

ITEM FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

HEAD 156 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BUREAU

Subhead 700 General non-recurrent Item 918 Implementation of Qualifications Framework New Item “Qualifications Framework Support Schemes”

Members are invited to approve the following under Head 156 Government Secretariat : Education and Manpower Bureau to support the implementation of the Qualifications Framework –

- (a) an increase in commitment from \$9.969 million by \$32.670 million to \$42.639 million under Subhead 700 General non-recurrent Item 918 Implementation of Qualifications Framework for providing funding to the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications for the development and implementation of the Qualifications Framework; and
- (b) a new commitment of \$208 million under Subhead 700 General non-recurrent for launching the Qualifications Framework Support Schemes.

PROBLEM

We need to develop and implement a Qualifications Framework (QF) for Hong Kong to facilitate continuing education and lifelong learning to help enhance the competitiveness of our workforce.

/PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL

2. The Secretary for Education and Manpower (SEM)¹ proposes –
 - (a) to increase the approved non-recurrent commitment from \$9.969 million by \$32.670 million to \$42.639 million to provide funding to the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) for the development and implementation of various systems and mechanisms under the QF; and
 - (b) to create a new non-recurrent commitment of \$208 million to implement the Qualifications Framework Support Schemes (QFSS) to support the implementation of the QF.

JUSTIFICATION

3. To enhance the overall competitiveness of our human capital in an increasingly globalised and knowledge-based economy, the Chief Executive in Council approved in 2004 the establishment of the QF, a seven-level hierarchy covering academic, vocational, and continuing education sectors. Since then, the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB)² has been working closely with the relevant stakeholders including employers, employees, trade unions, professional bodies as well as education and training providers to pursue this initiative. To ensure the credibility and sustainable development of the QF, we need to put in place a rigorous quality assurance (QA) mechanism to safeguard the quality of academic and vocational qualifications recognised under the QF.

4. To this end, we introduced the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (AAVQ) Bill into the Legislative Council in July 2005 and the Bill was enacted on 2 May 2007. The AAVQ Ordinance stipulates that the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA) will be renamed as the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) and be specified as the Accreditation Authority and the Qualifications Register (QR)³ Authority for QF. The HKCAA has been strengthening its capacity and capability to prepare for its expanded role and responsibilities under the QF.

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¹ The Secretary for Education and Manpower (SEM) will be retitled as the Secretary for Education (SED) upon the reorganisation of the Government Secretariat with effect from 1 July 2007.

² The Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) will be renamed as the Education Bureau (EDB) upon the reorganisation of the Government Secretariat with effect from 1 July 2007.

³ The QR provides information on the qualifications recognised under the QF and their respective learning programmes and providers. All courses uploaded onto the QR must be locally accredited.

5. Separately, as a voluntary measure, we have been encouraging and assisting industries to set up Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs). The ITACs are responsible for, among others, drawing up Specifications of Competency Standards (SCSs) for the respective industries. SCSs are competency-based requirements drawn up in consultation with stakeholders of the industries (including employers, employees and relevant trade/professional organisations) and will form the basis for training providers to design learning programmes that meet the needs of the industries. So far, 12 ITACs⁴ have been set up after consensus has been reached within the industries concerned, and six of them have drawn up SCSs. In parallel, we are developing a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mechanism which aims to give formal recognition to the knowledge, skills and experience acquired by employees so as to facilitate their future learning. We plan to implement in early 2008, on a pilot basis, the RPL mechanism for the first three industries⁵ that have completed industry consultation on their SCSs. Pursuant to the AAVQ Ordinance, RPL will be conducted by assessment agencies to be appointed by the SEM.

6. The development of the various systems and mechanisms to be set up under the QF will have resources implications for the QA and assessment agencies as well as the course providers. At the Bills Committee of the AAVQ Bill, Members urged the Administration to consider ways to reduce the accreditation costs and the financial burden that the QA mechanisms will bring to the course providers and, ultimately, the learners.

7. After careful consideration, we propose to provide one-off grants to HKCAAVQ to facilitate its development of the necessary QA systems and mechanisms, so as to avoid the transfer of the upfront QF development cost to course providers. We also propose to implement the QFSS, which is a collection of time-limited financial assistance schemes, to support the course providers, assessment agencies and individual learners so that they can gear themselves towards quality assurance and continuous learning. Details of the funding proposals are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

/Funding

⁴ Twelve ITACs have been set up for Printing & Publishing, Watch & Clock, Chinese Catering, Hairdressing, Property Management, Electrical & Mechanical Services, Jewelry, Beauty, Logistics, Automotives, Information Communication and Technology, and Banking industries.

