



# Quality Enhancement Grant Scheme

<b>Final Evaluation Report</b>	<b>Project No.: 30/QEGS/B-08-09</b>
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## Part A

**Project Title:** The Impact of the New "334" Academic Structure on the Self-financed Sub-degree Programmes Units (SSPUs) – Meeting the Challenges through Professional Exchange

**Name of Grantee:** Joint Quality Review Committee

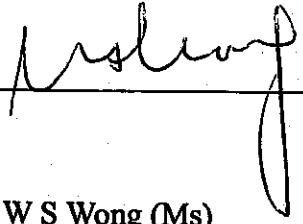
**Project Period:** From September 2009 (month/year) to August 2011 (month/year)

## Part B

Please refer to the attached report for details.

*For and on behalf of*  
**Joint Quality Review Committee Limited**

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*Authorized Signature(s)*

**Signature:**   
**Name of Authorized Person:** W S Wong (Ms)

**Organization Chop:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Grantee Organization:** Joint Quality Review Committee

**Position of Authorized Person:** Executive Director

**Date:** 13 December 2011

**Final Evaluation Report on the  
QEG Project: Impact of the New “334” Academic Structure on the  
Self-financed Sub-degree Programmes Units (SSPUs) –  
Meeting the Challenges through Professional Exchange**

(project period: from September 2009 to August 2011)

**A. Introduction**

1. The Project aims to provide insights and support to the Self-financed Sub-degree Programmes Units (SSPUs) in the implementation of the new 334 Academic Structure through research and consultation, and launching of seminars / sharing sessions.
  
2. Project Objectives:
  - a. facilitating senior management and staff of the Self-financed Sub-degree Programme Units (SSPUs) to understand and prepare for the changes, challenges and impact of the new academic structure upon teaching and learning in Self-financed Sub-degree (SFSD) programmes.
  - b. assisting staff in SSPUs to prepare for the transition and ensure effective teaching and learning strategies and appropriate curriculum and assessment methods for the new SFSD programmes.
  - c. assisting the degree sector to understand the impact of 334 upon the SFSD sector and to prepare better for the intake of SFSD graduates under the new system.
  - d. promoting the quality of teaching and ensuring the quality of the student learning experience under the new academic system, thereby facilitating a smooth transition for sub-degree students to enter the workforce or pursue further study.
  - e. enhancing the professional development and peer learning culture among staff of the SSPUs through professional exchange activities.
  - f. encouraging the SSPUs to establish peer support networks in the long run so as to extend the culture of partnership after the completion of the Project.
  
3. The Project includes the following personnel:

Project Director:	Dr So Kwok Sang (Former Deputy Chairman, JQRC)
Deputy Project Director:	Professor Chan Tsang Sing (Immediate Past Chairman, JQRC)
Deputy Project Director:	Professor Hau Kit Tai (Member of Board of Directors, JQRC)
Project Advisor:	Professor Richard Ho (Former Member of Board of Directors, JQRC)
Project Coordinator:	Ms Wong Wai Sum (Executive Director, JQRC)

4. The Project consists of two components:
  - seminars / symposium which form the major component, and
  - background research of the current practices and issues in the SFSD programmes.

**B. Deliverables and Outcomes of the Project**

Seminars and Symposium

1. The major part of the Project covers a series of eight seminars and a concluding symposium. The eight seminars targeted at SFSD providers and their seniors, front-line and teaching staff were held during September 2009 to March 2011.
2. The concluding one-day symposium was held in conjunction with the JQRC 5th Anniversary Symposium, and was entitled "JQRC Fifth Anniversary cum QEG Project Symposium – Sub-degree Programmes and the New 334 Academic Structure". Involving major stakeholders, the Symposium was held on 13 June 2011 to conclude the success of the Project.
3. The eight seminars had already been reported in the three previous progress reports. The programme of the Symposium is given at Appendix 1.
4. The series of eight seminars and the Symposium had been attended by a total of 999 participants (Table 1) from 61 institutions / organizations. The list of institutions / organizations is at Appendix 2.

**Table 1: No. of Participants in the 8 seminars and Symposium**

Date	No. of participants*
<b>Seminars:</b>	
1. 4 December 2009	109
2. 11 March 2010	121
3. 25 May 2010	125
4. 20 September 2010	118
5. 18 October 2010	102
6. 25 November 2010	69
7. 21 January 2011	79
8. 25 March 2011	73
<b>Symposium:</b>	
13 June 2011	203
<b>Total</b>	<b>999</b>

\*Excluding speakers, project personnel and JQRC Secretariat

- The participants of the eight seminars and the Symposium mainly came from the institutions listed in Table 2.

**Table 2: Breakdown by institutions of participants of the seminars and Symposium**

Origins of participants	No. of participants*
JQRC institutions	476
Non-JQRC institutions	349
Universities	34
Secondary sector	7
Government / public bodies	23
Professional bodies	14
Others	2
Total	999

\*Excluding speakers, project personnel and JQRC Secretariat

- The eight seminars and the Symposium had delivered 30 topics on the areas listed in Table 3.

**Table 3: Areas of topics delivered in the seminars and Symposium**

Areas of topics	No. of topics
Subject-based sharing	8
Impact on secondary sector	2
Impact on SFSD / degree sector	8
General education / common core	5
Outcome-based approach to teaching and learning	2
Quality assurance of SFSD programmes	1
Future role of sub-degree programmes / JQRC	2
Miscellaneous (sub-degree in China / global trends of higher education)	2

### Background Research

- The series of seminars and the Symposium were supported by a background research done in November 2009 on the sub-degree sector. A questionnaire survey among the SSPUs to identify the information and developmental needs of sub-degree programme providers and the issues and problems they face in preparation for the 334 academic structure was conducted. Informal meetings with heads of institutions were also organised.
- The first progress report had described the background of the survey. The survey report

and a sample questionnaire which were appended to the first progress report were sent to the Education Bureau (EDB) on 27 April 2010. The results of the survey were also released in the second seminar on 11 March 2010.

