

Notes of the Second Meeting of the Fourth Term of Liaison Panel for Academic Accreditation at 3:00 pm on 29 September 2026 (Tuesday) 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 Christine QI (Chair)
Professor Francis T.K. AU
Dr Josiah CHAN
Professor Ricky CHAN
Professor CHEUNG Yiu-ming
Dr Amelia LEE, MH
Dr Tracy LEE
Mr Francis NGAI
Ms Currie TSANG
Ms Jenny CHAN (Secretary)

Absent with apologies: Professor Sally CHAN
Professor LUI Hon-kwong
Dr Daniel YAN

In Attendance: Mr Kenny LOCK

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all Members of the Liaison Panel for Academic Accreditation (LPAA) to the second meeting of the current term of the Panel.
- 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

The Chair updated members on the 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 was initiated to strengthen the incorporation of learners' perspectives throughout the quality assurance process.

Members were briefed that the pilot project was completed in two phases. In Phase One, students served as observers in selected accreditation exercises after receiving training provided by HKCAAVQ. In Phase Two, four students served as student panel members and contributed their perspectives to the respective Panels for undergraduate programme accreditation exercises. Positive feedback was received from both the students and the Operators.

The Chair added that a recruitment exercise would be conducted to expand the pool of student panel members, including postgraduate students, to support accreditation exercises for master's and PhD programmes.

2.2 New services for Review of Applied Degree Programmes

Members were briefed that the new service for the Review of Applied Degree Programmes (ADP) commenced in September 2025. As of September 2026, five programmes had undergone ADP review through programme accreditation or assessment for substantial change. Following the briefing session for Operators in September 2025, training on ADP review was provided to appointed specialists in July 2026.

The Chair explained that such service was open to all Operators, with more applications expected from those with University of Applied Sciences (UAS) status.

2.3 Annual reporting for programmes with extended validity period

Members noted that, as outlined in the latest version of the *Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework*, Operators of learning programmes granted an extended validity period, i.e. longer than “N+1”, would be required to submit an annual report to HKCAAVQ one year after “N”. The report would provide information on programme enhancement measures relevant to the LPA standards.

A draft template for the annual report was presented and would be circulated to Members for comments after the meeting.

2.4 Updates on digitalisation of workflows

Members noted HKCAAVQ's initiatives to digitalise workflows, including the establishment of a new unit to take forward a digital transformation

project. Use cases from each unit would be identified for adoption, and a number of completed accreditation exercises would be selected for testing.

The Chair highlighted that HKCAAVQ would develop an AI policy for internal governance, with reference to international standards and practices in different countries. Members noted that, given the substantial number of workflows involved in accreditation operations, there was a need to minimise the risk of human error and potential privacy breaches. Members agreed that a prudent approach should be adopted.

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)

The Chair reported that an email had been sent to the relevant Operators in mid-August 2026 to check whether each Operator was fully compliant with the latest requirements under amended Cap. 320. The deadline for response was the end of September 2026. She added that some self-financing arms of publicly funded institutions would undergo a migration exercise under the new regulatory framework of Cap. 320.

3.2. Training and briefing for key stakeholders of accreditation services

Members noted that regular training activities covering different types of accreditation exercises, such as learning programme accreditation and initial evaluation, had been provided to Operators over the past year. In late September 2025, a briefing on the amended Cap. 320 was provided to Operators, including existing Cap. 320 Operators, institutions registered under Cap. 279, and self-financing arms of publicly funded institutions intending to migrate to Cap. 320. Members were also informed that a sharing session on quality admission and fraudulent credentials would be organised by HKCAAVQ in mid-November 2026.

Members also noted that HKCAAVQ would undergo an external review conducted by ENQA in November 2026. The agency review aimed to evaluate whether and how HKCAAVQ met the expectations of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area as a quality assurance agency. HKCAAVQ had been working on follow-up actions in response to the recommendations made by ENQA in the previous agency review, which was completed in 2021.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A thematic analysis conducted by HKCAAVQ on trends in academic accreditation activities and programme characteristics over the five-year period from 2021/22 to 2025/26 was shared with Members. The analysis aimed to provide evidence-based insights into sector development and resource planning for post-secondary education institutions. Members appreciated the sharing and noted that the report had been published on the HKCAAVQ website.

The Chair invited Members to propose topics for the next thematic analysis. Members expressed that the focus of the current analysis was meaningful and should be continued. They also agreed that a further study on the effectiveness of student engagement would be useful.

4.1. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

CQ/KnL/JnC