⁵ The first three industries to implement the pilot on RPL mechanism are Watch & Clock, Hairdressing, and Printing & Publishing industries.

Funding Support for HKCAAVQ

New role and functions of HKCAAVQ under the QF

8. As the Accreditation Authority under the QF, HKCAAVQ will be responsible for assuring the quality of qualifications awarded by not just academic institutions but also a wide range of vocational education and training providers of varying size. Based on the outcome of its self-review, HKCAA has introduced certain changes to its organisational structure and operational model. It has also mapped out plans to strengthen its expertise and infrastructure. For example, it has developed a new “fit-for-purpose” accreditation approach⁶ and adopted a new operational and business model to suit the new requirements and standards of the QF. It will have to expand its pool of expertise to cater for the accreditation of vocational qualifications. Furthermore, as HKCAAVQ will be specified as the QR Authority under the AAVQ Ordinance, HKCAA has started the development of a new computer system to operate the web-based QR and to ensure its smooth and seamless operations.

9. The preparation work and developmental activities for QF has placed a heavy financial burden on HKCAA, which is a self-financing statutory body without recurrent subvention from the Government. To ensure that HKCAAVQ has the necessary resources and expertise to assist the Government in rolling out the QF without passing the associated costs on to training providers seeking accreditation under the QF framework, the Administration approved, under authority delegated by the Finance Committee, the provision of one-off grants totaling \$14.671 million⁷ to the HKCAA in 2005 and 2006 to enable it to undertake various initial developmental activities for QF, including the commissioning of a computerisation project for the development of the QR and related web-based guidelines, the market demand study, development of procedural guidelines, etc. The activities and tasks covered by the above-mentioned one-off grants have largely been completed. They have provided useful inputs to EMB in its deliberations on the policies and implementation details for the QF. For instance, a trial run of the QR prototype developed by HKCAA has been conducted and the feedback received from stakeholders has helped improve the content and presentation of the QR.

10. Development work for the QF is, nonetheless, continuing. In the coming few years, HKCAAVQ will continue the development and implementation of QF. In anticipation of a substantial increase in accreditation workload and the

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⁶ A new four-stage accreditation approach will be adopted by HKCAAVQ, i.e. Initial Evaluation, Programme Validation, Programme Area Accreditation and Periodic Review.

⁷ This is made up of \$9.969m for operating expenditure items under Head 156 Subhead 700 Item 918, and \$4.702m for capital expenditure items under Head 156 Subhead 876 Item 475.

more diverse nature of the exercises in the coming years, HKCAAVQ will have to enhance its capacity by recruiting more professional staff, providing more training to them and installing new computerised systems. HKCAAVQ also plans to set up a new special unit and engage external experts to help develop the systems and procedures to meet the new standards under the QF. In parallel, HKCAAVQ needs to expand its pool of subject specialists in about 40 industry sectors, and provide training to them on handling accreditation work. All these initiatives/projects serve to provide the necessary physical and manpower infrastructure to support QF development.

Proposed grant to HKCAAVQ

Encl. 1

11. In the light of the foregoing, we propose to provide further one-off grants totaling \$36.39 million to cover the expenses of HKCAAVQ for the development and implementation of various systems and mechanism under the QF. Major activities and tasks covered by the one-off grants are set out in Enclosure 1. Without the grants, HKCAAVQ will not be able to carry out its new functions under the QF effectively, or will have to recover the relevant expenses from the course providers through charging higher accreditation fees.

12. The proposed grants will be one-off in nature. HKCAAVQ is expected to fully develop the QA mechanism and its professional competence within the proposed provision of one-off grants. The QF-related development work should have reached a fairly mature stage in three years' time and by then the QA mechanism would have been adequately tested and fine-tuned. We expect that thereafter, any further development work, if necessary, should be much smaller in scope and scale, and the relevant expenses could be met by the recurrent income generated from HKCAAVQ's on-going accreditation activities. As a self-financing body, HKCAAVQ will continue to meet its recurrent operating costs from its income from accreditation fees. We have no intention to provide recurrent subvention to HKCAAVQ or to change its self-financing status.

