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

### HKQF
*(Levels and Examples of Qualification Types)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Master Degree / Postgraduate Diploma / Professional Diploma / Advanced Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bachelor Degree / Professional Diploma / Advanced Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Associate Degree / Higher Diploma / Professional Diploma / Advanced Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education / Diploma / Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Certificate of Vocational Education / Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Foundation Certificate</td>
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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

Agriculture and Horticulture
Security Services
Human Resources Management
Elderly Care Service
Manufacturing Technology
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

Employers

Employees

Professional Bodies

ITAC
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