



資歷架構
Qualifications
Framework

Hong Kong Qualifications Framework

Qualifications Framework & Cross-Border Education

By David Yu
Qualifications Framework Secretariat



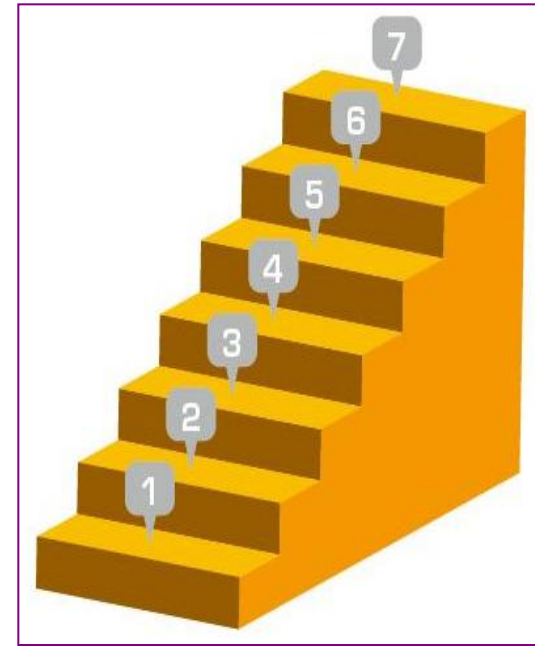
Hong Kong QF

- A major initiative by HK Government to support **life-long learning** and to enhance the **quality and competitiveness of the workforce**.
- **Qualifications Framework Secretariat (QFS)** – an executive body to oversee the development and implementation of QF under the policy steer of the **Education Bureau**.
- HKQF officially launched on **5 May 2008**



Main Features of HKQF

- HKQF is a **unitary framework** – covering the academic, vocational, continuing education and training sectors.
- Qualifications ordered in a **7-level hierarchy** (lowest Level 1 – highest Level 7)





Hierarchy of HKQF

Qualifications in Academic Sector

Doctoral Degree

Master Degree

Bachelor Degree

Associate Degree

Diploma of Secondary Education

Secondary Level Certificate

Secondary Level Certificate

QF Levels

Level 7

Level 6

Level 5

Level 4

Level 3

Level 2

Level 1

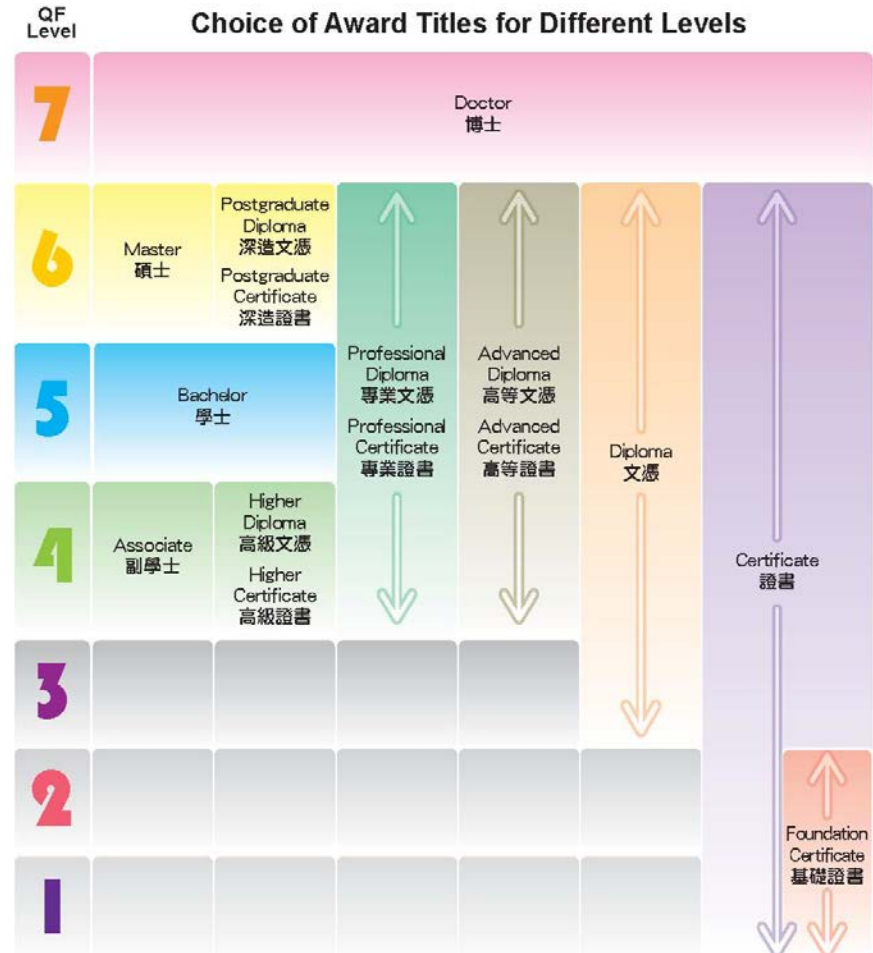
Qualifications in Vocational/Continuing Education Sectors

