

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Manpower

Latest Developments of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the latest developments of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF).

Background

2. The HKQF defines clear and objective standards applicable to qualifications in the academic, vocational, professional, as well as continuing education sectors. The primary objective of establishing the HKQF is to promote lifelong learning with a view to continuously enhancing the quality, professionalism and competitiveness of our workforce in an increasingly globalised and knowledge-based economy. The latest developments of the HKQF are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

(a) *Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs)*

3. At present, we have set up 22 ITACs¹, covering industries with over 50% of the workforce in Hong Kong for the implementation of the HKQF. We will continue to reach out to stakeholders of other industries for a wider implementation of the HKQF.

¹ Arboriculture and Horticulture, Automotive, Banking, Beauty and Hairdressing, Catering, Elderly Care Service, Electrical and Mechanical Services, Fashion, Human Resource Management, Import and Export, Information and Communications Technology, Insurance, Jewellery, Logistics, Manufacturing Technology (Tooling, Metals and Plastics), Printing and Publishing, Property Management, Retail, Security Services, Testing, Inspection and Certification, Travel as well as Watch and Clock.

(b) *Specification of Competency Standards (SCS)*

4. ITACs are tasked with drawing up SCS for the relevant sectors, which set out the skills, knowledge and outcome standards required of employees in different functional areas of the respective sectors. The drawing up of SCS facilitates the formulation of training programmes for recognition under the HKQF. 20 ITACs have drawn up SCS for their respective industries, and the remaining two ITACs (i.e. Arboriculture and Horticulture ITAC and Travel ITAC) will complete the drawing up of SCS for their industries by 2019 and 2020 respectively. As at 30 September 2019, over 1 180 SCS-based courses have been developed by education and training providers. We will continue to promote SCS to gain wider acceptance by employers as useful guides for the development of in-house training and human resources management, such as staff recruitment and performance assessment.

(c) *Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Mechanism*

5. The HKQF not only covers qualifications obtained from academic education and training, but also enables formal recognition of the skills, knowledge and relevant experience acquired by practitioners in the workplace through the RPL mechanism which is based on the competency standards set out in the SCS of various industries. Practitioners may pursue further learning with their RPL qualifications as a starting point to acquire higher and broader qualifications. At present, the RPL mechanism has been implemented in 15 industries². As at 30 September 2019, about 33 000 applications from practitioners for the assessment of RPL involving over 71 000 clusters of competencies were processed/are being processed by the assessment agencies concerned. Details are set out at Annex A. We are working closely with the Information and Communications Technology, Security Services and Fashion industries with a view to extending the RPL mechanism to these industries.

(d) *Specification of Generic (Foundation) Competencies (SGC)*

6. Generic (Foundation) Competencies are generic skills and knowledge that are shared across different industries and trades and are relevant to most people in the workplace. SGC covers four strands of foundation skills, namely English, Chinese, Numeracy, and Information

² Automotive, Beauty, Chinese Catering, Elderly Care Service, Electrical and Mechanical Services, Hairdressing, Import and Export, Jewellery, Logistics, Manufacturing Technology (Tooling, Metals and Plastics), Printing and Publishing, Property Management, Retail, Testing, Inspection and Certification as well as Watch and Clock.

Technology. As at 30 September 2019, about 110 SGC-based courses have been developed by the education and training providers.

(e) *Qualifications Register (QR)*

7. QR, a web-based database containing information on qualifications and their respective learning programmes that have been quality assured and recognised under the HKQF, is available to the public free of charge. As at 30 September 2019, there were around 8 000 academic and vocational qualifications, involving about 230 education and training providers, registered on the QR. As the statutory Accreditation Authority and QR Authority, the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) will continue to ensure the quality and standards of HKQF-recognised programmes. Statistical information on the qualifications registered on the QR is set out at **Annex B**.

