# FEXPRESS



June 2025 Issue

# Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a Win-win

The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mechanism under the Qualifications Framework (QF) helps practitioners obtain QF-recognised Levels 1 to 4 qualifications based on their work experience and abilities, thereby increasing opportunities for advancement in learning and career development. Currently, 19 industries have implemented RPL, and seven assessment agencies appointed by the Secretary for Education have issued a total of about 90,000 RPL Statements of Attainment to over 40,000 practitioners.

#### **Sharing Session on RPL**



During the RPL Sharing Session organised by the QF Secretariat on 23 January 2025, representatives from government departments, enterprises, professional bodies, education and training institutions, and practitioners shared their experience of applying and acknowledging RPL in diverse ways to enhance public awareness about RPL. The event gathered about 220 stakeholders from different sectors.

In his welcoming speech, Mr Esmond Lee, JP, Deputy Secretary for Education, said that the RPL mechanism plays a significant role in vocational and professional education and training. He called on industry and licensing bodies to make efficient use of QF and explore further applications of RPL to enhance acknowledgment of qualifications.



#### Industries implementing RPL





































#### Government Department uses RPL as a New Way of Technician Registration



# Guest Speaker: Ms Suen Ting-ting, Engineer at Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)

EMSD recognises four Level-3 Vocational Qualifications Pathway (VQP) qualifications, obtained through RPL, as registration qualifications in the automotive industry for the service categories of Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics, namely Mechanical Services, Electrical Services, Body Repair, and Body Painting. It further enhances the professionalism of Registered Vehicle Mechanics.

#### **Increase Admission Flexibility and Promote Credit Transfer**

#### Guest Speaker: Ir Dr Tony Lee, Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU)

HKMU's first applied degree recognised by the Education Bureau, Bachelor of Applied Science with Honours in Integrated Testing, Inspection and Certification, accepts designated RPL qualifications of the testing and certification industry for the purpose of applying for admission and senior year entry to the programme which may greatly shorten the study time. The university's distance learning programmes recognise RPL qualifications of different industries for credit transfer and exemption, thus increasing the flexibility of admission and facilitating studies and self-enhancement by people from diverse industries.



#### **Dialogues on Applications of RPL**

Ms Juliana Yang, MH, host of the session and Chairperson of the Beauty and Hairdressing Industry Training Advisory Committee (ITAC), said that the beauty and hairdressing industry strongly supports QF and RPL. QF and RPL are significant in three respects. They acknowledge the past work experience of practitioners, enable them to grasp present opportunities to continue learning, and further foster the industry's professional development in the future. The industry is skill-based and practitioners from diverse background benefit for life from different kinds of training and acknowledgement of qualifications through RPL.





Mr Simon Lam of IKEA said that many employees of the company's warehouse centre from the working class with years of work experience qualified for RPL application. The QF Secretariat arranged an RPL briefing for the company, and the assessment agency conducted assessments at the company. The assessment process was not difficult since the assessment content was within the scope of the employees' work. Obtaining a certificate after assessment boosted employees' psychological quality and confidence.

Dr Aaron Chiang of Hong Yip Service Co., Ltd. said that the property management industry has implemented the licensing system. The Property Management Services Authority accepts RPL as a qualification for the purpose of Property Management Practitioner (Tier 2) Licence application via Route 3. Practitioners who obtain QF Level 4 qualifications through RPL can also complete a QF Level 5 bridging course at higher education institutions to meet the academic requirements for Property Management Practitioner (Tier 1) Licence and become licensed property managers.





Elderly Care Service is the first industry that accepts RPL qualifications obtained through "non-formal and informal learning", allowing carers and volunteers to acquire recognised qualifications based on informal work. Ms Esther Ho, who has been taking care of her mother suffering from dementia, learned aged care knowledge through different channels and gained considerable experience of aged care. She successfully obtained eight QF-recognised qualifications through RPL in the elderly care service industry, transforming the care for her mother into formal certification and professional recognition.



More RPL Application Sharing (Recruit interviews)

## **Latest News**

#### Assessment-exempted RPL of Certain Industries Coming to an End

Industries launching RPL enjoy an assessment-exempted transitional period for the first five years. During this period, applicants for RPL levels 1 to 3 qualifications are exempted from assessment tests and only required to undergo document verification. Applications can be processed more quickly with lower assessment fees, which can be fully reimbursed after obtaining the Statement of Attainment.

Industry	Logistics Industry (Supporting & Ancillary Services - Surveying)	Information & Communications Technology Industry (Operation & Support)	Security Services Industry	Fashion Industry
End of transitional period	15 February 2026	30 June 2026	30 June 2026	31 December 2026
RPL webpage for the industry				

#### Apply ASAP to seize the opportunity!

The Specification of Generic Competencies

(SGC) on Communication Skills and the Reference Guide on Work-based Learning under the Hong Kong QF, launched in early

2025, provide education and training providers with practical reference materials.