13. As mentioned in paragraph 8 above, the HKCAAVQ will adopt a "fit-for-purpose" approach in conducting accreditation. This approach will in turn help reduce the accreditation fees to be charged by the HKCAAVQ. For example, the maximum programme validation fee will decrease by about 20% to 60% when the new fee schedule will be implemented.

Qualifications Framework Support Schemes

Need for financial assistance

14. The QF is a new endeavour in Hong Kong to promote lifelong learning. Given that participation in the QF is voluntary, the successful implementation of QF hinges on the continuous support of the stakeholders (including employers, employees, training providers and other relevant organisations). While we will continue to solicit their support through communication and promotional activities, we consider it necessary and appropriate to provide suitable financial assistance to encourage their participation and alleviate their concerns about the possible financial implications arising from the new QA measures as stipulated in the AAVQ Ordinance. Accordingly, we have geared our financial assistance schemes towards the following stakeholders either to help them meet the QA requirements as stipulated in the AAVQ Ordinance or to facilitate/support learners' pursuit of QF recognised training and studies –

- (a) **education and training providers** which are non-self-accrediting and non-profit-making. They will have to incur additional expenditure in seeking accreditation from HKCAAVQ for their individual learning programmes;
- (b) **assessment agencies** to be appointed by SEM to conduct RPL assessments on a non-profit-making basis. The agencies will have to incur expenditure in setting up the RPL mechanism, putting in place the necessary facilities and undergoing accreditation to ensure their competence; and
- (c) **employees** who have to undergo RPL assessment for the purpose of pursuing further training or studies. To do so, they will have to pay RPL assessment fees.

15. To avoid creating a recurrent financial burden on the Government, the proposed financial assistance schemes are **time-limited or one-off** in nature. They will be provided for a period of **five years** from the date to be specified by SEM for formally launching the QF. By then, it is expected that a critical mass of QF accredited and recognised training providers and courses will be formed and that QF should have been fairly well developed and its benefits better understood by the community. Details of the seven targeted schemes are set out in paragraphs 16-23 below.

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*The Schemes**(a) Accreditation grant for self-financing programmes*

16. We propose to make available an accreditation grant to non-profit-making training providers on a reimbursement basis upon the successful accreditation by HKCAAVQ, as an incentive for them to quality assure their learning programmes. Learning programmes covered by the grant must be self-financing.

17. The grant will cover 100% of the “Initial Evaluation”⁸ fee and 50% to 75% of the “Programme Validation”⁹ fee. Each programme can only be eligible for the grant once and revalidation exercises will not be eligible for the grant. To enable more providers to benefit from the scheme, the maximum grant to be received by each provider will be subject to a cap of \$2 million.

(b) Accreditation grant for courses under EMB-subsidised schemes

18. EMB has been subsidising the provision of vocational training and retraining under the Skills Upgrading Scheme (SUS) and Employees Retraining Scheme (ERS) respectively. SUS provides skills upgrading in-service training to workers in selected industries while ERS offers primarily placement-tied training for unemployed people or displaced workers. Both types of courses will have to be accredited by HKCAAVQ to ensure that, on completion of the courses, the trainees/retrainees would obtain a qualification recognised under the QF to facilitate their pursuit of further training. As these two schemes are launched by the Government and the courses are fully or substantially subsidised by EMB, we propose that the Government will bear the full accreditation fees.

(c) Grant for Programme Area Accreditation

19. To assist the better established training providers to seek a self-accrediting status in specified programme areas, we propose to make available a grant to assist non-profit-making training providers to undergo the “Programme Area Accreditation” (PAA) which, upon completion, will confer them

/self-accrediting

⁸ “Initial Evaluation” is the first stage of the accreditation process by the HKCAAVQ to examine the suitability of the providers to provide education and training.

⁹ “Programme Validation” is the second stage of the accreditation process to quality assure the programme. Programmes designed in accordance with SCSs (i.e. SCS-based programmes) will be eligible for a grant of 75% of the validation fee, while non-SCS-based programmes will be eligible for a grant of 50% of the validation fee.

self-accrediting status in specified programme areas for a specified period of time. The grant will be provided on a reimbursement basis upon the successful accreditation by HKCAAVQ and will cover 50% of the accreditation fees. Only first-time PAA exercises will be eligible for the grant. To enable more providers to benefit from the scheme, the maximum grant to be received by each provider will be subject to a cap of \$1 million.

