Hong Kong Qualifications Framework

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Hong Kong – Asia’s World City

Southeast coast of China
Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF)

• Launched in 2008 by Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government

• Objectives -
  • Establish a platform to support **lifelong learning**
  • Enhance **capability and competitiveness** of the local workforce
Structure of HKQF

- A **7-level hierarchy** matching the Hong Kong’s education system
- A **unitary framework** covering academic, vocational and continuing education sectors
Driving HKQF Development

Quality  Progression  Recognition
HKQF: Quality

- HKQF underpinned by a robust quality assurance mechanism

- Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ)
  - Independent statutory body for QA
  - Accreditation authority conducting QA process for all programmes from non-self-accrediting providers

- Quality Assurance Council under University Grants Committee (UGC)
  - a centralised QA body in higher education sector (eight UGC-funded universities)
HKQF: Progression

- Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITAC) set up for 23 industries, covering over 50% of total labour force
- Composition: representatives from employers, employees, professional bodies and regulatory bodies
- ITACs to define competency standards in respect of key functional areas of the industries
- Training based on competency standards to meet the needs of the industries
Progression - Industry Participation

Employers

Employees

Professional Bodies

ITAC

- Banking
- Import & Export
- Testing, Inspection & Certification
- Logistics
- Beauty
- Automotive
- Jewellery
- Information & Communications Technology
- Electrical & Mechanical Services
- Property Management
- Hairdressing
- Catering
- Watch & Clock
- Printing & Publishing
- Travel
- Agriculture and Horticulture
- Security Services
- Human Resources Management
- Elderly Care Service
- Manufacturing Technology
- Insurance
- Retail

Manufacturing Technology

Human Resources Management

Elderly Care Service

Insurance

Retail

Testing, Inspection & Certification

Import & Export

Banking

Logistics

Beauty

Automotive

Jewellery

Information & Communications Technology

Electrical & Mechanical Services

Property Management

Hairdressing

Catering

Watch & Clock

Printing & Publishing

Travel

Agriculture and Horticulture

Security Services

Human Resources Management

Elderly Care Service

Manufacturing Technology

Insurance

Retail

Testing, Inspection & Certification

Import & Export

Banking

Logistics

ITAC

Employers

Employees

Professional Bodies
Progression - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

- RPL mechanism set up for 15 industries
  - to validate and recognize skills, knowledge and experience acquired at the workplace
  - to facilitate continuous learning
- Over 50,000 RPL qualifications issued
HKQF: Recognition

• HKQF-recognised qualifications:
  • learning programmes
  • RPL qualifications

• New initiative to recognize professional qualifications under HKQF

• Wider application of HKQF and uplifting professional image of VET
Recognition: Bringing HKQF to the Globe
International Collaboration (1)

- **Scotland**
  2012 - Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Partnership for cooperation on QF development

- **New Zealand**
  2014 - Cooperation Arrangement on Development of QF signed with New Zealand Qualifications Authority
International Collaboration (2)

- **European Commission (EC)**

  2014 – Commencement of Hong Kong’s collaboration with EC on the Comparability Study of HKQF and European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

  2015 – Acceptance of Study report by EQF Advisory Group

  2016 – Promulgation of Study results
International Collaboration (3)

• **Ireland**
  
  2016 - Memorandum of Understanding signed with Quality and Qualifications of Ireland on strengthening collaborations on QFs development

• **Thailand**
  
  Collaboration with Office of Education Council and Thailand Professional Qualification Institute on benchmarking projects on competency standards
International Collaboration (4)

- **Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)**
  Participation in the conferences and workshops organized by the task force for the development of ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework

- **Mainland China**
  Experience sharing in developing HKQF to various organizations and parties on the Mainland to contribute to the setting up of national QF
Forward Plan

• Recognition of qualifications for different industries

• Quality-assured pathways for further studies and career development

• Support for QF development in China

• Closer collaboration with international counterparts
Thank you