(f) *Award Titles Scheme (ATS) and the use of QF Credit*

8. The ATS and the use of the QF credit were introduced in 2012. The ATS specifies the award titles that can be used for qualifications at various QF levels whereas the QF credit is a measurement of the volume or size of learning programmes recognised under the HKQF. Starting from 2016, the titles of all programmes registered on the QR conform to the ATS, and the QF credit values of all programmes at QF Levels 1 to 4 are shown on the QR. Following consultation with stakeholders from October to December 2018, operators will be required to indicate the QF credit for their newly registered learning programmes at QF Levels 5 to 7 (except for research-based programmes) on the QR with effect from September 2020. Operators will be required to indicate the QF credit of all learning programmes at QF Levels 5 to 7 (except for research-based programmes) on the QR with effect from September 2022³.

³ Self-accrediting operators with their own established credit systems are voluntary to indicate the QF credits of their learning programmes at QF Levels 5 to 7 on the QR. However, two types of programmes, namely full-time, four-year bachelor's degree programmes and full-time, one-year taught master's degree programmes, will be given a remark indicating a range of QF credits on the QR starting from September 2020, if self-accrediting operators do not indicate the QF credits of such programmes on the QR.

(g) *Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT)*

9. To promote learners' mobility and progression by minimising duplication of learning, EDB promulgated in 2014 the policy and principles for CAT which apply to all programmes from QF Levels 1 to 7 as Phase 1 of the CAT project. Subsequently, the *Policy, Principles and Operational Guidelines for CAT under QF in Hong Kong* was promulgated in 2016 to facilitate the review of existing CAT systems by providers or establishing a CAT system that suits their own circumstances. The CAT centralised database was introduced on the QR in 2018 to set out CAT information and articulation arrangements with a dedicated search function. As at 30 September 2019, there were about 2 960 and 570 qualifications registered on the QR indicating CAT arrangements at the institutional and programme levels respectively.

(h) *Vocational Qualifications Pathway (VQP)*

10. VQP represents a roadmap for progression in learning and employment in an industry, along which learners and practitioners can progress at various levels through attainment or acquisition of the required occupation-based qualifications. Specifically, VQP identifies the QF Level, scope of learning, SCS required, learning outcomes and assessment criteria of the required occupation-based qualifications for each principal job role. Major tasks, entry requirements, qualifications required and employment pathway for each principal job role are also clearly set out. VQP is developed in consultation with the ITACs concerned to ensure that occupation-based qualifications developed under VQP best meet the needs of the industries and assure that the abilities of the qualifications holders could perform the occupations concerned well. As a result, synergy between learning and employment can be further enhanced.

11. The development of VQP for the Automotive, Banking, Property Management and Elderly Care Service industries have been completed. At present, there are more than 40 VQP courses on the QR. The VQP for the Printing and Publishing as well as Insurance industries are being developed. We will continue to extend the development of VQP to other industries as appropriate and in phases, in consultation with the respective ITACs to ascertain the readiness in doing so. The development of VQP will also be included in the process of drafting or revising SCS for industries so as to ensure the inclusion of competencies for key job roles in SCS.

(i) Recognition of Professional Qualifications

12. To widen the application of the HKQF, EDB launched an initiative in 2018 for recognition of professional qualifications under the HKQF. 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. Recognition of professional qualifications promotes a wider application of the HKQF and uplifts the professional image of vocational and professional education and training (VPET).

13. In September 2018, the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Marine Department were appointed as assessment agencies for issuing Associate Level qualification and seven types of Certificates of Competency (CoCs)⁴ respectively recognised under the HKQF.

(j) Co-operation with Other Places on QF

14. The intention to develop the nation's QF was announced in the National 13th Five-Year Plan in 2016. Over the years, EDB and the QF Secretariat have shared our experience in developing and implementing the HKQF with various organisations and parties on the Mainland. In June 2019, EDB signed a Letter of Intent on QF Co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong with the Department of Education of Guangdong Province to strengthen collaboration on QF between the two places. We will continue to liaise with the relevant authorities with a view to sharing our experience and playing an active role in the setting up of the country's QF.

