Government Support for HKQF
Ms Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Qualifications Framework Steering Committee, opened the HKQF International Conference 2018. Under the theme “QF and Beyond,” Ms Lam said that the conference was an opportunity to explore how QF could continue to drive the development of modern vocational education and training (VET) systems.

Facilitating Recognition of Qualifications Across Regions
With the advent of globalisation and the rapid development of national and international QFs, regional meta-frameworks have emerged as common reference frameworks that enable comparisons and greater understanding of qualifications across countries and regions. The conference featured sessions on “Emerging Trends of International QF: Influential Role of Regional and National QFs in Linking Learning and Employment.” Dr Spencer Lim, Deputy Chief Executive for Quality Assurance at the National University of Singapore (NUS), said that the NUS has launched a “Micro-credential” charter to promote more cross-border recognition for employees or training organisations in order to support employees with emerging market skills.

In another parallel session “QF for Recognition: Vocational Qualifications Portraying and Professional Qualifications,” Dr Michael Heng, Head of Division, Strategic Planning of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (HKITPC), said that the QF has been designed not only to meet the requirements of the labour market but also to attract more young people joining the industry.

Greater Bay Area – A Base for Building National QF
In his keynote speech, Mr Albert Cheung, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Government’s Bureau of Vocational and Adult Education, said that the development of the governmental Qualifications Framework (QF) will play a key role in driving the study and exploration of the overall QF in the future.

Nurturing Future Talent with VPET
From left to right, Dr Patrick Walsh, Dr Maggie Samson, Dr Godfrey Khanam, Professor Zhuo Muhak Fanale, Dr Eric Cheng
Professor Patrick Chau, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hong Kong Institute for IT Professional Certification (HKIC), said that the Institute has been invited by the EDAB to participate in a project with one of its QF members—the Hong Kong Society of IT Professionals (HKISP)—at the beginning of QF. He stressed the importance of national education and qualification systems. Moreover, cross-sector stakeholder co-operation has been instrumental. The broader concept of recognition has a higher level of recognition qualifications in different industries. The inclusion of international organisations and institutions in the formation of QF will allow for a more effective and efficient process of recognition.

Enhancing the Competitiveness of Local Workforce
Looking ahead to the next decade, the forum pointed out that professionalism, internationalisation and closer cooperation are the keys to advance the development of QF.

The HKQF International Conference 2018, which was held in Hong Kong, brings together experts from different industries to discuss and develop solutions to the challenges they face. The conference aims to enhance the quality and effectiveness of vocational education and training, leading to the development of a more skilled and competitive workforce. It also acts as a platform for sharing best practices and experiences in the implementation of international qualifications frameworks.\n
Dr Patrick Walsh from QQI, Dr Maggie Samson from ABRJ, Dr Godfrey Khanam, Dr Eric Cheng, and Professor Zhuo Muhak Fanale, Director of the Institute of Vocational Education at Middlesex University, shared their views about the role VPET will play in the Asia Pacific and how the QF can be applied to different industries.