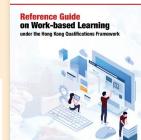
#### **Latest QF Publications**



Specification of Generic Competencies (SGC) on Communication Skills







Q WHINE

Reference Guide on Work-based Learning under the Hong Kong QF





2024 QFIA Achiever Showcase Booklet

The 2024 QFIA Achiever Showcase Booklet contains projects of QF applications developed by 18 QFIA 2024 Achievers.

# **QF Dynamics**

#### 2025 Award Scheme for Learning Experiences

QF Award Scheme for Learning Experiences (Award Scheme) encourages practitioners excelling in continuous learning to broaden their horizons and build

networks with industry partners through learning activities in Hong Kong and around the world. Awardees become exemplary lifelong learners in different industries and serve as QF ambassadors to promote "Becoming Masters of Trades through Multiple Pathways".

The 2025 Award Scheme accepted applications from mid-March to the end of May. The QF Secretariat conducted full-scale publicity.



Mobile app



MTR station and train compartment



Bus body



Briefing at Trade Union

# **QF Dynamics**

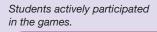
#### **QF Promotional Truck**

Organised by the QF Secretariat to enhance secondary school students' understanding of QF, a promotional truck visited ten secondary schools across Hong Kong from 24 February to 7 March 2025. Over 2,200 students participated in interesting mini-games and interactive activities to know more about QF and career pathways. With lots of fun in addition to various kinds of souvenirs and small gifts for games, they enjoyed big

rewards!



QF Promotional Truck visited secondary schools in various districts.





Students completing the games got souvenirs and small gifts.



understanding about QF.

## **Outreaching**

#### **Leaders of Guangdong Open University visited Hong Kong** for Exchange

Professor Liu Wenqing, President of Guangdong Open University, led a delegation to Hong Kong for academic exchange with the QF Secretariat and the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) on 2 April 2025. They exchanged views on the future cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong on qualifications framework.



From left: Ms Li Xuechan, Director (Guangdong), Mr Steve Lai, General Manager of the QF Secretariat (Hong Kong), Professor Liu Wenqing, President (Guangdong), Mr Albert Chow, Executive Director of HKCAAVQ (Hong Kong), Dr Chiu Sau-mee, Deputy Executive Director of HKCAAVQ (Hong Kong) and Mr Matthew Yien, Manager of the QF Secretariat (Hong Kong).



#### **Introducing QF to Career Masters and Guidance Masters**

On 25 April 2025, representatives of the QF Secretariat introduced QF to career masters and guidance masters at the North Point Study Centre of the Education University of Hong Kong. They detailed the relationship between QF and secondary education, how QF helps students with life planning, how to use the Qualifications Register, QF recognition, etc.

#### 2025 International Conference at The **Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University hosted the 2025 International Conference - The Reimagining Transfer: Global Insights on Credit Mobility in the New Higher Education Paradigm on 16-17 May 2025. Mr Steve Lai, General Manager of the QF Secretariat, was

one of the keynote speakers. He talked on the implementation of Credit Accumulation and Transfer at policy level.



#### **Industry-based Promotional Activities**

#### **Import & Export Industry**





On 20 December 2024, the Import & Export ITAC held a tailor-made artificial intelligence

Chit-chat café is a YouTube live programme produced by the Import & Export ITAC. During the "Fun, Flavour and Exploration" episode on 4 December 2024, it shared tips on gift exchange and dinner gathering as well as strategies for winning in the Award Scheme for Learning Experiences.



workshop themed "Upgrading and Transformation with AI and E-commerce" for SMEs of the industry at Hong Kong Trade Development Council's SME Centre. It covered practical applications of AI tools to SME business operation, interaction with participants to know their business needs, suggested solutions, and ITAC's various initiatives in e-commerce. Over 50 industry representatives attended the event.

#### **Banking Industry**



The Banking ITAC completed the Specification of Competency Standards (SCS)-based Training Package on Credit Risk Management for Banking Industry in December 2024. To encourage and facilitate the use of the Training Package by industry practitioners and training providers, a Train-the-Trainer session was held on 12 February 2025 to elaborate on the content and applications of the Training Package.



#### **Logistics Industry**





Mr Steve Lai, General Manager of the QF Secretariat, attended an event of Asia Airfreight Terminal on 21 February 2025 to express appreciation to this first air cargo terminal in Hong Kong offering a Logistics Vocational Qualifications Pathway (VQP) course in March 2025, marking a significant milestone for the air freight operations sector. The QF-recognised "Certificate in Air Cargo Terminal Practical Operation" (QF Level 2) covers the essential knowledge and skills required for air cargo operation coordinators and frontline staff, providing a clear pathway for study and career development.

