



News from TNQAB

Jan- Mar 2019

Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board

TNQAB-Planning Week 2019



Representatives from providers were also invited. They contributed to the discussion of the planned activities and shared the challenges they faced as an accredited provider. The board was able to draft its annual plan for the upcoming 2019/20 to be submitted with the proposed budget for approval.

The Hon. Minister of Education (above) in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board opened the Board's Planning Week on 15 January 2019. He was accompanied by Dr Viliami Konifelenisi Fifita (Below—Front Row: 4th from left), who offered the vote of thanks.

The Chairman emphasized the need to work together as a team to achieve the goals and objectives of the organization. The staff members of TNQAB and other invited participants appreciated the words of wisdom bestowed by the Hon. Minister which encouraged them to persevere in our service.

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Internship—Malaysia Qualification

News from TNQAB



Mr. Kisione Manu (Front Row –2nd from Right) Senior Analyst from Quality Assurance Division joined other delegates for internship at Malaysia Qualification Agency, Kuala Lumpur—Malaysia. The internship programme included accreditation site visits to Higher Institutions in Malaysia. This gave the officer a wonderful opportunity to experience panel meeting and discussion of accreditation in higher institutions.

The sessions with the accreditation expert helped to build confidence in conducting accreditation site visits and making sound judgment and decisions to determine if provider meets the criteria. It also helped build capabilities in working with degree programmes and universities.

Mr. Kisione noted the hard work of the Training division at MQA and which provide ongoing professional development to its staff as well as staff members from the higher institutions. TNQAB expresses its gratitude and thankful for such a wonderful opportunity to be part of this training programme to build staff capabilities and learn from the good practices of Malaysia Qualification Agency. TNQAB also thank the Board for endorsing this arrangement for the staff.

REMINDERS!

◆ Annual Fees:

The Annual Fees was due on 31st January 2019.

Outstanding annual fees will affect provider's ongoing registration.

◆ Audit Fees:

The audit fee is \$500 + CT. The Audit of the following providers is completed. Please pay to the Account Section at TNQAB if you have been invoiced for the Audit done to your institution:

- i) Montfort Technical Institute
- ii) "Ahopanilolo Technical Institute
- iii) Hango Agricultural College
- iv) Tupou Tertiary Institute
- v) Queen Salote Institute of Nursing and Allied Health
- vi) VOU Fashion Style
- vii) Lavengamalie Institute of Technology
- viii) St Joseph Business College

◆ Accreditation fees

The Accreditation Fees is \$500 + CT. Please contact the Account division at TNQAB for any outstanding accreditation fees that you have been invoiced for..



Qualification Recognition consultation...

The Chairman of Audit Compliance Committee and Board Member of TNQAB, Mr. Tatafu Moeaki (left) opened the public consultation

on Recognition of Qualification in Higher Education. The consultation discussed the regional convention for Asia Pacific for Recognition of Qualification in Higher Education known as the Tokyo Convention.

Dialogue between representatives from higher education institutions, public service commission and other stakeholders helped to clarify the roles of the recognition authority and the role of the applicant seeking recognition of qualification. The consultation also discussed the policy recognition of prior learning and how it contributes to gaining a qualification.

The Board appreciates this regional instrument and would take further steps to raise awareness and opinions of policy makers in government to promote support for ratification of this important convention.



From Left: Dr Lia Maka (Chief Executive Officer of Public Service Commission, Mrs. Tuifua Takapautolo (Tonga Skills), Hon. Lady Siátukimoana Vaea (Deputy Director—Tonga Institute of Higher Education)

Below: Participants from Higher Education Institutions during the consultation on the regional convention.



Board Visits to providers...

Despite the many responsibilities and busy schedule of the members of the TNQAB Board of Directors, they made time to pay courtesy visits to providers in the main island, Tongatapu in February 2019.

The visit was to increase awareness of the location of the providers and their facilities and resources. The visit helps to give the Board members a fair idea of the provider when considering reports for registration and accreditations.

Below: The Board members, Dr Siale 'Akau'ola –CEO Ministry of Health, Dr Viliami Fifita-CEO Statistics Department, Hon. Penisimani "Epenisa Fifita-Minister of Education and Training.



Above: Head of Training at Tonga Police College, Ms Lupe Motuápuaka (Left) and Ms Lauáitu Tupouniua who oversee the Training division during the conversation with the Board members at the site visit.



Below: Trainer of hairdressing course at "Ahopanilolo Technical Institute, Ms Joyce Afeaki who introduced the hairdressing training programme during the site visit.

Joyce is an experienced hair stylist who practiced in the field for many years in New Zealand.