15. We have also been actively establishing a network with QF and quality assurance authorities of other places to facilitate qualification recognition, support mobility of learners and labour, and enhance opportunities for future cooperation between Hong Kong and other places. Referencing projects have been undertaken to provide a translation device to understand the corresponding levels of qualifications between the HKQF and the QF of other places. We have completed referencing /

⁴ 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.

comparability projects with the European Qualifications Framework, Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, the Irish National Framework of Qualifications and the New Zealand Qualifications Framework. Besides, EDB organised the HKQF International Conference in September 2018 in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the HKQF. The Conference aimed to explore global trends and issues of developing QF, to promote dialogues among places with advanced QF systems and to examine the role of QF in the changing landscape in VPET. Over 400 local and overseas participants, including government officials, QF and quality assurance experts, academics and professionals in VPET attended the Conference.

(k) Budget initiatives

16. As announced in the 2013-14 Budget, EDB allocates a recurrent funding of \$10 million per year to support ITACs to launch new initiatives to further enhance the knowledge and skills of workers in the industries as well as their competitiveness in the labour market. These initiatives include –

- (a) introducing the QF Award Scheme for Learning Experiences for outstanding practitioners to engage in learning activities in different places around the world;
- (b) designing SCS-based Training Packages that meet the needs of the industries; and
- (c) stepping up promotion and publicity of the HKQF for its wider acceptance among all sectors.

Major developments of the above initiatives over the past year are set out at Annex C.

Qualifications Framework Fund

Establishment of the QF Fund

17. With the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in 2007, a non-recurrent commitment of \$208 million was created to implement a basket of financial assistance schemes, known as Qualifications Framework Support Schemes (QFSS) to provide time-limited financial assistance to encourage relevant stakeholders to participate in the HKQF. Recognising the importance of the HKQF in

maintaining a quality workforce, the QF Fund with an endowment of \$1 billion was established in 2014 to provide a steady source of income to support the sustainable development and implementation of the HKQF. The Government further injected \$1.2 billion into the QF Fund in 2018 for the continued implementation of various initiatives of the HKQF. The QF Fund has been placed with the Exchange Fund, which is administered by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority for investment. The Steering Committee on QF Fund (Steering Committee) was set up to advise the Secretary for Education on the policy, strategy and administration of the QF Fund. The terms of reference and membership of the Steering Committee are set out at **Annex D**.

Use of the QF Fund

18. The QF Fund supports schemes/initiatives for the sustainable development and implementation of the HKQF, including but not limited to the following two areas –

- (a) Designated Support Schemes for QF (with the previous time-limited QFSS incorporated and regrouped as the Accreditation Grant Scheme, RPL Support Scheme, Programme Development Grant Scheme, Support Scheme for Recognition of Professional Qualifications under the HKQF and QR Subsidy Scheme). As a QF enhancement measure, the parameters of the RPL Support Scheme have been / will be relaxed and the subsidy level of the QR Subsidy Scheme has been increased in 2019. Details of the schemes are set out at **Annex E**; and
- (b) Funding for ITACs, QF-related studies/projects and public education such as referencing projects with the QF in other places. Details of the projects approved by the Steering Committee that are conducted in 2019 are set out at **Annex F**.

19. The total expenditure on various support schemes/initiatives under the QFSS and the QF Fund over the years amounts to \$296 million.

Way Forward

20. Over the last decade, the HKQF has built up solid infrastructure for a quality qualifications system that supports progression and fosters recognition. More and more organisations, institutions and employers recognise the importance of the HKQF and adopt it in their recruitment, training, promotion and student admission. Looking forward, the

Government will further strengthen and drive the development of the HKQF to enhance recognition of qualifications for different industries and provide youngsters with quality-assured pathways for further studies and career development. In particular, the HKQF will continue to provide a solid foundation to establish vocational and professional pathways with a view to enhancing the promotion and development of VPET in Hong Kong.

