



A Brief Introduction of the Qualifications Framework and Qualifications Register

The Government announced in February 2004 the introduction of the Qualifications Framework (QF) and the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Bill was passed into law in May 2007. The QF, expected to be implemented in 2008, is a cross-sectoral structure that systematically categorises qualifications obtainable from formal training or recognition of skills and experience by seven levels. The QF thus provides clear progression pathways to facilitate and promote lifelong learning which helps to upgrade the human resources of Hong Kong.

Features of the QF

The standards of each QF Level are defined by the Generic Level Descriptors (GLD) established by the Education Bureau (EDB). The GLD stipulates the competency requirements and are used as common benchmarks in determining whether a certain qualification attained in education, vocational training or continuing education has met the standard of a particular QF Level.

Under the QF, workers' skills, knowledge and relevant experience accumulated at work can also be recognised through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mechanism. To this end, the EDB has set up 12 industry-led Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs). One of their important roles is to stipulate industry recognised competency standards, called the Specification of Competency Standards (SCSs), making due reference to the GLD. The SCSs form the basis for conducting RPL assessment and at the same time, course providers can also use the SCSs in developing training opportunities relevant to industry needs.

The integrity of the QF is underpinned by an associated quality assurance mechanism. The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) is the designated Accreditation Authority under law to quality assure all qualifications awarded by the non-self-accrediting institutions and to benchmark these qualifications against a QF level. The HKCAAVQ is also responsible for accrediting assessment agencies for the RPL mechanism. More details about the QF can be accessed in <http://www.hkqf.gov.hk>.

Qualifications Register

The Qualifications Register (QR) is a web-based central database of qualifications, obtainable from mainstream or vocational education and from the RPL mechanism, recognised under the QF. All these qualifications must be quality assured by the Accreditation Authority, the self-accrediting institutions or awarded by an Appointed Assessment Agency before they can be registered on the QR. The HKCAAVQ is vested by law as the QR Authority to administer and maintain the QR.

The QR offers a quick and easy way for the public, such as learners, employers and training providers, to search for recognised qualifications, the associated programmes and granting bodies free of charge. The system provides user-friendly search criteria to cater the needs of different users. Information in respect of the learning programmes, qualifications or training provider/awarding bodies are readily retrievable by inputting simple keywords. There will also be User Guide and Frequently Asked Questions available in the QR website for easy reference.

The QR therefore facilitates learners to obtain accurate and latest information from one single source to map out their learning pathways and thus make the best use of their time, effort and money. Employers can also identify training opportunities available in the market for their employees through the QR. From the training providers' perspective, the QR helps promote their quality assured programmes to the target participants.

The QR prototype was introduced by the EDB to the public on 28 July 2007. The QR will be officially launched when the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance comes into operation in 2008. The website of the QR prototype is <http://www.hkqr.gov.hk>.



資歷架構及資歷名冊簡介

政府於2004年2月宣佈成立資歷架構，隨著立法會於2007年5月通過《學術及職業資歷評審條例草案》，資歷架構預計於2008年正式實施。資歷架構是個跨界別的資歷級別制度，有系統地將認可資歷分為七個級別，除了通過主流培訓所獲的資歷外，從業員從工作累積得到的技能，亦可獲得認可。資歷架構之設立，提供了清晰的進修階梯，鼓勵終身學習，從而提高香港人力資源的實力。

資歷架構

資歷架構內每個級別皆遵照由教育局編訂的資歷級別通用指標劃分，這些指標訂明各級資歷應達到的具體能力。從主流教育、職業培訓及持續教育所獲得的資歷，均可根據資歷級別通用指標之客觀準則，來界定是否能達到某級別之標準。

資歷架構下設有「過往資歷認可」機制，從業員在工作累積得到的技能、知識和相關工作經驗，亦可透過「過往資歷認可」機制獲得確認。教育局已經在十二個行業成立了以行業為主導的行業培訓諮詢委員會，其主要職能是根據資歷級別通用指標，訂定業界認可的「能力標準說明」。有關「過往資歷認可」的評估，將以行業所訂的「能力標準說明」為基礎，與此同時，培訓機構亦可根據「能力標準說明」提供切合行業培訓要求之進修課程。

資歷架構的成功，建基於有效的質素保證機制。香港學術及職業資歷評審局(評審局)為法定「評審當局」，負責非自行評審營辦者所頒授的資歷的質素保證工作。評審局同時就「過往資歷認可」機制，為評估機構進行評審。有關資歷架構的詳情，可瀏覽教育局的有關網頁 <http://www.hkqf.gov.hk>。

資歷名冊

資歷名冊是個中央網上資料庫，載列透過主流教育、職業教育及「過往資歷認可」機制所獲得的資歷。這些資歷均須通過「評審當局」或擁有自行評審資格的院校的質素保證，或由受委評估機構頒發，方可刊登在資歷名冊上。評審局為法定「資歷名冊當局」，專責管理資歷名冊。

資歷名冊為公眾人士包括學員、僱主及培訓機構，免費提供方便快捷的搜尋方法，讓公眾掌握資歷架構認可的資歷、其相關課程及頒授機構等資料。系統配合不同使用者之需要，設有簡易的搜尋條件，只需輸入進修計劃、資歷或培訓機構/頒授機構的關鍵詞，便可即時查閱有關資料。資歷名冊同時提供使用指引和常見問題，讓使用者參考。

有了資歷名冊，學員只需登入一個網站，便可得到準確且最新的資料，用以計劃個人進修途徑，讓投入進修的時間、精力和金錢，得到最大的效用。對僱主而言，資歷名冊可方便他們為員工物色培訓機會。而對培訓機構而言，資歷名冊為通過質素保證的課程，提供了有效的宣傳渠道。

資歷名冊示範版本於2007年7月28日由教育局推出，網址為 <http://www.hkqr.gov.hk>。當《學術及職業資歷評審條例》於2008年正式實施後，資歷名冊將全面投入服務。