



News from TNQAB!

Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board

April—June 2018

Study Tour: Malaysia Qualification Agency and UNESCO

Delegates from Pacific Island States at Malaysia Qualification Agency, Cyberjaya—Kuala Lumpur.

Director of Malaysia Qualification Agency (Front—4th from right) with MQA staff (Left standing) and UNESCO host (Right—standing).



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Delegates from Tonga joined the study tour to Malaysia in April 2018 funded by UNESCO and organized by the Malaysia Qualification Agency (MQA). This study tour provided an opportunity for small island states from the Pacific to be exposed into the quality assurance of higher education in Malaysia and programme standards. There were interactive sessions where institutions shared their experiences in preparation for programme approval and accreditation. Panel members also shared their experiences in programme approval and accreditation.

We express our sincere gratitude to the Director of UNESCO and his officers, Ms Jihye and Ruthaiwan for organizing this event. Our heartfelt thanks to the CEO of Malaysia Qualification Authority, Deputy and Head of Training and staff for all the support and for being there with us all the way to our last destination. We thank all the institutions that we visited, for the kind hospitality and allowing us to learn from your presentations of good practices and tour your facilities and for shar-

ing your resources.

We thank the Director of CTEF and his officers, and the staff of University Sains Malaysia for the presentations and the tour of the research labs. There was so much we learnt and enjoyed the rich heritage and scenic tour of Georgetown.

Special thanks the Chairman of the national commission for UNESCO in Tonga, Hon. Minister of Education—Hon. Penisamani Epenisa Fifita for the approval of the three delegates from Tonga to learn from this study tour for the benefits of education in our country.



Deputy Director, Tonga Institute of Science and Technology, Mr Nonga Soakai receiving Certificate of Participation from Malaysia Qualification Agency Officer.

Montfort Technical Institute—Quality Audit

An audit site visit was conducted to Montfort Technical Institute in June. The purpose was to confirm that the provider continues to deliver quality education. The audit panel were



Mr Viliami Sisifa (left), Managing Director, Kiwi Tonga Construction, Mr Fakatouola Matoto (middle), Manager—Mechanical from ASCO Motors and Mr Kaufana Valita (right)- Deputy Director from Tonga Electricity Commission.



The site visit included a tour of the facilities including the current construction of new classrooms at the campus and the automotive workshop.



Quality Audit Schedule

July

⇒ International Training Education Programme

August

⇒ Ahopanilolo Technical Institute, Tonga Institute of Higher Education, Atenisi Institute

September

⇒ Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili, St Joseph Business College, Hango Agriculture College, Assembly of God Bible College

Providers are hereby reminded to submit their self evaluation reports. The TNQAB looks forward for your cooperation and support in upcoming quality assurance activities.

Partnership with Tonga Skills...

The CEO of Scope Global from Australia paid a courtesy visit to TNQAB in April. Tonga Skills, the working body of Scope Global in Tonga funds community trainings in Tonga. TNQAB recognizes community education and short trainings based on guidelines developed and funded by Tonga Skills, a DFAT funded project.



The CEO of Scope Global, Ms Chrstine Molitor (middle) and staff of Tonga Skills, Ms Kapreen Veétutu (left) and Ms Sisilia Tuifua Takapauloto paid a courtesy call to TNQAB.



The partnership included development of Guidelines for recognition of trainings conducted by organizations and communities and the short trainings being offered. This was followed by a workshop to clarify processes and procedures. The Manager for Human Resources at ANZ Bank was pleased to apply for recognition of the short trainings on being money minded and financial literacy. The ANZ bank offers these trainings to communities to improve management of income and savings.



