

Meta-evaluation of voluntary program accreditation and pioneer study of the new cycle of program accreditation

The Ministry of Education (MOE) stopped conducting program accreditation five years ago. Most universities have chosen to conduct program accreditation on their own, by commissioning a professional QA agency or applying for recognition of self-accreditation depending on their own needs.

To understand the situation and effectiveness of the process in universities and to provide a reference for the next cycle of program accreditation, this research project proposed to conduct a meta-evaluation. The research methods used in this study included document analysis, questionnaire survey, expert consultation, and departmental sharing forum to achieve the study objectives. The following four conclusions were reached: 1.The stakeholders express their positive and supportive opinions of the program accreditation projects; 2.The implementation of program accreditation projects has demonstrated the effectiveness and impact on the universities with slight differences in the perceptions of different stakeholders on the main effectiveness and impact; 3.The implementation of the virtual visit was positively evaluated by both the programs and the reviewers; 4.The HEEACT program accreditation has positive impacts on assuring student learning.

Key words: recognition of self-accreditation, HEEACT program accreditation, meta-evaluation