Notes of the First Meeting of the Forth Term of Liaison Panel for Accreditation of Vocational and Professional Education and Training (LPAVPET) at 2:30 p.m. on 10 July 2026.

Present:	Dr CHIU Sau Mee (Chair) Mr AU Kwok Chung, Alex Ms CHAN Ching Yee, Susan Ms CHAN Chin Ming, Ada Ms Angie CHOW Mr FUNG Kwong Chi Dr Charmaine LEE Miss MAN Bo Lin, Manbo, MH Dr WONG Kong Tin, James, BBS, JP Ms Louwi CHAN (Secretary)
Absent with Apologies:	Ms CHUNG Yim, Carol Mr HUNG Chi Chung, Leo
In Attendance: (HKCAAVQ Staff)	Ms Helen YAU Ms Lizt WONG Ms Polly WONG Ms Phyllis CHEUNG Ms Ivy LAU Ms Joey WU

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of Liaison Panel for Accreditation of Vocational and Professional Education and Training (LPAVPET) for the new term (2025-2028) and expressed appreciation of the participation of all Members.

1.2. Chair introduced Members, and provided an overview of the Terms of Reference of the LPAVPET, meeting practices, and arrangements for LPAVPET meeting.

2. BRIEFING ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF HKCAAVQ'S ACCREDITATION SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

2.1. Continuous Improvement of Quality Assurance (QA) Process under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF)

Members were briefed on the latest enhancement measures to further strengthen the accreditation process, covering annual monitoring, enhanced differentiation approach, and accreditation for

micro-credentials. While the annual monitoring framework is still in development, the other two initiatives are currently being piloted and will be reviewed and refined to ensure they are effective and fit-for-purpose.

2.1.1. Annual Monitoring

To ensure and monitor the quality standards of accredited programmes during an extended validity period, HKCAAVQ has introduced an annual monitoring mechanism, as set out in the "*Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under HKQF (Version 1.3)*". Operators are requested to submit an annual report to provide information on programme enhancement measures relevant to the accreditation standards.

2.1.2. Enhanced Differentiation Approach

To streamline and optimise the re-accreditation process for learning programmes with strong track records, HKCAAVQ has introduced an enhanced differentiation approach that customises panel size, accreditation documentation requirements, processes, and outcomes. The approach has been piloted since Q1 2025 across programmes at multiple QF Levels, with positive stakeholder feedback to date. A comprehensive review is planned for Q1 2027.

2.1.3. Micro-credentials

Recognising the growing importance and popularity of micro-credentials, HKCAAVQ shared with Members on a pilot accreditation exercise tailored to the defining features of micro-credentials for VPET related learning programmes. The pilot exercise began in Q2 2026. A subsequent review of the accreditation process for micro-credentials, including potential enhancements to existing accreditation standards and criteria, and refinements to the accreditation timeline to better accommodate the specific features of micro-credentials, will be conducted.

2.2. Development of Qualifications Register (QR)

Members were briefed on the statutory functions of HKCAAVQ as the QR Authority, along with the promotional measures and outreach activities undertaken to raise public awareness of the use of QR.

2.2.1. Promotional Measures

Echoing the discussion at the last LPAVPET meeting and to broaden promotion of the HKQF and QR, HKCAAVQ has extended QR promotional activities to secondary school students and teachers to enhance their understanding and awareness of QR. These activities include:

- Invitation from Home Affairs Department to introduce the use of HKQF and QR for career planning;
- Organisation of an "AI-generated Mascot Design and Naming Competition" for Qubot (a chatbot on QR website) to promote QR's role in further studies and lifelong learning and use of AI;
- Invitation from The Education University of Hong Kong to serve as guest speaker for its professional development programmes on life planning education and career guidance for secondary school teachers and teacher-training providers;
- Participation in the Education and Careers Expo organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, showcasing the use of QR and delivering a career talk; and
- Participation in a joint-schools career fair organised by three local schools.

Looking ahead, HKCAAVQ will broaden its outreach to a wider potential users, including secondary and post-secondary school students, career counsellors, social workers and parents, while enhancing the QR website's usability and user-friendliness.

2.3. Development of Consultancy Services in Greater Bay Area (GBA)

HKCAAVQ shared with Members about the latest development of consultancy services and network established in GBA.

2.3.1. GBA Quality Assurance (QA) Network

To promote a QA culture and foster the exchange of international best practices, HKCAAVQ co-hosted the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) Annual Academic Conference in November 2025, bringing together representatives of universities, corporations and training providers from the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and overseas. In addition, HKCAAVQ conducted both QF-recognised and non-QF accreditation exercises for joint programmes delivered by local Operators with partner universities/ corporate training bodies in the Chinese Mainland.