(d) Subsidy for QR registration fees

20. QR provides the public with a free and easy access to the thousands of locally accredited qualifications/programmes awarded/offered in Hong Kong. It is thus important for the QR to provide comprehensive and accurate education and training information to learners. Registering qualifications with the QR is voluntary and will incur registration and maintenance fees. At the initial stage of the establishment of QR, we propose to subsidise 50% (or about \$500 for each programme) of the registration and maintenance fees so as to entice more training providers to upload their qualifications onto the QR and attract the public to make use of its information. The subsidy will be available only to self-financing programmes offered by non-profit-making organisations and to those that are registered with the QR the first time. For the reasons given in paragraph 18 above, we will bear the registration and maintenance fees in full for qualifications awarded under the SUS and the ERS.

(e) Accreditation grant to RPL assessment agencies

21. As stipulated under the AAVQ Ordinance, an RPL assessment agency must undergo accreditation by the HKCAAVQ to determine its competence to conduct RPL assessments before it may be appointed by the SEM. To facilitate the implementation of the RPL mechanism, we propose to provide a grant to cover 50% of the accreditation fees incurred by RPL assessment agencies which conduct the RPL assessment on a non-profit-making basis. Again, the grant is available only to the first accreditation exercise and will be provided on a reimbursement basis upon the successful accreditation by HKCAAVQ.

(f) Start-up grant to RPL Assessment Agencies

22. We propose to provide a one-off start-up grant to assist RPL assessment agencies to be appointed by SEM in developing the assessment mechanism and setting up the necessary facilities. The grant will cover the actual expenditure incurred by the agency in setting up the mechanism, subject to a cap of \$300,000 per agency. The grant will be reimbursed to the agency upon successful accreditation and appointment.

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(g) Reimbursement of RPL assessment fees

23. Employees seeking recognition of their skills, knowledge and experience under the RPL mechanism will have to pay a fee to cover the cost of the assessment. We envisage that the majority of those who opt to undergo RPL assessment are the low-education and low/semi-skilled workers who cannot obtain QF levels by virtue of their formal academic and vocational qualifications. In line with our objective to promote skills upgrading among low-education and low/semi-skilled workers so as to enhance their employability and competitiveness, we propose to reimburse in full the RPL assessment fees incurred by an employee who has satisfactorily completed a QF-recognised training course after passing the RPL assessment. To enable more employees to benefit from the subsidy, the total amount of reimbursement for each employee will be subject to a cap of \$1,000. With this cap and to minimise the administrative cost, we do not intend to impose any further restriction on the number of assessment exercises an employee may wish to undertake or to provide the reimbursement on a matching basis. As our proposed financial assistance schemes are geared towards supporting life-long learning, workers who do not pursue further learning/training will not be eligible for subsidy under the scheme.

Continuing Education Fund (CEF)

24. On 26 April 2002, Members approved vide FCR(2002-03)6 a non-recurrent commitment of \$5,000 million to launch the CEF with a view to encouraging our workforce to pursue continuing education and training in order to enhance their competitiveness. Under the CEF, eligible applicants will be reimbursed 80% of course fees for eligible courses, subject to a cap of \$10,000 and certain criteria and conditions on reimbursements. At present, the CEF covers eight economic sectors or skill domains¹⁰. As at today, over 330 000 applications have been approved under the CEF. About \$1,400 million has been disbursed and another \$1,300 million has been committed for disbursement to successful applicants.

25. We have recently reviewed the scope and operation of the CEF. Among other things, we propose to extend the coverage of the CEF to support employees who pursue continuing education under the QF. Specifically, training programmes which are designed in accordance with the SCSs developed by the respective ITACs under the QF may be registered under the CEF. Learners of these programmes will then be eligible for reimbursement of 80% of the course fee up to

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¹⁰ The sectors/skill domains are Business Services, Financial Services, Logistics, Tourism, Creative Industry, Design, Language, and Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Skills for the Workplace.

the maximum of \$10,000 per person. The proposal will link the CEF with the SCSs produced by the ITACs, thereby enhancing the relevance of the CEF courses and providing financial support for continuing learning and skills upgrading in industries that have joined the QF.

