

**Notes of the First Meeting of the Fourth Term of Liaison Panel for Academic Accreditation at 3:00 pm on 15 September 2025 (Monday) at the Conference Room on the Second Floor of the office of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, 10 Siu Sai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong**

- Present: Dr Joe HONG (Chair)  
Dr Josiah CHAN  
Professor Ricky CHAN  
Professor Sally CHAN  
Professor CHEUNG Yiu-ming  
Dr Amelia LEE, MH  
Dr Tracy LEE  
Mr Francis NGAI  
Ms Currie TSANG  
Dr Daniel YAN  
Ms Jenny CHAN (Secretary)
- Absent with apologies: Professor Francis T.K. AU  
Professor LUI Hon-kwong
- In Attendance: Dr Christine QI

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Chair welcomed all Members of the Liaison Panel for Academic Accreditation (LPAA). It consists of HKCAAVQ specialists, key personnel from accredited operators, and representatives from professional bodies. He believed that their views and insights would help enhance HKCAAVQ's services and contribution to the educational developments in Hong Kong.
- 1.2 The terms of reference, roles and functions of the LPAA was briefly explained to all Members.

## **2. BRIEFING ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF HKCAAVQ'S ACCREDITATION SERVICES**

### **2.1 Student engagement in academic accreditation**

Members noted HKCAAVQ's latest development in student engagement in accreditation exercises in response to the recommendations of the review panel of the European Association for Quality Assurance in

Higher Education (ENQA). A pilot project on student engagement in academic accreditation is currently in progress, with the aim of strengthening the incorporation of learners' perspectives throughout the quality assurance process. This initiative seeks to align with international best practices in academic accreditation.

Members were briefed that students were engaged in the pilot project in two phases. In phase one, students served as observers in selected accreditation exercises. Training was provided to these students, during which they learnt the relevant policies, principles, and procedures. In phase two, students would participate in each of the selected exercises as a Student Panel Member, with support from a professional staff member of HKCAAVQ.

Members exchanged views on the criteria for selecting Student Panel Members. The Chair explained that, while students from UGC-funded institutions would be recruited for the pilot project, invitations would also be extended to students from self-financing institutions.

## **2.2 New services for Review of Applied Degree Programmes**

Members noted the introduction of new services for the Review of Applied Degree Programmes. A briefing on the procedures was provided to accredited operators on 12 September 2025. The documents "*Guidelines on Developing Applied Degree Programmes*" and "*Procedures for Review of Applied Degree Programmes*" were available on the HKCAAVQ website.

## **2.3 Updates on digitalisation of workflows**

Members noted the initiatives undertaken by HKCAAVQ in digitalisation of workflows. A Robotic Process Automation Project was ongoing to leverage AI to streamline and enhance the efficiency of the accreditation process.

Members welcomed HKCAAVQ's digitalisation initiatives and looked forward to significantly reducing the time required for learning programme accreditation exercises. They shared views on critical factors for HKCAAVQ's consideration, including cost of system maintenance and participations of staff from all levels within the organisation. Chair appreciated the inputs from Members.

### **3. DISCUSSION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SELF-FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR IN HONG KONG**

#### **3.1. Amendments to the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320)**

Members were informed that a briefing session on Amended Cap. 320 would be conducted on 25 September 2025. The event was co-organised by HKCAAVQ and EDB, with a limited number of seats available, and invitations had been sent to operators.

More information regarding the new arrangements would be provided to operators in due course. Members noted that HKCAAVQ would secure additional resources, including manpower, to support the operations related to the amended ordinance.

Chair emphasised that HKCAAVQ had been striving to safeguard the admission of all operators registered under Cap. 320, and that there was a need for different stakeholders to discuss how to better handle fraudulent qualifications. Members shared the same concern that fake academic qualifications have been a significant challenge during the qualification assessment process.

#### **3.2. Training and briefing for key stakeholders of accreditation services**

Members learnt that a wide range of regular training activities, thematic training activities and tailor-made in-house training for operators had been delivering by HKCAAVQ. Apart from the aforementioned briefings on Applied Degree and Amended Cap. 320, a specific briefing on Non-local Programmes (NLP) would be provided to non-local course operators on 29 September 2025.

Members also noted that the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) Annual Academic Conference (ACC) was scheduled for 20-23 November 2025, and invitations would be sent to Members later.

### **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A Thematic Analysis of accreditation outcomes in learning programme accreditation and re-accreditation conducted by HKCAAVQ was shared with Members. The analysis aimed to identify shared and recurring challenges and improvement priorities across Hong Kong's self-financing post secondary sector.

Members appreciated the sharing and noted that the report would be published online [*post-meeting note*]<sup>1</sup>.

4.1. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

JoH/CQ/JnC

---

<sup>1</sup> The Thematic Analysis Report has been published on HKCAAVQ's website:  
[https://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/en/other\\_services/thematic\\_analysis/](https://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/en/other_services/thematic_analysis/)