9. The background research also further studied the profile of SFSD programmes [Associate Degree (AD) and Higher Diploma (HD)] in the academic year 2009/2010 in the following areas:
  - Supply of self-financed AD / HD programmes 2009/2010
  - Enrolment of self-financed AD / HD programmes 2009/2010
  - The most popular areas of study & training of self-financed AD / HD programmes 2009/2010
10. The findings (Appendix 4) were reported in the fourth seminar on 20 September 2010.

### **C. Attainments of the Project**

1. All the project objectives were achieved through the three deliverables, namely the eight seminars, the concluding Symposium, and the research.
2. The data obtained in the research had provided the background information on the current context of SFSD programmes and the development of SSPUs in preparation for the new academic structure. The background information had generated ideas on developing the topics of the seminars and Symposium so as to fit the major interests and concerns of SFSD sector.
3. The relation between the topics of the seminars and the Symposium with the project objectives is shown in Appendix 3.
4. The last two project objectives in page 1, section A 2, points e and f were mainly achieved by:
  - a. The informal communication (e.g. during the tea break and lunch) between colleagues during the seminars and the Symposium.
  - b. For some seminars and the Symposium sessions, the same topics were shared by different speakers giving participants different perspectives. For example, the admission arrangement in 2012 was shared by speakers from both the degree and sub-degree sectors. For the session in 'A Subject-based Experience Sharing on Articulation to the New 4-year Degree Programmes in Arts', four speakers from degree and sub-degree sectors and different institutions shared and exchanged their views on the same topic.

- c. Speakers' presentation materials (subject to speakers' consensus) have been uploaded on the JQRC website for further promoting the events for professional exchanges / sharings among SFSD providers and stakeholders.
5. The seminars and the Symposium were well received by the participants. Table 4 below shows the percentages of participants (those responded) commented that the eight seminars and the Symposium are 'very useful' or 'useful'.

**Table 4: Participants' feedback in percentages on the usefulness of the seminars and the Symposium**

response on 8 seminars in %								response on Symposium
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	in %
81.5	95.1	96.9	75.3	78.7	80	85.7	67.7	73.2

**Table 5: Participants' average feedback on the Q & A sessions, timing, venues, and duration of presentations and of the seminars and the Symposium**

	% of respondents responded 'useful' or 'very useful'
Q & A Sessions	75
	% of respondents responded 'good' or 'very good'
timing	88.8
venues	89.5
	% of respondents responded 'moderate'
duration of presentations	96
duration of Q & A sessions	90.3

6. Participants highly commended the one-day Symposium. Below are some of the comments written on the evaluation questionnaires:

*"A well organized symposium providing useful insights to sub-degree programmes, the future and the challenges."*

*"Thanks for coordinating this symposium so that there is a platform for people to meet and have dialogue among the sub-degree and UGC-funded institutions."*

*"Very good. Continue to hold such seminars in future."*

#### **D. Impact / Benefits of the Project to Participants**

1. Major issues / concerns identified in the background research were covered in the seminars and the Symposium. This has facilitated SSPUs better preparing for the transition to the new academic structure.
2. Speakers from different SSPUs shared their own institution's experience in preparing for the New Academic Structure (NAS) and hence enhanced the professional exchange between institutions. The seminars and the Symposium successfully provided forums for the different stakeholders to share their experiences and views on the development and challenges of sub-degree programmes, and to facilitate the dialogue between the sub-degree and degree sectors.
3. Two speakers from overseas and mainland China broadened participants' horizon on the global outlook of higher and sub-degree education.
4. Sessions on subject-based exchange helped the participants better understand the possible future articulation arrangement between sub-degrees and degrees.
5. Speakers from the EDB provided participants with useful data and information on the development of SFSD, especially the impact of NAS on SFSD programmes.
6. Speakers were from diverse backgrounds (e.g. Degree and Sub-degree sectors, Hong Kong Examinations & Assessment Authority, EDB, Secondary School Principals, Employers), and they were able to provide meaningful and useful insights to the participants.
7. The seminars and the Symposium have promoted the professional sharing culture among stakeholders in the SFSD sector.

#### **E. Cost-effectiveness of the Project**

##### *Utilization of available resources*

1. All other institutions can access the JQRC website to obtain the presentation materials of the seminars and the Symposium for reference.

##### *Applicability of project deliverables to other institutions*

2. The seminars and the Symposium had provided insights and ideas to institutions to develop or adapt their SFSD programmes in preparation for the 334 academic structure, and to develop their quality assurance mechanism, teaching / learning strategies, appropriate curriculum and assessment methods for their new SFSD programmes.

*Sustainability of project activities / impacts*

3. The sharing among the SFSD institutions and stakeholders in the seminars and the Symposium contributed to the culture of exchanging information and experience and facilitated the future development of peer support networks in the sector.

*Contribution by JQRC*

4. JQRC had contributed to the Symposium by funding the fees for brochure and banner printing, mailing, stationery and transport, etc.

**F. Conclusion**

1. JQRC has completed 100% of the Project.
2. JQRC will continue to commit to its mission of enhancing the quality of SFSD programmes.