Education Bureau
October 2019

**Recognition of Prior Learning mechanism
(as at 30 September 2019)**

Industry	Current Appointed Assessment Agency	Launch Date	No. of applications processed/ being processed	No. of clusters of competencies	Success rate
Hairdressing	Vocational Training Council (VTC)	Jun 2008	1 004	5 112	99.4%
Printing & Publishing	VTC	Jun 2008	855	1 508	97.7%
Watch & Clock	VTC	Jun 2008	862	980	99.9%
Property Management	VTC	Mar 2011	11 389	17 279	99.1%
Automotive	VTC	Nov 2011	1 499	2 912	98.2%
Jewellery	VTC	Nov 2011	1 748	2 081	99.5%
Logistics	HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education	Mar 2012	2 403	3 437	99.8%
Chinese Catering	VTC	Jan 2013	4 015	5 134	99.8%
Beauty	Caritas Institute of Community Education	Jul 2014	4 171	25 187	99.1%
Retail	VTC	Dec 2014	3 861	5 136	100%
Import & Export	HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education	Sept 2015	159	229	100%
Elderly Care Service	Hong Kong Association of Gerontology	Sept 2015	458	1 852	99.3%
Testing, Inspection & Certification	School of Science and Technology of the Open University of Hong Kong	Nov 2015	13	13	100%
Electrical & Mechanical Services	VTC	Dec 2015	273	714	99%
Manufacturing Technology (Tooling, Metals & Plastics)	Hong Kong Productivity Council	Mar 2017	128	128	100%
Total			32 838	71 702	99.2%

Annex B

**Qualifications registered on the Qualifications Register
(as at 30 September 2019)**

Category	No. of qualifications
(1) Qualifications offered by self-accrediting institutions	3 193
(2) Qualifications offered by non-self-accrediting institutions	3 984
(3) Qualifications offered under the Recognition of Prior Learning mechanism	727
(4) Qualifications offered under the Recognition of Professional Qualifications	7
Total:	7 911

Major Developments of the Budget Initiatives on Qualifications Framework (QF) in 2019

QF Award Scheme for Learning Experiences (Award Scheme)

The Award Scheme aims to recognise outstanding or emerging practitioners who can serve as exemplars and role models for their respective industries and help attract the younger generation to pursue career in these fields. For the 2019-20 Award Scheme, a total of 70 practitioners have been selected by the respective Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs) for the award. Awardees engaging in learning activities in Hong Kong receive an award of \$10,000 while those engaging in learning activities outside Hong Kong receive an award of \$30,000. We shall invite applications for the 2020-21 Award Scheme starting from the first quarter of 2020.

Specification of Competency Standards (SCS)-based Training Packages

2. The SCS-based Training Packages, developed with reference to SCS of respective industries, aim to serve as a catalyst for the development of SCS-based training and assessment materials for wider adoption by enterprises and course providers to meet the needs of the industries. A total of five batches of training packages developed for 13 ITACs from 2013 to 2019 involve 31 job functions.

Promotion and Publicity of QF

3. In 2019, we have continued our promotion and publicity targeting at three groups –

- (i) **School sector:** Riding on the ITAC networks and the competency standards and progression pathways developed for the respective industries, we organised 18 school projects with ITACs to promote QF and the relevant industries to senior secondary school students in the 2018/19 academic year. Over 3 000 students from more than 140 schools attended the talks, workshops or visits. We also conducted talks to introduce QF to secondary school students, career masters and federations of parent-teacher associations from time to time. All these efforts aim at enabling teachers, students, parents and the community at large to understand how QF can facilitate students' career and life planning.

- (ii) ***Industry sector:*** In 2019, we organised/co-organised over 70 activities, events and briefing sessions to promote QF for 23 industries, which were attended by stakeholders including employers, employees and representatives from industry organisations. We have also visited small and medium enterprise (SME) organisations to promote QF and its possible applications to SMEs.
- (iii) ***Community at large:*** In 2019, we published more than 40 QF-related articles in newspapers as well as publications of professional bodies, trade unions and trade associations to enhance stakeholders' understanding and awareness of QF. We have also made use of various publicity channels, such as MTR Digital Panel Network, HKedCity, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook to promote QF and the spirit of lifelong learning to the general public.