Qualifications
to be systematically
developed, quality
assured and ordered
under QF



Transparency of Qualifications under QF

- QF levels
- QF credits
- Award Titles





QA Mechanism

- **HKQF underpinned by a robust quality assurance (QA) mechanism**
- **Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ)**
 - Independent, statutory body for quality assurance;
 - Conduct professional accreditation of providers, training courses, and qualifications, under the QF

Qualifications Register (QR)

✦ QR is web-based, containing information of QF-recognised qualifications, training courses and operators.

✦ Available to the public **free of charge**

✦ Over 7,300 courses listed on QR now

www.hkqr.gov.hk

The screenshot shows the Qualifications Register (QR) website. At the top left is the logo for the Qualifications Framework (資歷架構). At the top right is the logo for the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (香港特別行政區政府). Below the logos are navigation links: Main, Login, English, and 简体. The main content area features a navigation menu on the left with links: 序言, 什麼是資歷架構, 什麼是資歷名冊, 資歷名冊對我有何用處, 資歷名冊消息, 常見問題, 使用指引, 詞彙, 免責聲明, 虛假聲稱, 版權, 語言, 有用連線, 下載區, and 聯絡我們. The main content area has a heading "Qualifications Register" and a welcome message: "Welcome to the Qualifications Register (QR). Information on qualifications recognized under the Qualifications Framework is ready for your enquiry." Below this is a section titled "Please select the appropriate button if you want to:" with three radio buttons: "Look for information on Current Learning Programmes" (selected), "Enquire information on Qualifications", and "Look for information on Operators / Assessment Agencies". A "Go" button is located below the radio buttons. On the right side of the main content area is an image of a man climbing a ladder. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text: "資歷名冊以Internet Explorer 5.0 或 Netscape 8.0 或以上在1024x768的解像度瀏覽效果最佳。", "最後更新日期: 04/07/2012", and "瀏覽人次 575669".

Who are our stakeholders?



How QF supports Life-long Learning



- Qualifications are **accredited** (quality assured);
- Qualifications are **level-rated**, with use of **credit size** and appropriate **qualification titles**;
- Education and training market - better **regulated**
- Learners - training programmes with more **transparent** learning outcomes

