



TNQAB Newsletter

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TNQAB VISION:

To effect change in Tongan society whereby the needs of learners across post compulsory education and training (PCET) are at the center of an open, responsive and inte-

TNQAB MISSION:

To lead the implementation of the TQF in partnership with awarding bodies, education and training providers and other key stakeholders. The Board will ensure the quality and effectiveness of the TQF so that it benefits to learners economy and society.

TNQAB DUTIES:

The Board shall have the following duties:

- 1.1 Develop a national qualification framework for post compulsory education, training, review and revise corporate plans.
- 2.1 Establish policies, criteria, accreditation, monitoring, reviewing, register and listing of providers of post compulsory education and training.

Foreword from the CEO

Greetings and Happy New Year to you all.

This is the first of a series of monthly newsletters TNQAB produces to inform the public of its activities and responsibilities.



Firstly, I wish to thank all stakeholders for their hard work and support in 2011. In the past year, we saw the initial registration of several providers, the renewal of the registration of others, the suspension of the registration of a non-compliant provider, the successful accreditation of some training programmes, and the continual work of other providers to achieve either registration or programme accreditation. It was pleasing to work with providers and individuals who were willing to go the extra mile to complete all requirements for either provider registration or programme accreditation. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to those providers and individuals. I look forward to the same level of cooperation, if not higher, in the coming year.

At the end of June 2011 the grace period for free initial registration came to an end. It is unfortunate that some providers failed to achieve registration and they now have to pay the prescribed fees. This should not be seen as a penalty, but rather a reminder for us all to make use of the opportunity while it lasts. However, I urge those providers not to be discouraged but to make every effort to gain registration not only for their own benefits but more importantly for the future of their students and clients.

TNQAB steps into 2012 with renewed confidence and determination. Significant progress was made in its work towards international recognition through partnership arrangements with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) and the Pacific Register for Quality and Standards (PRQS) at the Secretariat for Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). TNQAB gained full membership in the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), and is currently working towards attaining full membership at the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN). It is anticipated that in the near future TNQAB will be widely recognised internationally and the qualifications registered on the Tonga Qualifications Framework will gain automatic recognition internationally.

The new year also sees an increase in the staff of the Secretariat which will have a substantial impact on the Secretariat's performance and service delivery. Seven new staff have been recruited. The increase in staff serves two purposes: to build the capacity of the Secretariat and to fulfil organisational requirements from international partners.

Lastly, I wish to encourage training providers to keep working towards their registration and to make every effort to accredit and register their programmes and qualifications. This will take us a step nearer to Tonga's ultimate goal of achieving and maintaining quality education.

Malo 'aupito and may you all have a successful year in 2012.

Dr 'Uhila moe Langi Fasi

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Quality Assurance

Accreditation

- < Analysis of Certificate in Electrical Engineering documents and site visits to Tonga Institute of Science and Technology were conducted in October last year. The report of the panel has been sent to the provider for their response and actions before the final decision is made by the Board.
- < Accreditation of 'Ahopaniolo Technical Institute's Certificate in Hospitality Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 was conducted in November last year. The draft report is still under moderation and will soon be sent to the provider for comments before it is presented to the Board for consideration.

New TNQAB Staff:

The Secretariat has recruited 6 new staff members. They are:

Ms Kasa Kilioni, Principal Qualifications Officer (PQO)

Ms Uirumila Kakapu, Senior Qualifications Officer (SQO)

Ms 'Ana Tukia, Qualifications Officer (QO)

Mr Halalotoangi Fonokalafi, Qualifications Officer (QO)

Mr 'Inoke Taulanga, Assistant Qualifications Officer (AQO, ITC)

Ms Kalo Ngingingini, Assistant Qualifications Officer (AQO, Finance)

Registration:

- < New provider: Lavengamalie Technical Institute (LTI) is the newest provider to apply for registration. The application is now being processed and we look forward to work together with the management and the staff of this provider to complete the requirements for registration.

Overseas Internship:

- < Pauline Moa underwent an internship at the Malaysian Qualifications Agency, Malaysia from 10th October – 21st October 2011. The purpose of the internship was to undergo on-the-job training on quality assurance procedures and processes, support services and site visits to higher institutions. This opportunity was a priority need for TNQAB as it would certainly increase the capacity of the organization to conduct quality assurance of providers through registration and accreditation. The internship was funded by the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education [INQAAHE].

Consultation Sched-

- < A schedule of consultation session has been developed to avail TNQAB Officers to meet with providers who are not yet registered. The purpose of these sessions is to identify areas where providers lack the necessary documentations and to guide providers in what needs to be done in order to meet the criteria for registration.

Consultation cont:

A similar schedule has been developed to provide assistance and guidance to providers on how to prepare their programmes of study for accreditation. It is hoped that these opportunities will improve and speed up the preparation for programme accreditation. This schedule is available at our website www.tnqab.to. (as well as the revised version of the Registration and application forms)

Cooperation Arrangement with NZQA

NZQA Officers visit:

- < TNQAB and NZQA have entered into a cooperation arrangement in the field of qualifications frameworks and quality assurance in tertiary/post compulsory education to implement a 5-year programme for the benefit of both organizations. The Cooperation Arrangement focuses on two areas:
 - < i. organizational development for qualifications framework and quality assurance systems
 - < ii. staff capability

- < Mr. Aaron Nonoa (Chief Pacifica Advisor) and Mr. Peter Peilua (Principal Analyst Pacifica) of NZQA visited TNQAB from 12th to 15th December 2011. The purpose of the visit was to carry out a needs analysis exercise in conjunction with the Secretariat. This is part of the Cooperation Arrangement with NZQA, which is a 5-year project under the NZ State Sector Development Partnerships Fund in which NZQA will work together with TNQAB in the development of

Staff update:

- < Mr 'Opeti Pulotu (Principal Qualifications Officer) is going on a two year AUSAid scholarship to study towards an MA in Assessment and Evaluation at the University of Perth, Australia.

Newsletter Deadline :

The Secretariat welcomes any comments, articles which might be relevant to the work of the TNQAB. The deadline for submissions for the newsletter edition is 20th of every month. Please send information to the email: info@tnqab.to, by phone (676) 28-136, or post to P.O.Box 65 or in person: Tonga Power Building.



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