Steering Committee on Qualifications Framework Fund

Terms of Reference

The Steering Committee advises the Secretary for Education on –

- (a) the overall strategy for making use of the Qualifications Framework Fund (the Fund) as a vehicle to support the sustainable development and implementation of the Qualifications Framework;
- (b) the scope and parameters of schemes, initiatives and activities to be covered by the Fund; and
- (c) any other matters that may be referred to the Steering Committee by the Education Bureau concerning the policy and administration of the Fund.

Where necessary, the Steering Committee also advises the Trustee of the Fund on the formulation of policies for and monitoring of the investment of the Fund.

In discharging its functions, the Steering Committee may set up sub-committees, conduct studies, engage professional services and co-opt members as and when necessary.

Membership (from 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2020)

Chairperson: Dr York LIAO, SBS, JP
Vice-Chairperson: Ms Caroline MAK Sui-king, JP
Members: Dr Lawrence CHAN Wan-ching
Mr Eric CHIU Yat-sing
Mr Dennis HO Chiu-ping
Mr IP Wai-ming, MH
Mr LAM Chun-sing
Mr Sunny LEE Wai-kwong, JP
Ms Carrie LEUNG Ka-lai, MH
Mrs Agnes MAK TANG Pik-yee, MH, JP
Mr Jonathan NG Tai-shing
Miss TSOI Kuen-kuen
Mr WONG Kit-loong
Prof Peter YUEN Pok-man

Ex-officio Members: Executive Director, Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications
Secretary for Education or his/her representative

Designated Support Schemes for Qualifications Framework

1. Accreditation Grant Scheme

Scope	<p>The scheme aims to encourage education and training providers to seek accreditation at the institutional and programme levels under the Qualifications Framework (QF), and assist mature providers in seeking self-accrediting status in specified programme areas. Accreditation grant will be provided for the following activities –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Evaluation and Institutional Review • Programme Validation and Re-validation • Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) (covering both first-time and subsequent exercises; the latter takes the form of Periodic Institutional Review) 			
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers and qualifications concerned must be successfully accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) • Programmes/qualifications concerned must be registered on the Qualifications Register (QR) 			
Level of Subsidy		Courses subsidised by the Education Bureau (then Education and Manpower Bureau) ¹	Non-profit-making providers	Other providers
	Initial Evaluation / Institutional Review fees ²	100%	100%	50%
	Programme Validation / Programme Re-validation fees			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specification of Competency Standards (SCS)-based or Specification of Generic (Foundation) Competencies (SGC)-based programmes 	100%	100%	50%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other programmes 	100%	70%	35%
	PAA/Periodic Institutional Review fees	100%	70%	35%

¹ These courses include those under the “Skills Upgrading Scheme” (which is now renamed “Skills Upgrading Scheme Plus”) and the “Employees Retraining Scheme” (which is now renamed “Manpower Development Scheme”).

² Institutional Review (IR) includes IR for registration under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance and IR for private university title.

2. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Support Scheme

Scope	The scheme covers the fees for accreditation of RPL assessment agencies (AAs) and collaborating organisations, one-off start-up /annual maintenance grant for the actual expenditure incurred by the AAs in setting up the assessment mechanism/ monitoring and maintaining the quality of the RPL mechanism, subsidy for each new application of RPL cluster processed by the AAs and reimbursement to practitioners who have successfully applied for RPL assessment.				
	<i>Accreditation grant/Assessment fee to RPL AAs /collaborating organisations</i>	<i>Start-up Grant to RPL AAs</i>	<i>Annual Maintenance Grant to RPL AAs</i>	<i>Subsidy to RPL AAs</i>	<i>Reimbursement of RPL assessment fees</i>
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First time and subsequent accreditations • Successful accreditation by HKCAAVQ • Appointed by the Secretary for Education (SED) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful accreditation by HKCAAVQ (first-time accreditation) • Appointed by SED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting from 2nd year of the appointment • Appointed by SED 	Appointed by SED	Practitioners successfully completed the RPL assessments
Level of Subsidy	100% of accreditation/ re-accreditation and assessment fee for RPL AAs and collaborating organisations	Up to \$500,000 per agency for the actual expenditure including the staff costs incurred in setting up the assessment mechanism for each phase of RPL implementation	Up to \$300,000 per agency per year for the actual expenditure incurred in the monitoring and maintaining the quality of the RPL mechanism	\$600 for each new application of RPL cluster processed	100% of RPL assessment fees. To be reimbursed in two stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully completed RPL assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 75% of RPL assessment fees • Completed a QF-recognised training course afterwards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - remaining 25% of RPL assessment fees <u>[with effect from 1 December 2019]</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full reimbursement of RPL assessment fees upon successful completion of RPL assessment