Skills Enhancement



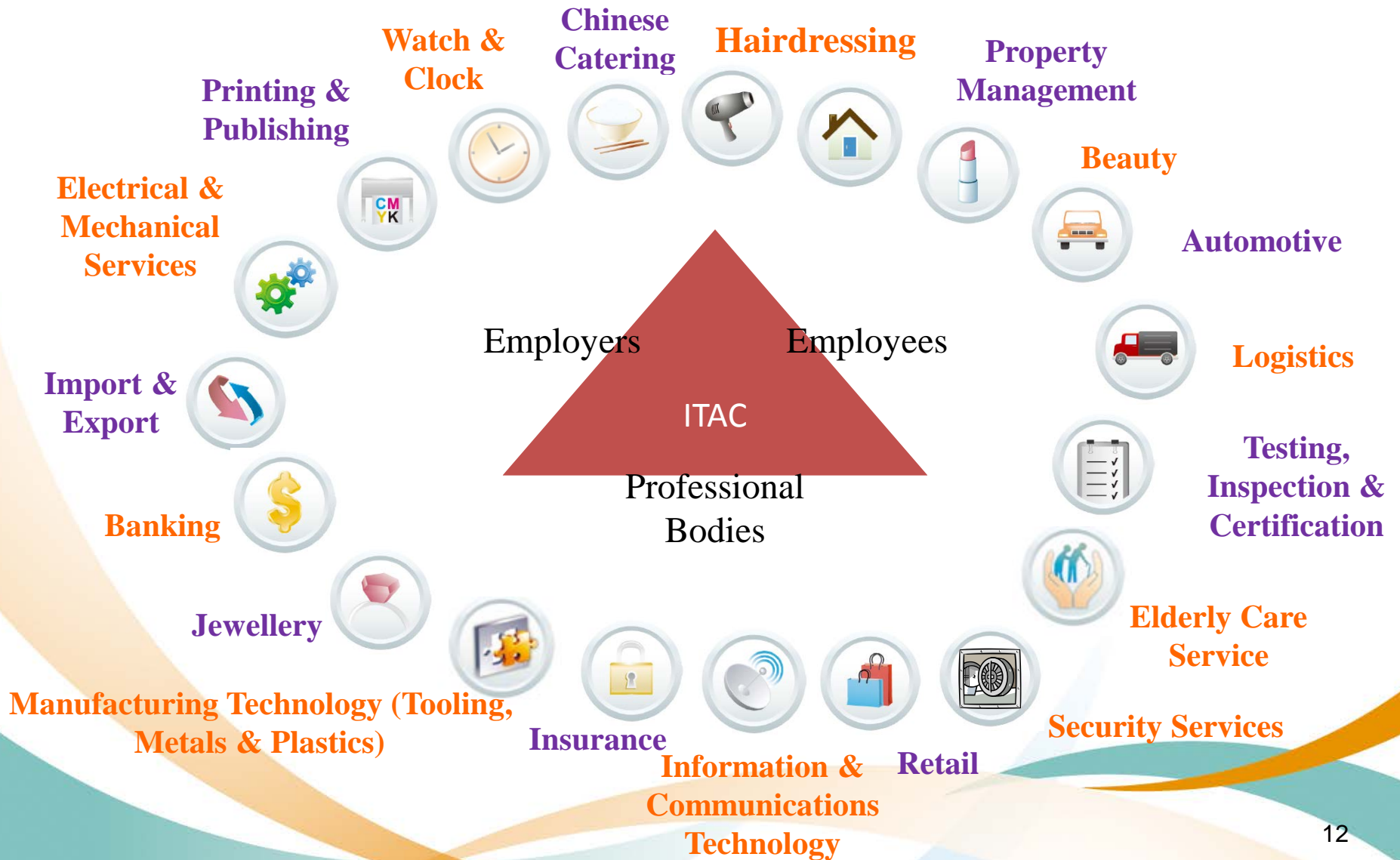
- “Industry-led” approach to enhance quality and skills level of workforce
- Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs) for individual industry
- Industries to define what they need and draw up the competency (occupational) standards of various job functions
- competency (occupational) standards closely aligned with manpower training

Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs)



- ✦ Composition: Representatives from employers, employees, professional bodies and the Government
- ✦ 19 industries, covering about 46% of total labour force (about 1.7 million workers), have set up ITACs
- ✦ Set up by the Education Bureau and served by the Qualifications Framework Secretariat

Industry Participation





Industry Training Advisory Committees (2)

Key roles:

- ✦ To draw up the industry's Specification of Competency Standards (SCS);
- ✦ To develop the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mechanism; and
- ✦ To promote QF in the industry to the practitioners



How QF supports Skills Enhancement in Industries

- Competency requirements and standards for individual profession, occupation, job, clearly defined;
- Manpower training and skill enhancement directly relevant to the requirements of the profession, occupation and jobs.
- Effectiveness of manpower training and skill level of workforce enhanced.

