及「資歷名冊當局」的重任。

The Council's Expanded Roles under the New Legislative Provision

The re-organisation of the HKCAA to the HKCAAVQ represents a significant transformation of its role and an expansion of the scope of its responsibilities and powers. The HKCAAVQ is to become the Accreditation Authority and has the important function to develop and implement the standards and mechanism of academic and vocational accreditations for the purpose of protecting the integrity of the QF. It is a statutory requirement that all qualifications offered by non-self-accrediting operators have to be quality assured by the Accreditation Authority before they can be entered into the Qualifications Register (QR) and be recognised under the QF. In addition, the Accreditation Authority will determine the competency of assessment agencies to conduct assessments under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mechanism. Only those assessment agencies duly accredited by the Accreditation Authority will be considered for appointment by the Secretary for Education.

The HKCAAVQ is also appointed by law as the QR Authority to maintain the QR, which is a free, web-based database showing qualifications recognised under the QF and related information on the operators and the learning programmes. It has the statutory power to add/remove a qualification into/from the QR and to determine the validity period of the qualifications on the QR.

Over the past few years, the HKCAA has made multi-faceted preparatory work for its new roles under the QF (examples of the tasks done during the reporting period are detailed in the next chapter "Moving Forward"). The HKCAA stands ready to take on the statutory functions of the Accreditation Authority and the QR Authority when the QF is launched in 2008.