

New initiative on recognition of Professional Qualifications launched under Hong Kong Qualifications Framework

To widen the scope of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF), the Education Bureau announced today (September 3) the launch of an initiative for recognition of professional qualifications under the HKQF.

A spokesperson for the Education Bureau said, "Before the launching of the initiative, qualifications recognised under the HKQF were confined to those obtained from completion of learning programmes as well as through the 'Recognition of Prior Learning' mechanism for recognising work experiences and competencies. Recognition of professional qualifications promotes a wider application of the HKQF and uplifts the professional image of vocational and professional education and training."

Professional qualifications recognised under the HKQF refer to qualifications granted by bona fide local organisations that are not underpinned by associated learning programmes. Individuals should meet the requisite academic qualifications and prescribed years of industry or professional experience, as well as complete robust assessments in written or practical formats in order to obtain the qualifications.

Eligible organisations including professional and regulatory bodies may apply to become assessment agencies for issuing professional qualifications under the HKQF. Upon successful completion of accreditation by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) and appointment by the Secretary for Education as assessment agencies, the professional and regulatory bodies can issue qualifications which are recognised under the HKQF and registered on the Qualifications Register.

"The Education Bureau invited the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA) and the Marine Department to undergo accreditation by HKCAAVQ for issuing professional qualifications during the pilot phase. Both the HKICPA and the Marine Department have successfully completed the accreditation and been appointed by the Secretary for Education as assessment agencies for issuing Associate Level qualification and seven types of Certificates of Competency (CoCs), namely CoCs for Deck Officer Class 3, Class 2 and Class 1; CoCs for Marine Engineer Officer Class 3, Class 2 and Class 1; and CoC for Electro-technical Officer respectively for five years with effect from today. These qualifications are now recognised under the HKQF," the spokesperson added.

Guidelines for organisations to become assessment agencies for issuing professional qualifications under the HKQF can be downloaded from the HKQF

website www.hkqf.gov.hk.