



News from TNQAB!

Oct—Dec 2018

Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board

Right: Guest of Honour, Hon. Minister of Education (Middle) with representatives from providers

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TNQAB Retreat



The Hon. Minister of Education, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board was Guest of Honour at the TNQAB retreat in December 2018.

Mrs Pauline Moa, Acting CEO welcomed the Hon. Minister, Board member, Directors of Catholic and Free Wesleyan Education systems, Chief Education Officers, Principals and accreditation panel members to the retreat. Mr Soane Vahe, Director of Catholic Education system blessed the retreat with the morning devotion. Hon. Penisimani Epenisa Fifita opened the retreat with a heart warming message that valued Christian qualities in education and training. Mr Siaso Pohiva, a TNQAB Board Member delivered the vote of thanks and acknowledged support of the Board in pursuing quality education in Tonga.

The purpose of the retreat was to collect feedback from providers on the activities planned for the coming year to inform budget preparation. The outcomes of the corporate plan was presented which attracted lively discussions with useful comments for its revision and improvements.

The challenges encountered when providers are non compliant were amongst pressing issues of the discussion. TNQAB will continue to strengthen its mandates and legislation to prevent risks of students graduating from unaccredited programmes.

The Senior Management team also met to discuss revisions to some of the working documents to streamline processes in national qualification development to be more efficient. A moderation guidelines to performance management was also discussed to be implemented in 2019.

Programme Accreditation

Liahona High School (LHS) TVET

has adopted a new name as Liahona High School TVET in November. LHS TVET has also other trades programs that it will consider for accreditation in future.

The following programs are approved and LHS TVET is accredited to deliver them:

- ◇ Certificate in Culinary Arts Level 2
- ◇ Certificate in Culinary Arts Level 3
- ◇ Certificate in Fashion Design Level 2
- ◇ Certificate in Fashion Design Level 3

Montfort Technical Institute (MTI)

The following programs are approved in November and MTI is accredited to deliver them:

- ◇ Certificate in Automotive Engineering Level 4
- ◇ Certificate in Electrical Engineering Level 4
- ◇ Certificate in Carpentry Level 4 (Provisional)

Quality Audit

The following providers were audited in this quarter:

- ◆ Hango Agricultural College
- ◆ Tupou Tertiary Institute
- ◆ Queen Salote Institute of Nursing and Allied Health

The next audit will be March 2019 for the following providers:

- ◆ St Joseph Business College
- ◆ Vou Fashion Style
- ◆ Lavengamalie Institute of Technology

REMINDER

- ◆ The audit fee is \$500 , please settle any outstanding fees.
- ◆ The audit recommendations should be addressed within three months. Please contact TNQAB if you cannot meet this due date.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Community Education contributes to improved educational and training which encourages life-long which better equipping our people to make active use of the opportunities in the community, the domestic economy, and overseas.

As such, TNQAB response to this by recognizing short trainings in the non-formal sector who have met certain quality standards. Matala Training Centre (MTC) is one of the Community Education and Training organization that provides training in Pre-departure, Customer Service, Planning, Orientation, Communication Skills. Other community trainings include Money Minded, Basic financial literacy, Product Design, Wood Carving, Textile and Tapa Printing, Sewing and Sewing Machine Maintenance, Leadership Training.



*Tapa
Printing*



*Product
Design*

Quality Assurance Workshop—EQAP



Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) is mandated to develop quality education in the Pacific.

Quality assurance of higher education in Tonga is getting attention as industries and employers are beginning to recognize the value of recruiting employees with accredited qualifications and trainings.

To support the roles played by national accrediting agencies, the Secretariat of Pacific Countries, as a regional organization and custodian of the Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards, organized a workshop on 'Regional Quality Assurance' from 25th – 27th September 2018 in Nadi, Fiji.

The workshop emphasized the need to link the Pacific Qualification Framework and the Pacific Quality Assurance Framework to national systems, facilitating the registration of nationally accredited qualifications on the Pacific Register of Qualification Standards.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr Andrea Batman who has extensive experience and knowledge of qualification frameworks in the region and internationally.

We express our sincere gratitude for EQAP CEO, Dr Michelle, and her team, Rajendra and Selai for the successful workshop. We look forward for continued support and collaboration between our organizations in the future.

Audit Training—EQAP

EQAP also organized Audit training in Suva, Fiji for participants from Pacific Islands which two of our staff attended namely Mrs. Lesieli Tupola and Mrs. Fololina Ikani from Quality Assurance Division.

This training is important for capacity development in our organization as we continue to monitor institutions by audits.



Recognition of Qualification

News from TNQAB



Delegates from Pacific Islands of Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga, Cook Islands and Fiji as well as Australia and New Zealand attended the Experts Committee meeting on Recognition of Qualification in Higher Education held in Seoul, Korea on October 18-20, 2018. The meeting was funded by UNESCO Bangkok.

The meeting discussed the value of the Tokyo Convention on recognition of qualification and the proposed move to develop a global convention on recognition of qualification.

TNQAB has analyzed the convention and finds it a useful instrument to adopt. It should be noted that this does not imply there is automatic recognition of local qualifications overseas. However, both parties involved in sending and receiving have essential roles and responsibilities to ensure that sufficient information is available to confirm the recognition of qualification. Further consultation is planned in Tonga to be in place in the coming months. This is to increase public awareness of the importance of implementing this process by training institutions so that learners with partial studies can be admitted into another institution to complete the incomplete qualification.

National Qualifications in Tourism—A milestone!

The Industry Training Advisory Committee (ITAC) for Tourism were responsible for validating the first set of national standards in Tourism. These standards are from the development of National Certificate in Customer Service Level 3 and National Certificate in Tour Guiding Level 3, which is a milestone in the work of TNQAB! It is hope that national qualifications will help facilitate recognition of qualification and contribute to labour mobility in the region.



ITAC members, from Tourism Industry and TNQAB officer, Mr Vilimaka Foliaki—who is Head of National Qualification Unit who facilitated the ITAC meetings.

Our Social Responsibilities...



In support of the Cancer week awareness, the staff of TNQAB wear pink every Fridays during the month of October for a small fee. Special thanks for the male staff for their support. The staff contribution to support awareness program was send to the President of the Cancer Association as a token of our social responsibility.



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Congratulations!

The Social Committee shared the joy of achievements and successes with two staff members.

Congratulations to Mrs Amelia Tohu'ia Manuofetoa who graduated in October with a Master in Education from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. Tohuia assumed the post of Senior Policy Analyst in November 2018. We wish her all the best in her new role.



We also congratulate Ms. Siumafua'uta of TNQAB who tied the knot in October 2018. She happily settled down with Mr. Kalafitoni.



May your lives as couple be filled with happiness. Always remember the Bible's advice that 'What God has yoked together, let no man take apart'.

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