

USED commends Qualifications Framework partners

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The Under Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, today (March 25) officiated at the Qualifications Framework (QF) Partnerships Commendation Ceremony and QF in Action (QFIA) Launch Ceremony, and presented certificates of commendation to over 250 organisations including enterprises, industry-related trade associations and unions, professional bodies, government departments, and public organisations for their support and contributions to the implementation of the QF.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Choi said that since the launch of the QF in 2008, the Government had set up 22 Industry Training Advisory Committees, covering over half of the workforce in Hong Kong, to assist industries in implementing the QF. The Government also launched a series of support schemes under the QF Fund, such as subsidies to education and training providers in the accreditation exercises, reimbursement to practitioners to undertake the Recognition of Prior Learning assessments, and conduct of the QF-related studies and public education. At present, over 8 400 QF-recognised academic and vocational qualifications are listed in the Qualifications Register, which is available to the public free of charge. She expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the commended organisations. Without their support, the QF would not have been effectively implemented.

Today's ceremony also unveiled a new cohort of the QFIA. The QFIA aims to commend partners for supporting the QF and showcase the achievements made in their active application of the elements of the QF. The first cohort of the QFIA highlighted the exemplary practices of government departments and public organisations in applying the QF to enhance the quality of services and the professionalism of staff members. Dr Choi said that she looked forward to seeing more enterprises and organisations implement and promote the QF in the new cohort of the QFIA, thereby benefitting more industries and practitioners.

Enterprises commended today have made good use of the tools and supporting mechanisms of the QF in at least one of the following areas to enhance the quality of human resources: (a) developing Vocational Qualifications Pathway (VQP) courses or Specifications of Competency Standards (SCS)-based courses to enhance the synergy between learning and employment; (b) establishing Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) arrangements to provide more flexible learning opportunities; (c) encouraging employees to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning qualifications to have their experience and competences recognised under the QF; and (d) using QF-recognised qualifications in human resources development and management perspectives to enhance the competitiveness of the enterprises for their long-term development.

Education and training providers commended have developed VQP courses, SCS-based courses, Specifications of Generic (Foundation) Competencies-based courses, or set up CAT arrangements to provide more flexible learning opportunities for learners. Trade associations, trade unions, and professional bodies that have actively promoted the QF also received commendations for supporting the wider implementation of the QF.

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[Archives](#) [Yesterday's Press Releases](#) [Back to Index Page](#) [Back to top](#)
[Today's Press Releases](#)

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