KLN Logistics Group Limited and DHL Global Forwarding (Hong Kong) Limited hosted RPL promotion and briefing sessions for their employees

on 19 February and 30 May 2025 respectively. Representatives from the RPL Assessment Agency for the logistics industry and the QF Secretariat detailed RPL and application procedures and assisted employees with on-site application.



#### **Industry-based Promotional Activities**

#### **Property Management Industry**



The Property Management ITAC held its 20th Anniversary Celebration on 3 March 2025. Officiating at the ceremony was Dr Choi Yuk-lin, JP, Secretary for Education, and presiding at it was Mr Alkin Kwong, JP, Chairperson of the Property Management ITAC. Dr James Wong, BBS, JP, Chairperson of the Property Management Services Authority, and Mr Albert Chow, Executive Director of HKCAAVQ, attended as invited guests.

The ceremony gathered approximately 300 industry professionals.



Representatives of the QF Secretariat attended the Seminar entitled "How to Improve the Recognition and Professionalism of

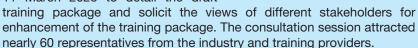


Managers", organised by the Hong Kong Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Staff Rights Union, on 17 March 2025. They spoke on implementation of QF in the property management industry and applications of the SCS. About 50 practitioners in the industry attended the seminar.

# Elderly Care Service Industry



The Elderly Care Service ITAC organised a consultation session on the SCS-based Training Package on "Training for Care Workers" Course on 11 March 2025 to detail the draft







#### **Arboriculture & Horticulture Industry**



Representative of the QF Secretariat addressed a sharing session on QF implementation in the arboriculture and horticulture industry, Award Scheme for Learning Experiences, and RPL at the Hong Kong Greening Contractors Association's Spring Banquet on 29 March 2025. The Secretariat also introduced RPL and distributed application forms to attendees at its booth before the banquet.

## Catering Industry



To strengthen links between the Catering ITAC and educational institutions, the QF Secretariat arranged for ITAC members, co-opted members and industry practitioners to visit YMCA College of Careers and HKU SPACE Island South (Pokfulam) Campus on 25 April 2025. Through detailed explanation, ITAC members knew more about the institutions'

QF-recognised catering courses and their training facilities. They shared information about the industry and manpower needs and exchanged views with the institutions on the career development of students.



#### **Industry-based Promotional Activities**

# Manufacturing Technology Industry (Tooling, Metals & Plastics)

On 14 May 2025, the Manufacturing Technology (Tooling, Metals & Plastics) ITAC organised the Industry Consultation Session on Manufacturing Technology (Tooling, Metals & Plastics) SCS (version 2). It elaborated on the draft SCS and solicited stakeholders' views for improving the content. About 30 industry stakeholders participated in the consultation session.



# **Promoting QF and Industry Information among Secondary Schools Students**

#### **Travel Industry**



Get to know Travel Industry with QF - Touring with You - Experiential Workshop of Tour Guiding and Escorting

Date: 14 March 2025

Event Location: Sai Kung Town Centre and

Hong Kong College of Technology Jockey Club Ma On Shan Campus

The Travel ITAC piloted a series of "Backstage Tour of Travel Industry" activities between March and May 2025, during which secondary school students taking the HKDSE Tourism and Hospitality subject visited travel agencies (including Miramar Travel, Travel Circle International, EGL Tours and China Travel Service (HK) Ltd.) and the Travel Industry Authority to know about back-office operations and interact with industry practitioners. These activities aimed to raise students' awareness about industry

prospects and progression pathways, helping them

plan for academic and career directions.





**Promoting QF and Industry Information** among Secondary **School Students** 

Get to know Printing Industry with QF - Exploring Design and Print Media Technology Date: 13 February 2025

**Event Location:** 

VTC Pro-Act Training and **Development Centre** 

#### **Printing & Publishing Industry**





#### **Arboriculture & Horticulture Industry**

Get to know Arboriculture & Horticulture Industry with QF -One-day Experience as an Arborist and Gardener Date: 12 April 2025 **Event Location:** Po Leung Kuk Jockey Club Tai Tong Holiday Camp





#### **Catering Industry**



Get to know Catering Industry with QF -Catering QF InFUNity Date: 8 May 2025

Event Location: YMCA College of Careers



### **Jewellery Industry**



Get to know Jewellery Industry with QF -Future Skills Experiential Workshop for Jewellery Industry

Date: 23 May 2025

Participating School: Pui Kiu Middle School



#### **Beauty &** Hairdressing Industry



Get to know Beauty Industry with QF - Enhancing Self-Image Through Beauty Care: Handmade Skin Care Products Workshop Date: 24 May 2025 **Event Location: Caritas Institute** 



Get to know Hairdressing Industry with QF - Enhancing Self-Image Through Hairstyling: Hair Care and Personalised Image Techniques Date: 26 May 2025 Event Location: Caritas Institute of Community Education

