

Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Bill

Questions Raised at the Meeting of the Bills Committee on 7 April 2006 and the Response from the Relevant Authorities

At the meeting of the Bills Committee held on 7 April 2006, Members raised the following enquiries:

- (i) the proportion of employers and employees among the subject specialists of the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA);
- (ii) whether the HKCAA would consider establishing additional channels for the recruitment of subject specialists other than by invitation; and whether it would specify a fixed tenure for subject specialists; and
- (iii) whether the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) would consider allowing labour unions to issue evidence of years of working experience to workers applying for Level 3 qualifications under the Recognition of Prior Learning.

Composition and Recruitment of Subject Specialists

2. According to the result of preliminary classification, among the 309 subject specialists recruited by the HKCAA for the accreditation work under the Qualifications Framework (QF), about 10% are employers while 90% are employees (including employees at the managerial level).

3. The HKCAA will continue to expand proactively its list of subject specialists and recruit more subject specialists through different channels. The HKCAA also plans to invite by way of a questionnaire survey all subject specialists to express views on the tenure and the personal information updating mechanism.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

4. In considering RPL applications for QF qualifications at Level 3 or above, assessment agencies shall require a higher standard of proof. Apart from considering the years of working experience of the applicant with respect to the relevant competence, certain assessment on the applicant has to be conducted, the form of which may include interviews, skill demonstrations, practical examinations, etc. Same as the arrangement for the RPL applications for Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications, supporting information proving the applicant's years of working experience may include certificates and diplomas issued by training providers, attestations of members' job and post by labour unions, relevant licences and qualifications obtained in the Mainland or overseas, etc.

Education and Manpower Bureau
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