

Notes of the First Meeting of the Third Term of Liaison Panel for Accreditation of Vocational and Professional Education and Training (LPAVPET) at 2:30 p.m. on 5 July 2023.

Present:

Dr CHIU Sau Mee (Chair)
Mr AU Kwok Chung
Mr Daniel CHAM
Mr Richard CHENG
Ms Angie CHOW
Ms CHUNG Yim, Carol
Mr HUNG Chi Chung
Ms Charmaine LEE
Mr Simon LEUNG
Mr NG Ah Ming
Professor Agnes TIWARI
Ms Louwi CHAN (Secretary)

In Attendance:
(HKCAAVQ Staff)

Dr Kelvin MA
Ms Anne LAU
Ms Phyllis CHEUNG
Ms Lizt WONG
Ms Polly WONG
Ms CHEUNG Hiu Tung
Ms Anna LUI
Ms Candy LEE

Absent with Apologies: Not applicable

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.** Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of Liaison Panel for Accreditation of Vocational and Professional Education and Training and expressed appreciation of the participation of the Members.

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

2.1. Development of Applied Education

Members were informed of the latest development of applied education, including (a) the launching and introduction of Diploma of Applied Education (DAE) in place of the former Diploma Yi Jin (DYJ); (b) the review of sub-degree education, comprising the differentiation in the positioning of Associate Degree (AD) and Higher Diploma (HD) along with the enhancement of Common Descriptors for AD and HD; and (c) the pilot project on the development of applied degree programmes.

Members appreciated that the development and enhancement of applied education offers more options for learners to progress along the VPET pathway. Members also shared their view and explored possible ways to facilitate learners' articulation:

- Members welcomed the enhancement of Common Descriptors for AD and HD which encouraged the recognition of relevant working experience as fulfillment of HD's entrance requirements.
- Members considered that early exposure to life science related elements (e.g. prior to commencement of sub-degree education) could better prepare the learners for progression into health care related programmes such as nursing studies and rehabilitation studies.
- Members also agreed that enhancing collaboration between HD programme providers and industries would facilitate the mutual recognition of relevant qualifications and working experiences.

2.2. Development of the Hong Kong Digital Credentials Hub (HKDCHub)

HKCAAVQ briefed the Meeting the development of the Hong Kong Digital Credentials Hub (HKDCHub), a secure and integrated platform for storage, conversion, management and verification of learners' digital credentials. The HKDCHub is currently under a pilot trial for testing the user-friendliness of the major functions and collecting comments from the pilot users.

Members welcomed the development of HKDCHub and enquired on the details of implementation, such as the roles of Operator, types of qualification to be collected (e.g. non-QF qualifications, overseas qualifications) and the verification process. HKCAAVQ responded that the development of HKDCHub would take a staged approach, and at this preliminary stage, only QF-recognised qualifications would be the target for data collection. HKCAAVQ supplemented that comments from Members would be further sought in due course.

2.3. Development of Accreditation Services in the Greater Bay Area

2.3.1. Guangdong Qualifications Framework (GDQF)

HKCAAVQ shared with Members the progress of the consultancy services on developing a quality assurance system under the Guangdong Lifelong Education Qualifications Framework.

2.3.2. School Review

Members were briefed of the background and review process of the School Review exercise. The aim of this consultancy service in quality assurance outside Hong Kong is to assess whether the operations of the secondary Hong Kong sections of the Mainland schools were comparable to those of similar registered schools in Hong Kong. School Review is conducted with reference to the framework of comprehensive review for schools under the direct Subsidy Scheme in Hong Kong developed by the Education Bureau (EDB).

Members welcomed the collaboration on education development between Hong Kong and other cities in the GBA; and looked forward to further enhancing collaborations and connections in accreditation services across the regions.

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

3.1. Work-based Learning

HKCAAVQ shared with members about the background of the Consultancy Service for the Study on Work-based Learning (WBL) under the HKQF and the salient points of the draft Reference Guide on WBL. Members were informed that the draft practical Reference Guide provides definition of WBL in the local context and offers nine guiding principles for the development and incorporation of WBL into learning programmes for the purpose to further support the development of WBL in Hong Kong.

Members exchanged their views and experiences on offering WBL and expressed their expectation that the draft Reference Guide might help minimizing ambiguity on categorizing WBL activities including the delivery and arrangement of learning programmes comprising practical training components especially during the period of pandemic. Members also considered that the recommended definition incorporating the three key features of “authentic”, “structured” and “integrated learning” could effectively facilitate the understanding of WBL in the local context. Besides, the proposed guiding principles with

descriptions of good practices allow flexibility in designing WBL activities which could effectively suit different industry needs.

3.2. Micro-credential

HKCAAVQ is of the view that the concept of micro-credentials can be standalone qualifications or building blocks for larger qualifications. With the common features of micro-credentials as being short and focused, flexible and transferable, the development of micro-credentials helps widening learning opportunities and strengthening the collaborations among the education and training providers and the industries.

Members were supportive of the development and recognition of micro-credentials under the HKQF. With short and focused contents, members considered that micro-credentials allow flexibility in programme design and delivery which can better utilize the operational cost and human resources as well as meeting the increasing demand of learners for lifelong and life-wide learning in the rapidly changing workplace.

3.3. School-based VPET Learning Programmes

Members were informed that HKCAAVQ has been working closely with the secondary school sector in quality assuring VPET learning programmes offered to secondary school students. Differentiated approach is adopted for accreditation of school-based VPET learning programmes offered by the government and subsidised secondary schools.

Members welcomed the development of school based VPET learning programmes and exchanged their experiences on development of relevant programmes, especially on the provision of support to secondary school teachers. Members considered that it would be beneficial for the schools to seek professional assistance from the associated institutions on programme design and development of school-based VPET learning programme so as to lessen the workload of the teachers.

3.4. Training and Briefing for Key Stakeholders of Accreditation Services

Members noted that HKCAAVQ offered different types of training and briefing for key stakeholders of accreditation services, including regular training, thematic training and tailor-made training for Operators; as well as training for Specialists. Through training, HKCAAVQ endeavours to promote a quality assurance culture, and to encourage stakeholders to continuously enhance their internal QA capability and awareness of quality matters.

Members expressed that face-to-face training is preferred over online training as the training session could also serve as an effective channel for industry exchange and networking. Members also provided suggestions for thematic trainings such as development of online programmes, assessment design, teaching strategies and skills, questioning techniques, development of QA mechanism, documentation management for operators and preparatory work for learning programme re-accreditation.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1. Chair invited Members to share their practical experience on participating in accreditation exercises and implementing quality assurance related matters to enlighten and provide valuable insight to other Operators.

4.2. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.