



QFI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dublin, Ireland

and

the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic and Vocational Qualifications, Hong Kong

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between **Quality and Qualifications Ireland**, of 26/27 Denzille Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland (hereafter referred to as QFI),

and

The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications of 10 Siu Sai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong (hereafter referred to as HKCAAVQ).

Recitals

Whereas:

QFI was established in 2012 and is responsible for the external quality assurance of further and higher education and training (including English language provision) and validates programmes and makes awards for certain providers in these sectors. QFI is also responsible for the maintenance, development and review of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ);

HKCAAVQ was established in 2007 as a statutory body under the HKCAAVQ Ordinance (Chapter 1150). It is appointed under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Chapter 592) as the Accreditation Authority and Qualifications Register (QR) Authority under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework. It provides quality assurance and assessment services to education and training institutions, course providers and the general public. Among its statutory functions, HKCAAVQ may also provide advisory and consultancy services in education qualifications and standards to government bureaux and other organisations in and outside Hong Kong;

QFI and HKCAAVQ are both working to implement the recommendations for quality assurance and accreditation bodies contained in the UNESCO guidelines for quality provision in cross-border higher education.

QFI and HKCAAVQ

Having similar missions and institutional objectives in the enhancement of quality assurance of higher education and vocational education and training, HKCAAVQ and QFI now wish to maintain a close relationship as equal partners for the purpose of creating cooperative and collaborative mechanisms for the mutual benefit of both parties.

Article I

Aims of Memorandum of Understanding

HKCAAVQ and QQI agree hereby to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the benefit of both parties and to continue to work towards a strategic alliance to enhance external quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improve the quality of education in Ireland and Hong Kong.

Article II

Areas of Co-operation and Collaboration

To these ends, HKCAAVQ and QQI will pursue the following objectives for their mutual benefit:

i. Exchange of information

While respecting each body's copyright policies and without implying the transfer of any intellectual property rights to each other, exchange non-confidential policy documents and relevant non-confidential operational information, such as manuals and templates, to enable staff from the two agencies to support and learn from each other;

ii. Mutual Understanding

Work to enhance their understanding of each other's approach to ensuring quality in education and the respective systems in place for quality in education;

iii. Quality Systems

Aim to achieve awareness in Hong Kong of the existence of and changes in the quality assurance system in Ireland, its role in ensuring the quality of transnational education activities, and the specific role and capabilities of its various review processes; and aim to ensure that the role of the HKCAAVQ in quality assuring education institutions in Hong Kong is fully understood within Ireland;

iv. Emphases

Ensure that QQI fully understands which matters relating to quality in education are of the greatest importance to Hong Kong, advising the education sector of Ireland on this, as appropriate. Conversely, ensure that HKCAAVQ fully understands which quality issues are of the greatest importance to Ireland, advising the Hong Kong education sector on this, as appropriate;

v. Staff Development

When appropriate and possible, professional staff from the two agencies to: spend time in each other's offices, participate as observers in institutional reviews or programme accreditations, and be involved in training activities, to enable staff to be acquainted with systems processes and other relevant matters;

vi. Use of Each Other's Reviewers

Where possible and appropriate, taking account of operational constraints and relevant Data Protection legislation, draw on each other's lists of reviewers and specialists to strengthen the international dimension of institutional reviews and/or accreditations, programme accreditations and special-purpose reviews;

vii. Collaboration

Where appropriate and possible, collaborate in relation to:

- research on quality assurance related issues including qualifications frameworks and recognition on the basis of mutual benefit;
- the identification of fraudulent awarding bodies or accrediting agencies in Ireland and Hong Kong;
- the sharing of good practices of education institutions, and
- any other mutually agreed projects and activities for the benefit of both parties;

viii. Mutual Recognition

To have due regard to the relevant decisions and judgments of the other party, where appropriate and possible, in operations relating to quality assurance of education provided within one party's jurisdiction but originating from the other party's jurisdiction, while exploring possible pathways for further mutual recognition.

Article III

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for a period of three years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party. It may be extended on mutual agreement of both parties.

Article IV

Alteration of Memorandum

This Memorandum is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be altered with the consent of both parties.

Article V

Officers Responsible for Managing the Memorandum

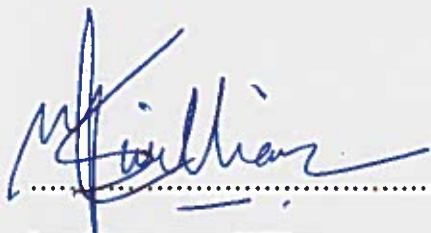
The Executive Director of HKCAAVQ (at the time of signing Professor Lee Keng-mun, William) and the Chief Executive of QQI (at the time of signing Dr Pdraig Walsh) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum and taking stock of the terms of the Memorandum on a yearly basis. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Article VI

Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, the two agencies will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation, donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Signed in Dublin on 30 October 2014.



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Hong Kong



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