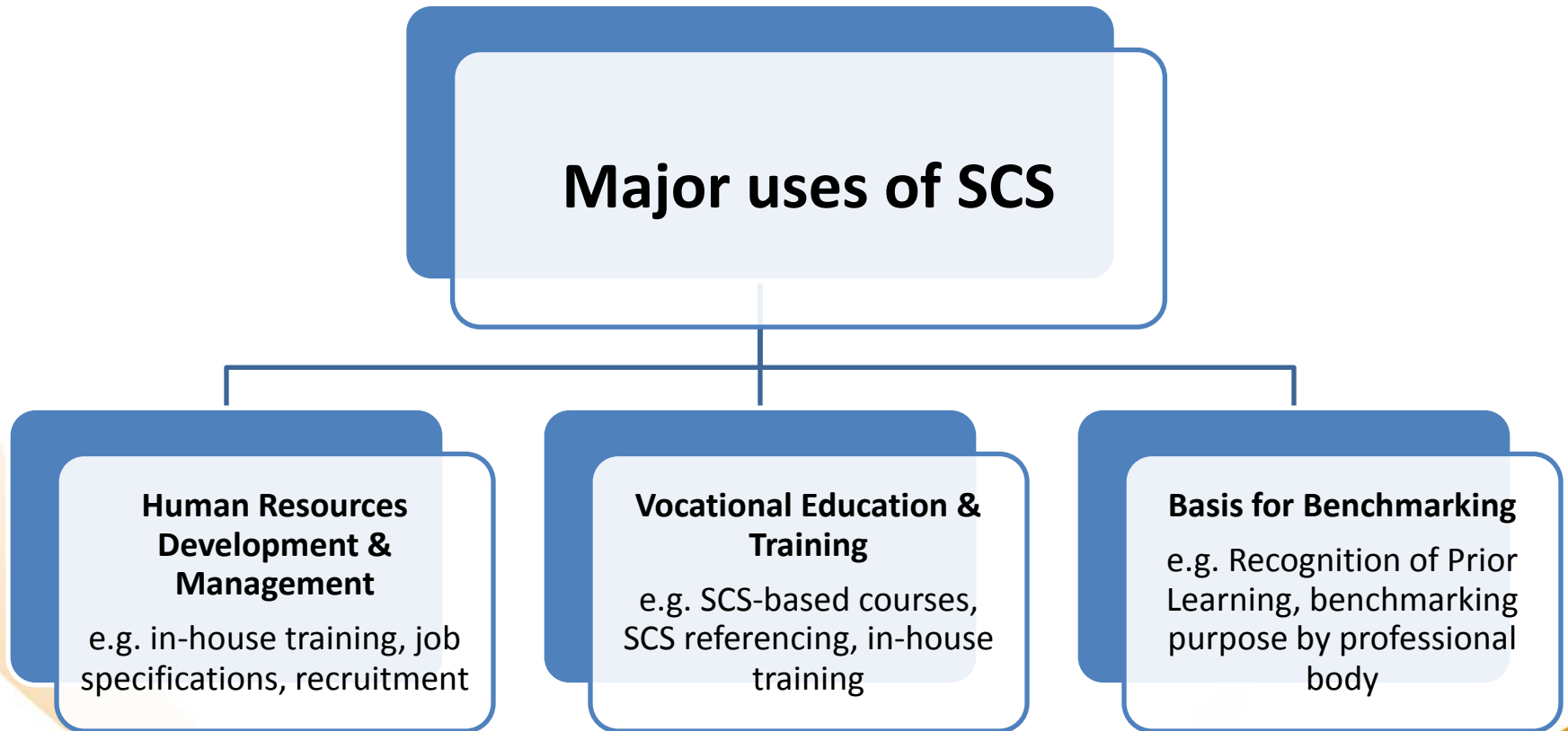
Specification of Competency Standards (SCS)



- A set of competency requirements and outcome standards at various QF levels for a specific industry
- The competency requirements and standards are broken down into Units of Competency (UoCs)
- Each UoC is designated a QF level and indicative credit size
- Drawn up based on extensive industry consultation and consensus



Major uses of SCS



Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)



- Objectives – provide an alternative route for experienced practitioners without formal qualifications to receive formal recognition of knowledge, skills and experience gained from workplace
- for the purposes of learning articulation (for access to or seek advanced standing in a course) and/or certification of competencies (for job retention, mobility or progression)



Features of RPL

- Industry-led – implementation of RPL for a particular industry is contingent on the industry consensus of such a need
- an assessment process that assesses an individual's non-formal and informal learning to determine whether that individual has mastered the required learning
- Standards-based and criterion-referenced – RPL clusters are benchmarked against the industry's Specification of Competency Standards

International Collaboration

- **Scotland** - Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQFP) for cooperation on QF development
- **Mainland China** – Collaboration with Guangdong Occupational Skill Testing Authority on qualification benchmarking of occupational standards
- **New Zealand** – Cooperation with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) on QF development with the signing of an Cooperation Arrangement between New Zealand and Hong Kong

International Collaboration

- **Thailand** – Collaboration with Office of Education Council (OEC) and Thailand Professional Qualification Institute (TPQI) on development of NQF and Professional Qualifications Framework (PQF) respectively
- Other countries in which discussion on possible collaboration are in progress : Ireland; and Australia

Referencing / Alignment with Regional Qualifications Framework



- **Referencing with EQF** – dialogue established with European Commission (EC) on referencing HKQF to EQF with a view to:
- enhancing the understanding of global standards, so as to upgrade own standards and improve the effectiveness of manpower training;
- supporting mutual recognition of qualifications of other countries and facilitate mobility of students and education providers among countries

Qualifications Frameworks (QF) and Cross-Border Education (CBE)



- QFs have much to offer to CBE in respect of **student** and **education provider** mobility
- Student mobility:
 - learning programmes with clear & structured learning outcomes, QF level and credit, facilitate mutual recognition between qualifications
 - Credit accumulation & transfer mechanism allows easier measurement of learning achievements between qualifications

Qualifications Frameworks (QF) and Cross-Border Education (CBE) (2)



- Education provider mobility:
 - Accreditation of non-local courses enhances confidence of the public in the quality standards of courses offered by the provider
 - Benchmarking or referencing of levels of qualifications frameworks through participation in Regional Qualifications Framework



Thank You

