

Quality Enhancement Grant Scheme

Progress Report	Project No.: 30/QEGS/B-08-09
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Reporting Period: From September 2009 (month/year) to February 2010 (month/year)

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)

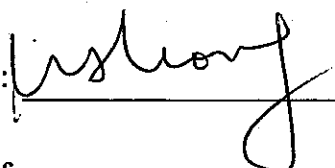
Part B

Please refer to the **attached** progress report for details.

For and on behalf of
Joint Quality Review Committee Limited

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Authorized Signature(s)

Signature: _____



Organization Chop: _____

Name of

Authorized Person: Wong Wai Sum (Ms)

Name of Grantee Joint Quality

Organization: Review Committee

Position of

Authorized Person: Executive Director

Date: _____

29 March 2010

**Progress Report on the Impact of the New “334” Academic Structure
on the Self-financed Sub-degree Programmes Units (SSPUs) –
Meeting the Challenges through Professional Exchange
(reporting period : from September 2009 to February 2010)**

Introduction

1. The Project consists of two components: (1) seminars / sharing sessions, and (2) background study of the current practices and issues in the Self-financed Sub-degree (SFSD) programmes.
2. To kick-start the Project, Dr KS So (Project Director and JQRC Deputy Chairman), Professor TS Chan (Deputy Project Director and JQRC Chairman), and Ms WS Wong (Project Coordinator and JQRC Executive Director) held a planning meeting on 23 September 2009, and discussed the initial plans. Professor Richard Ho Yan Ki was invited to serve as the Project Advisor. Professor Richard Ho is currently a member of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications and the Quality Assurance Council of the University Grants Committee.

Seminars / sharing sessions

3. The seminars/sharing sessions of the whole project include four sessions for heads and senior staff, four sessions for front-line staff and a concluding symposium for major stakeholders.
4. During the reporting period, the first seminar, which aimed to prepare the senior management of the SFSD sector, was held on 4 December 2009 as summarized below:

Venue	Lecture Theatre UG06, Hong Kong Community College (Hung Hom Bay Campus), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Descriptions	<p>Opening Remarks by Professor TS Chan, JQRC Chairman and Deputy Project Director</p> <p>The interface of New Senior Secondary Curriculum and sub-degree programme: Opportunities and challenges for the student learning journey under the new academic structure Dr Chan Ka-ki, Catherine Deputy Secretary for Education Education Bureau</p>

	<p>Supply of and demand for Self-Financed Sub-Degree places under the new 3-3-4 academic structure: Roles and positioning of the Self-Financed Sub-Degree Sector Mr Cheng Chung-wai, Daniel Principal Assistant Secretary Education Bureau</p> <p>Benchmark of Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education : Implications for the Self-Financed Sub-Degree Sector Dr Cheung Wing-ming, Francis Secretary General Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority</p> <p>Open Discussion chaired by Dr KS So, Project Director and JQRC Deputy Chairman</p>
Participants	A total of 109 participants from 32 SSPUs/institutions/organizations

5. The following issues were identified by the speakers and participants:

- The impact of the New Academic Structure upon the demand for Self-Financed Sub-Degree places is uncertain and views differ as to whether it will increase or decrease.
- The sub-degree sector in general has the consensus that there is an increasing demand from Sub-Degree graduates for top-up Degree programmes/articulation to senior years of Degrees.
- The sub-degree sector has the concern of how much exemption from the specialized subjects should be granted to sub-degree graduates by universities.
- In considering exemption/articulation, the 'year' concept should perhaps give way to the notion of 'credit'.
- The HD graduates have less general education content than AD graduates. They may be 'worse off' since they will miss out the general education curriculum in Years 1 and 2 of the 4-year Degree.

6. On 3 February 2009, a project meeting was conducted by Dr KS So (Project Director), together with Professor TS Chan, Professor Richard Ho (Project Advisor) and Ms WS Wong. The outcome of the first seminar and the plan for the second seminar were reviewed. The feedback on the first seminar was positive. The second seminar would focus on the preparation of the Self-financed Sub-degree Sector for the new 334 Academic Structure, including experience

sharing on the common core curriculum of the new 4-year Bachelor degree and the articulation between Sub-Degree and Degree programmes.

7. During the reporting period, preparatory work for the second seminar to be held on **11 March 2010** was undertaken.

Background study of the current practices and issues in the SFSD programmes

8. In preparation for the workshops, seminars and sharing sessions, which form the main part of the Project, JQRC has planned to conduct background research in the first phase to obtain more information on the following:

- (a) a review of the current offer of SFSD programmes (e.g. the number and type of programmes, the range of entry requirements and duration/contact hours, the range of subject disciplines, range of articulation rates and year of articulation),
- (b) a review of the positioning of sub-degree programmes/articulation routes in other countries, and
- (c) Study on the existing situations of SSPUs and preparation for "334" in order to prepare well for the launching of workshops and seminars, and to identify accurately the information needs and developmental needs of stakeholders.

9. The background study was initiated after a meeting with the senior management of some SSPUs on 28 October 2009, which formed the basis for a questionnaire survey in November 2009 to identify the informational needs and developmental needs of stakeholders. A sample questionnaire is attached at **Appendix 1**.

10. An informal meeting with a Head of SSPU was conducted on 24 February 2010 to find out more about the impact of the New Academic Structure on the SFSD Sector. The questionnaire survey and the informal discussions centered on:

- articulation between Sub-Degree and the new 4-year Degree programmes,
- difficulties encountered in preparation for the new academic structure,
- projection on the demand for Sub-Degree programmes under the new academic structure, and
- institution's expectation on the role of the Government in the transition period.

11. The findings were analyzed and prepared for distribution to participants of the second seminar. The survey report is attached at **Appendix 2**.

The Way Forward

12. About 20% of the entire Project was completed at the end of the reporting period.
13. The Project will continue to achieve the objective to facilitate professional exchanges among SSPUs.
14. The next progress report will cover the second seminar held on 11 March 2010.
15. Findings of the background study will be provided to SSPUs for reference.