Her skills and experience is a privilege to share with the institute and a treasure to the learners in the programme.



Amongst the providers were privileged to be visited included Tupou Tertiary Institute, St Joseph Business College, 'Ahopanilolo Technical Institute, Christ's University in Pacific, Lavengamalie Institute of Technology, Queen Salote College –Catering, Siaátoutai Theological College, Liahona High School TVET, Queen Salote Institute of Nursing and Allied Health, Tonga Business Enterprise Centre, VOU Fashion Style, Tonga Police College, Tonga Institute of Education, Tonga Institute of Higher Education, Montfort Technical Institute, Tonga Institute of Science and Technology, Tonga Maritime Polytechnic Institute, Tupou College TVET, University of the South Pacific—Tonga Campus, Matapa Training Centre. Providers welcomed the Board members and commended the Chairman, Hon. Penisimani "Epenisa Fifita for the Board for the interest to visit their sites. Providers proudly shared their success stories and achievements as well as their visions for the future.

UK Naric Training...

The UK-NARIC Seminar was attended by Dr Opeti Pulotu, Head of Qualifications Framework.

Evaluation of international qualifications is one of the central roles of UK-NARIC agencies. It ensures applicants to get the most accurate, clear and reliable information on recognition procedures and criteria followed in the host country. This implies a fair consideration for all the applicants. It is aimed at facilitating academic and professional mobility.

The four main sessions focussed on evaluating international qualifications, degree of deception—combating education fraud and education in Asia.

The sessions helped delegates read and understand education documents and to be able to evaluate them including those that are not aligned to frameworks.

We are thankful for such training for professional development which promotes confidence in our role as the national competent authority for qualification recognition.

Welcome to TNQAB!



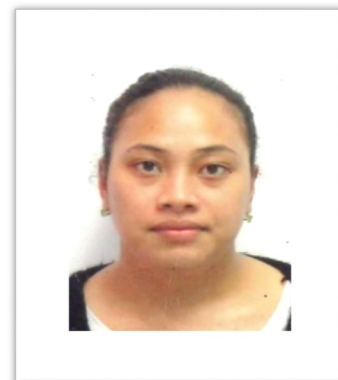
Dr Opeti Pulotu resumed duty in February this year after studying for PhD in Assessment at the United Kingdom.

The Board warmly welcomes him back as he lead the qualification team in consolidating the process for approval and registration of provider's qualifications.

Regional Validators Training...

An intensive 2-week training was on the validation of training and assessment programmes, as an attempt to address the lack of trained and qualified Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) validators in the Pacific region.

As this was the first time any IST course was made available in the Pacific Islands, it was an exciting opportunity for key stakeholders of TVET in the region to have some of their staff certified with internationally recognized IST qualifications in training and assessment validation from Queensland TAFE.



Mrs Wendy Latu joined the TNQAB in April this year as an Assistant Accounting Officer.

The Board warmly welcomes her as she finds it a pleasure to work at TNQAB.



See You Soon!

News from TNQAB!

The Studious!



Miss Siniva Samani, the Senior Risk Analyst is on study leave, commencing January 2019 to do a Master in Education (Leadership) in Australia.

Her smiles reflects her endeavor to succeed as she put aside her responsibilities for TNQAB to focus on her studies. We wish her all the best!

Mrs Fololina 'Ikani, Senior Qualification Officer, is studying for a Master in Education at Massey University, New Zealand. We thank her for her supportive and cooperative attitude.

Fololina enjoys being a student once again, while being a mother and a wife abroad. We wish her all the best of time and success to her studies.



The family girl!



Ms. Ikatonga Hingano, Senior Analyst has graduated with a Master in Education, is on leave to accompany her husband on study abroad.

We thank Ikatonga for all the support and hard work during the year.

Though we miss your smiling face, we trust that your company will be enabling and encouraging. We wish you a good time.

Our Condolences...

Our hearts go out to our dear fellow staff member, Mrs Lesieli Tupola for the loss of her dear brother. Our thoughts are with you at this time of sorrow as those we have treasured live in our hearts forever.

From Social Committee and Staff of TNQAB

Molisi City Central
Level 1
Salote Road
Nuku'alofa



In loving memory of Mr Sam Tatafu, a member of the Industry Training Advisory Committee (ITAC) for Tourism, our counterpart in national qualification development.

The journey was unfortunate and the news was heartbreaking. As he rests in peace, he leaves behind a legacy of memories in the whale watching industry of the Kingdom.

May God's spirit comfort the family to cope with the sad loss of a loving father and dear husband but a devoted citizen to the economic development of the country.

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