26. Subject to approval of the proposed accreditation grant for self-financing programmes, non-profit-making training providers of CEF courses will be eligible for claiming 100% of the “Initial Evaluation” fee and 50% to 75% of first-time “Programme Validation” fee under QFSS should they submit their programmes for accreditation. They may also apply for grant for PAA under QFSS.

27. To address the concern of trade unions and workers that many employees (particularly those who are low-skilled and with low education attainment) would prefer to take short courses and may only be able to use up the \$10,000 subsidy over a longer period of time owing to their long hours of work, we propose to extend the validity period for claiming reimbursement under the CEF from two to four years¹¹ and to increase the maximum number of claims from two to four. The proposal will allow more time for learners to pursue further training and help ensure that all learners who aspire to upgrade themselves through continuing education and training could receive support under the CEF.

28. We have also recommended other measures to improve the operation of the CEF in the light of practical experience. These measures include extending the subsidy to new language courses, relaxing the upper age limit of eligible applicants, strengthening the monitoring mechanism and tightening controls on providers to avoid possible abuse. As we have explained in FCR(2002-03)6, we will continue to review the implementation of the CEF from time to time¹² and modify the coverage of courses, eligibility criteria of applicants, assessment procedures and other implementation arrangements as and when necessary.

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¹¹ For those CEF applicants whose original two-year validity period has already expired, they will be allowed an additional two years to pursue continuing education and training.

¹² Upon the reorganisation of the Government Secretariat with effect from 1 July 2007, the policy responsibility of the CEF will be transferred to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW). SLW will become the authority to approve the reimbursable courses under the CEF.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding Support for HKCAAVQ

29. The proposed one-off grants of \$36.39 million, detailed in Enclosure 1, will be disbursed to HKCAAVQ over a period of three years (i.e. from 2007-08 to 2009-10) based on the cash flow requirements of HKCAAVQ as estimated as follows –

Financial Year	Estimated cash flow (\$m)
2007-08	17.29
2008-09	9.90
2009-10	9.20
Total	36.39

30. Of the proposed \$36.39 million, \$3.72 million is for increasing an approved capital account commitment under Head 156 Government Secretariat: Education and Manpower Bureau Subhead 876 Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications for the development of the QR and web-based guidelines for the QF (i.e. item 9 of Enclosure 1). We shall approve, under delegated authority, the increase in commitment.

31. HKCAAVQ will be subject to close monitoring by EMB in the use of the one-off grants. Specifically, HKCAAVQ will be required to keep a separate account for the grants and report the use to EMB periodically. Also, HKCAAVQ will be required to include the accounts of the grant in its annual audited accounts to facilitate audit and examination; and seek approval from the SEM if it needs to redeploy funds among different categories of the development activities. Further, the proposed grants for the subsequent year will be disbursed to HKCAAVQ only when grants provided in the previous year has been fully used or committed and upon satisfactory progress of the activities undertaken.

QFSS

32. We estimate that a total of \$208 million will be required for implementing the various schemes under the QFSS. The schemes will be administered by EMB. The estimated expenditure of each of the schemes under QFSS is as follows –

/Schemes.....

Schemes	Estimated expenditure (\$m)
(a) Accreditation grant for self-financing programmes	65.0
(b) Accreditation grant for courses under EMB-subsidised schemes	8.5
(c) Grant for Programme Area Accreditation	10.5
(d) Subsidy for QR registration fee	7.5
(e) Accreditation grant to RPL assessment agencies	5.5
(f) Start-up grant to RPL assessment agencies	11.0
(g) Reimbursement of RPL assessment fee	100.0
Total	208.0

Encl. 2 Details of the estimated cash flow are set out in Enclosure 2.

33. Since the QF is a new endeavour in Hong Kong and the proposed schemes will spread over a long implementation timeframe, we need the flexibility to cater for contingent needs and changing demands that may arise in the course of the implementation of QF. We will closely monitor and review the expenditure situation and redeploy resources among the schemes where necessary. Subject to the availability of funds within the approved commitment and in the light of the further development of the QF, we may need to refine the operational details of the schemes (such as eligibility criteria, assistance level, method of disbursement, etc.) having regard to operational experience and in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

CEF

34. The expansion of the scope of the CEF to cover SCS-based courses will increase the total number of CEF registered courses and applications. The extension of the validity period for claim of reimbursement and the increase in the maximum number of claims will facilitate better use of the entitlement of individual learners. The CEF will continue to operate under the existing non-recurrent commitment of \$5,000 million under Head 173 Student Financial Assistance Agency Subhead 700 General non-recurrent.