3. Programme Development Grant Scheme

Scope	The scheme provides a one-off grant for education and training providers to develop SCS-based or SGC-based courses.	
	<i>SCS-based</i>	<i>SGC-based</i>
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly developed and operating SCS-based courses 12 QF credits or above Qualifications concerned must be successfully accredited Must be registered on QR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly developed and operating SGC-based courses Six QF credits or above Qualifications concerned must be successfully accredited Must be registered on QR
Level of Subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For courses with 12 to 35 QF credits - \$30,000 each For courses with 36 QF credits or above - \$50,000 each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For courses with six to 17 QF credits - \$20,000 each For courses with 18 QF credits or above - \$40,000 each

4. Support Scheme for Recognition of Professional Qualifications under QF

Scope	The scheme aims to support bona fide local organisations to seek accreditation for their professional qualifications that are not underpinned by associated learning programmes to be recognised under QF.		
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations and qualifications concerned must be successfully accredited by the HKCAAVQ Appointed by SED 		
Level of Subsidy		Non-profit-making organisations	Other organisations
	Accreditation/ re-accreditation fees ³	100%	50%

³ Including accreditation fees for subsequent inclusion of additional qualifications.

5. *QR Subsidy Scheme*

Scope	The scheme covers the registration and hosting fees of the qualifications/programmes onto QR, and provides an annual maintenance fee of QR to the QR Authority.	
	<i>Subsidy of the registration and hosting fees</i>	<i>Maintenance fee of QR</i>
Eligibility	All qualifications and their associated programmes registered on QR	QR Authority
Level of Subsidy	100% for both registration fees and hosting fees	\$4.7 million per year

Projects approved by the Steering Committee on Qualifications Framework (QF) Fund (Steering Committee) that are conducted in 2019

The following projects, approved by the Steering Committee, are conducted in 2019 –

- (i) *Review of Accreditation Criteria and Standards under the Hong Kong QF (HKQF)*: Since the launch of the HKQF and the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process in 2008, there have been a number of important developments and changes in the education and training sector in Hong Kong. In this connection, the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications conducted a review on its accreditation criteria and standards to ensure that they are up-to-date with the prevailing local and international standards, and are capable of meeting community expectations. The project was completed in 2018 and the revised accreditation standards has been implemented since 1 April 2019.
- (ii) *Overall Action Plan for Enhancing Brand Image of HKQF*: As part of the overall action plan to enhance the brand image of HKQF which was approved by the Steering Committee in 2016, we completed in 2017 a baseline survey on the impact of implementation and perception of HKQF. Based on the results of the baseline survey, promotional efforts are being fine-tuned with a view to enhancing awareness and impact. A final survey will be conducted in 2020 in order to compare the branding and promotion progress made.
- (iii) *Research Project on the Use of QF Languages in Recruitment Advertisements*: In order to track the changes of the popularity of QF languages in recruitment advertisements, the Steering Committee approved in 2019 to conduct a series of research on recruitment advertisements with the use of QF languages. The research will be conducted from 2019 to 2021 to identify the trends and reasons for using QF languages in recruitment advertisements in different industries and in the job market as a whole.

The Education Bureau also continues to feature QF language in its civil service recruitment exercises with a view to raising public awareness of the HKQF. We expect to extend the arrangement to more recruitment exercises and to encourage application of HKQF in training of other Government departments.