2.3.2. Consultancy Project

HKCAAVQ updated Members on the different types of consultancy services undertaken in the Chinese Mainland. These include consultancy for establishing QA mechanism and a QR in Guangdong Province under the Guangdong Lifelong Education Qualifications Framework, as well as assessment of the operations of the secondary Hong Kong sections of the schools in Chinese Mainland, that are seeking to become participating school for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE).

Looking ahead, HKCAAVQ will explore potential collaborative initiatives to facilitate local secondary school leavers to pursue VPET development opportunities within and beyond GBA, particularly in disciplines and industries that are more developed in the Chinese Mainland.

3. UPDATE ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN HONG KONG

3.1. Continuous Improvement of QA Process under the HKQF

Members generally welcomed the enhancement measures to strengthen the accreditation process. They also discussed and offered suggestions on the implementation approach to mitigate potential operational impacts.

- Taking into account the cost implications and manpower demands for annual monitoring, Members discussed the potential approaches and formats of implementation. Suggestions included adopting a "pulse-check" approach for annual monitoring; aligning the annual monitoring process to support subsequent re-accreditation process, as well as conducting more consultation prior to implementation. HKCAAVQ clarified that the current approach is to adopt a streamlined self-declaration tool that provides necessary oversight of continuous enhancement and programme changes while minimising administrative burden on Operators.

- Members expressed support for the Enhanced Differentiation Approach. They shared that, with turnover among frontline staff at some VPET Operators, preparing documents and navigating different re-accreditation approaches could be challenging. They suggested that additional guidance and briefings could be helpful.

3.2. Development of QR

Members shared their views and explored possible ways to further enhance the QR's functionality and popularity:

- Members suggested providing more guidance on advertising a qualification is recognised under the QF. HKCAAVQ responded that in light of the shift from print to social-media advertising, the guidelines regarding desirable layouts for advertisements for QF-recognition have been updated and enriched with examples for advertising through social-media platforms.

- Members appreciated the Qubot development initiative to improve the website experience and shared their experience of using Qubot with more specific prompts. Members looked forward to

further enhancement in Qubot's user-friendliness such that it can handle more complicated conversational enquiries and help users explore the QR website more effectively.

- Members proposed exploring the suitability to incorporate career-assessment features (e.g. a brief personality test) to support the matching of career interests with potential learning programmes, which would better engage young people.

- Members supported the initiative to conduct outreach to universities and other institutions to raise awareness of the QR. They recommended that HKCAAVQ engage more effectively with secondary schools, NGOs, and their social workers through connections with the Education Bureau, as well as enhance the use of QR by, for example, designing a short learning programme that uses the QR as a tool/teaching resource for life-planning, and promoting the QR as a career-counselling tool through relevant professional bodies.

3.3. Development of Consultancy Services in GBA

Members exchanged their views and experiences on working with and communicating with industry stakeholders and learners in the GBA. They expressed support for strengthening cross-boundary qualification verification, particularly for vocational skills, across the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao, to facilitate manpower mobility.

Members also shared examples of cross-border training needs. For instance, under the HKSAR Government's Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme, workers from the Chinese Mainland might require suitable learning programmes for upskilling and reskilling to facilitate their employment in Hong Kong. In addition, some care-service providers in the Chinese Mainland have expressed interest in QF-recognised training programmes offered in Hong Kong.

Furthermore, Members discussed an emerging articulation pathway for HKDSE students who accept conditional places at higher vocational/technician colleges in the Chinese Mainland, leading to progression to universities in Hong Kong. In response to this observed trend, HKCAAVQ responded that it was exploring possible measures to better support articulation, particularly in subjects that are more developed/ advanced in the Chinese Mainland.

3.4. Other Discussions and Way Forward

Members observed a rising trend of special education schools expressing interests in offering QF-recognised vocational programmes to better prepare and equip students with practical skills

after graduation. Members recommended conducting further outreach to these schools, such as via relevant associations of School Principals, to enhance their understanding of HKQF and programme accreditation.

Besides, drawing on observations from the Chinese Mainland, Members discussed enhancing students' articulation through industry–academia collaboration. They considered that job-linked programmes, especially partnerships between universities and large enterprises, that provide clear articulation and employment pathways upon graduation were attractive and likely to be in high demand. HKCAAVQ supplemented that several major enterprises in Hong Kong have been operating QF-recognised programmes for years (e.g. elevator companies offering electrical engineering programmes), and that more enterprises were anticipated to pursue accreditation in the near future.

Furthermore, Members enquired about the potential use of AI tools in the accreditation processes. HKCAAVQ reported that a study of AI implementation in the accreditation processes was underway, with the aim of streamlining the accreditation workflow and improving operational effectiveness. An initial pilot was anticipated for academic-related accreditation.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.