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35. Subject to Members' approval, we will provide funds to meet the cash-flow required for the various commitment items in the relevant financial years. For 2007-08, we have already earmarked the funding required in the annual Estimates. We plan to launch the QFSS with effect from the date as specified by SEM and on which the QF formally commences.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

36. We consulted the Legislative Council Panel of Manpower on the proposals set out in this paper (including the proposed one-off grants to HKCAAVQ, the proposed QFSS and the proposed modifications to the CEF) at its meeting on 17 May 2007. Members were generally supportive of the proposals. Some Members had suggested that the Government should increase the reimbursement of the RPL assessment fees from 50% to 100%, and extend the scheme to cover trade unions (in addition to non-profit-making organisations). Having carefully considered Members' views, we have made some revisions to our proposals as set out in this paper.

BACKGROUND

37. The QF is a seven-level hierarchy that orders and supports qualifications of academic, vocational and continuing education. Each level is characterised by a set of standards known as the generic level descriptors. All qualifications to be linked to the QF will have to be quality assured. The QF is not a mandatory system. It is essentially an infrastructure to foster the development of flexible and diverse progression pathways with multiple entry and exit points.

38. The QF provides objective benchmarks for quality assurance of different levels of qualifications, giving clear information on the standards of courses, qualifications and providers. It enables progression pathways to be mapped out, giving learners a sense of direction in lifelong learning. With the introduction of the QF, we expect the training market to become more vibrant and responsive and the training provided to become more relevant to the needs of the industries and the learners. In the long run, we expect the establishment of the QF to enhance the capability and competitiveness of our manpower.

39. The AAVQ Ordinance which provides for a system of accreditation for academic and vocational qualifications was enacted on 2 May 2007. The Ordinance will commence operation by phases, starting with the appointment of an Appeal Board and a Rules Committee in July 2007 which will be responsible for drawing up rules and procedures for handling appeals under the Ordinance. HKCAA will transform into a new HKCAAVQ in October 2007, and the QR and the remaining provisions of the AAVQ Ordinance will be launched in January 2008.

Education and Manpower Bureau
June 2007

**Estimated cash flow of the proposed one-off grants
to the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications**

Item	Activities for the development and implementation of the QF	Estimated cash flow (\$m)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	Operating expenditure			
1	Professional advice on the development of Specifications of Competency Standards (SCSs)	1.25	1.25	1.25
2	Professional advice on the development of SCS-based courses	0.32	–	–
3	Recruitment, training and development of subject specialists for accreditation	1.10	1.25	0.95
4	Establishment of a QF Special Unit	2.90	2.90	2.90
5	Training of professional and supporting staff for vocational accreditation	5.20	1.70	1.50
6	Publicity and promotion of QF	1.30	1.30	1.30
7	External consultancy service for the development of quality assurance systems and mechanisms under QF	0.90	0.90	0.90
8	Legal advisory services	0.60	0.60	0.40
	Capital expenditure			
9	Development and enhancement of computer system for Qualifications Register	3.72	–	–
	Total	17.29	9.90	9.20
Grand Total for 2007-08 to 2009-10 (3 years)		36.39		

Estimated cash flow of the Qualifications Framework Support Schemes

Qualifications Framework Support Schemes	Estimated cash flow (\$m)					
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Total
(a) Accreditation grant for self-financing programmes	10.0	16.0	14.0	14.0	11.0	65.0
(b) Accreditation grant for courses under EMB-subsidised schemes	5.5	1.5	1.5	–	–	8.5
(c) Grant for Programme Area Accreditation	3.0	2.5	1.0	2.5	1.5	10.5
(d) Subsidy for QR registration fee	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.0	7.5
(e) Accreditation grant to RPL assessment agencies	–	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.8	5.5
(f) Start-up grant to RPL assessment agencies	–	2.4	2.6	2.4	3.6	11.0
(g) Reimbursement of RPL assessment fee	7.0	33.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	27.5	58.1	41.9	41.6	38.9	208.0