Accreditation ... As of June 2018

Programmes Accreditation ... in progress

TIST Certificate in Plumbing (Trade) Level 4
 TIST Certificate in Welding Level 3
 TIST Certificate in Panel Beating & Spray Painting Level 4
 OJTVT Certificate in Building and Construction Level 4
 OJTVT Certificate in Building and Construction Level 3
 OJTVT Certificate in Building and Construction Level 2
 CUP Master of Forensic Information Technology
 CUP Bachelor of Computing and Information Sciences (Network and Security)
 TIOE Graduate Certificate in Education Level 7
 TTI Diploma in Information System Level 5
 TTI Advanced Diploma in Information Technology Level 6
 TTI Certificate in Information System Level 4
 TTI Certificate in Information System Level 5

Site visits—Christ University in Pacific

The Christ University in Pacific was formerly known as Lavengamalie Christian University, established in 2004. It has been indeed a long way for institution to prepare itself for accreditation. The site was conducted from 25-29 June, 2018 to verify the institutions documentations including implementation of the research criteria for university registration. The institution has a unique characteristics in its programmes where it strongly values Christian qualities in this era of technology.



The institution is located on Maseia Plaza and is fully furnished with classrooms, lecturer's rooms, computer labs for undergraduates and post graduates and research center.



The site visit also included verification of information for Bachelor of Computer Information System and Master of Forensic Information Technology.

The institution is strongly advocated for by its supporters from the Tokaikolo fellowship in Tonga and overseas. Moreover, local stakeholders support the training to be beneficial to the country as a whole.



The institution has the potential to exploit a niche in forensic investigation in Tonga and the positive comments from the Deputy Commissioner of Police about its programmes of studies. The outcome of the accreditation will be confirmed within the next two months.

Consultations:

Degree Approval and Accreditation

Representatives from higher education institutions and panel members were invited to discuss and provide feedback on the document for approval and accreditation of degree and related programmes at Tungi Colonade on the 29th May 2018.



Representatives from higher institutions and panel members during the consultation.



2011 Tokyo Convention—Recognition of Qualification in Higher Education

Mr Claude Tupou- Director of Education and Training, Rev. Dr Mele'ana Puloka-President of Free Wesleyan Church Education and Mr Soane Vahe-Director of Catholic Education system in Tonga met the Acting CEO of TNQAB to discuss the document approved from the 2011 Tokyo convention on the recognition of qualification for higher institutions.

The meeting brought to light the need to focus on local needs first. This included recognition of skills and knowledge possessed by locals who did not have any formal certification. Moreover, the meeting members agreed that the current process employed by TNQAB for the recognition of foreign qualification was sufficient for now. There should also be consideration for the risks involved before binding to this convention to avoid any complaints and problems in future. The consultation is ongoing and will include Heads of higher institutions and relevant stakeholders.

TNQAB Retreat!

TNQAB Board member, Mr Siaosi Pohiva officiated the TNQAB retreat on 20th June 2018 at Tungi Colonade Conference room. The purpose was to inform providers of the activities planned for the year 2018/19.



Board member, Mr Siaosi Pohiva (front row with garlands) with staff of TNQAB and representatives from providers

This event provided an excellent opportunity for providers to share the benefits of cooperation with TNQAB, teamwork and build relationships and networking. The participants from providers discussed the challenges they encountered on the journey to achieving accreditation which was significant for TNQAB to consider in its future planning. The retreat also provided an opportunity for staff to showcase their skills and achievements and clarify links with other divisions.

The result of the retreat was for each division to produce a pamphlet, brochure or flowchart that illustrates the processes in each division. The retreat allowed staff to reflect on the past activities and challenges encountered. This was helpful for their planning and achievement of the goals and objectives established for 2018/19.



Staff Development

Mrs Lesieli Tupola attended a seminar in China. The sessions brought out the need to improve competitiveness of the female labour force by paying special attention to their vocational training. The vocational training was made accessible by means of mobile training and full weekend training. The main themes promoted were working women to pursue the merits of both genders. It also included training in workplace specification and code of conducts.



We express our sincere thanks for the continued support of the People's Republic of China, Ambassador and the staff of the Embassy office in Tonga, Ms Clair for the great opportunity for TNQAB staff to benefit from this programme.

Monitoring of Providers

In preparation for the upcoming quality audit, officers from TNQAB visited providers to monitor the maintenance of quality assurance standards met at registration and accreditation. These officers met with the management, staff and students to confirm ongoing implementation of the quality management systems. They discussed any new developments that was likely to affect the quality approved status of the provider. Some of the providers visited are shown in the pictures on the right.

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Tupou College Technical Vocational Education and Training



Queen Salote—Catering



Ahopanilolo Technical Institute—cookery course

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