

**Notes of the First Meeting of the Second Term of Liaison Panel for Academic Accreditation at 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on 7 November 2019 at the office of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, Conference Room, 2/F, 10 Siu Sai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong**

Present: Mr Albert CHOW (Chair)  
Professor Yu-Hon LUI  
Dr Louis MA  
Dr Kim MAK  
Mr Jonathan NG  
Professor George THAM  
Dr Homer TSO  
Professor Eric YU  
Professor Allan HK YUEN

Absent with apologies: Professor YV HUI  
Professor Jimmy LEE  
Dr Fiona LOCK (Secretary)

In Attendance: Dr Joe HONG  
Ms Cindy CHAN  
Ms Anne LAU  
Mr Sam HO  
Ms Helen YAU  
Ms Claudia LAM (Secretary)

**WELCOME**

Chair welcomed Members of the Liaison Panel for Academic Accreditation (LPAA). He expressed appreciation of the participation of the Members and looked forward to listening to the Members' views.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Chair presented the Terms of Reference of the LPAA and Members were briefed that the LPAA was established to promote exchanges between HKCAAVQ and different stakeholders.
- 1.2 HKCAAVQ shared with Members the overview of the current developments of Academic Accreditation and scope of services provided, including Academic Accreditation, Assessment of Continuing Education Fund (CEF) reimbursable courses, and Assessment of Non-local Learning Programme (NLP). Members were appreciative of services that HKCAAVQ provided in terms of Academic Accreditation.

## **2 LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF HKCAAVQ'S ACCREDITATION SERVICES**

### **2.1 Implementation of Revised Accreditation Standards**

Members noted the implementation of revised accreditation standards for accreditation exercises with the submission of accreditation documents on or after 1 April 2019. The *Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under HKQF* and an *Evidence Guide for Academic Accreditation* were published to support the implementation of the revised standards. Members were appreciative that feedback from stakeholders was positive and there were no major issues after the revision. Members also welcomed the guidance and supportive measures provided.

### **2.2 Implementation of Differentiation to Accreditation Approach**

Chair introduced the implementation details and benefits of differentiated approaches to accreditation exercises. The approaches of differentiation included the adoption of paper-based review, variation in validity period and customisation. The differentiation decision was made upon analysis of the operators' track record, performance profiles and/or outcomes drawn from the Quality

Management System (QMS) of HKCAAVQ. Members were also informed that differentiation in accreditation was a form of recognition of the strengths of their internal quality assurance arrangements. Member appreciated the positive move which can efficiently help operators not just in terms of quality assurance but also quality enhancement. They see this as a good mechanism for operators, which also create a win-win situation. This was the first step to foster continuous process improvement and modifications will follow.

### 2.3 **Accreditation of Joint Programmes**

The Council of HKCAAVQ approved the arrangements of the accreditation service for local joint programmes under the Qualifications Framework (QF). The arrangements were launched in October 2019. At this stage, the new accreditation service would be confined to joint programmes offered by two award granting bodies. Members were briefed of the scope of the service, the definition of collaborative partnership, as well as the accreditation approaches adopted for the service. Examples of evidence requirements under different domains of competence under the revised accreditation standards were also introduced. Members welcomed this new provision and exchanged views on the possible opportunities and challenges in offering joint programmes.

### 2.4 **Implementation of CAT Database on QR**

Chair shared with Members the current development of the implementation of CAT database on QR. Members were briefed of the overview of the different types of CAT. Relevant information was uploaded to the QR since the launch of the CAT centralised database in October 2018. Members noted a more user-friendly information search engine on mobile version of QR would be launched by the end of 2020. Chair also encouraged representatives of institutions to submit programme information for the CAT Database. With more information available on the Database, learners would be able to identify their articulation paths.

## 2.5 Implementation of Training Workshops for Stakeholders

- (a) HKCAAVQ organised various capacity building activities, such as regular training workshops and seminars for its key quality assurance stakeholders, tailor-made in-house training for operators and thematic training activities. These activities would keep the stakeholders informed of the latest development in HKCAAVQ's services, and local and international quality assurance concepts and practices. Members noted the feedback received via annual survey and appreciated the efforts made in conducting the capacity building activities. Members also expressed views on the possibility of making use of big data to inform more theme-based capacity-building activities.
- (b) In the area of online programme accreditation, Chair updated Members that HKCAAVQ is leading discussions regarding the topic with the Quality Beyond Boundaries Group (QBBG).
- (c) Members noted the presence of a series of upcoming capacity building activities in relation to Quality Assurance, namely the Workshop on Use of QF Credit under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework commissioned by the Education Bureau to be held in December 2019 and January 2020 respectively and the Professional Training Workshop in Quality Assurance which would be organized in March 2020. Members were invited to encourage their staff to attend these activities.

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

- 3.1 Members exchanged their views on the consultation document of "Task Force on Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education". Members welcomed the key suggestions as proposed by the Task Force, including the comprehensive review and updates of the existing Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320), strategic co-ordination amongst self-financing institutions, and sharp differentiation between the positioning of the Associate Degree and

Higher Diploma qualifications, etc.

- 3.2 Members discussed a range of issues in relation to the challenges in terms of subsidy, approaches for migration of the relevant self-financing arms of these institutions to the new unified regime under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320), and roles of UGC-funded and self-financed institutions. Chair shared that HKCAAVQ would try its best to facilitate and cooperate with major stakeholders in this regard.
- 3.3 Members expressed their views that there was an actual need to revamp the existing Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320), taking into consideration the latest developments of the higher education sector and needs of institutions in Hong Kong. Issues such as teaching-out/ deregistration arrangements should also be formulated and clearly indicated in the revamped Cap.320.

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

- 4.1 Chair briefed Members on the latest developments in the United Kingdom and Australia regarding their efforts and heavy emphasis on academic misconduct and dishonesty. Members were informed that the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) would execute legislations against plagiarism.
- 4.2 The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.