

Accredited Registers (AR) Scheme for Speech Therapists

July 2017

Introduction of Accredited Registers (AR) Scheme

- A **Pilot Study*** to set up an **Accredited Registers (AR) Scheme** for healthcare professionals who are currently not under statutory regulation
- **Self assessment** and external peer review process conducted by an independent team of Surveyors
- Accreditation process is **developmental** and **voluntary**
- **Principle: One Profession, One Council, One Register**

**Commissioned Study by the Department of Health*

Objectives of AR

By accrediting organisations as holders of registers which demonstrate the ability of the profession to meet acceptable standards of quality, the AR Scheme aims

- To **protect the public through quality assurance;**
and
- To **uphold standards of the professions registered**

19 June 2017

[http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201706/19/
P2017061900782.htm](http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201706/19/P2017061900782.htm)

The Government today (June 19) announced that five healthcare professions are preliminarily assessed to meet the criteria for accreditation in phases under the Pilot Scheme of the Accredited Registers for Healthcare Professions, namely speech therapists, clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, audiologists and dietitians.....

The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (JCSPHPC) has been appointed as the independent Accreditation Agent of the Pilot Scheme. The Pilot Scheme was open for application in the end of December 2016. A total of 20 applications from 15 healthcare professions were received. After examining the submissions received, the accreditation team at the JCSPHPC considered that the above five healthcare professions were preliminarily assessed to meet the criteria for accreditation under the Pilot Scheme.

Taking into account the pilot nature of the Scheme and the readiness of healthcare professions to be accredited, **the JCSPHPC will first proceed with the speech therapists profession for the relevant accreditation procedures** according to the accreditation standards, which include governance, operational effectiveness, risk management and quality improvement, standards for registrants, educational and training requirements, and management of the register of the professional body.

Timeline in 2017

- * Late August: Submission of Self-Assessment Tool with evidences
- * Late September: Accreditation by Team of Surveyors
- * December: Announcement of Accreditation Results

Future Roles of 2 ST organizations

Hong Kong Speech Therapists Council (tentative)

- Maintaining the ST register
- Complaint management/ Disciplinary proceedings

The Hong Kong Association of Speech Therapists

- Professional development
- Public awareness
- Welfare

**Important Issues every Speech
Therapist should know about the
Accredited Registers (AR) scheme**

1. Governance Structure of Hong Kong Speech Therapists Council

* Vision

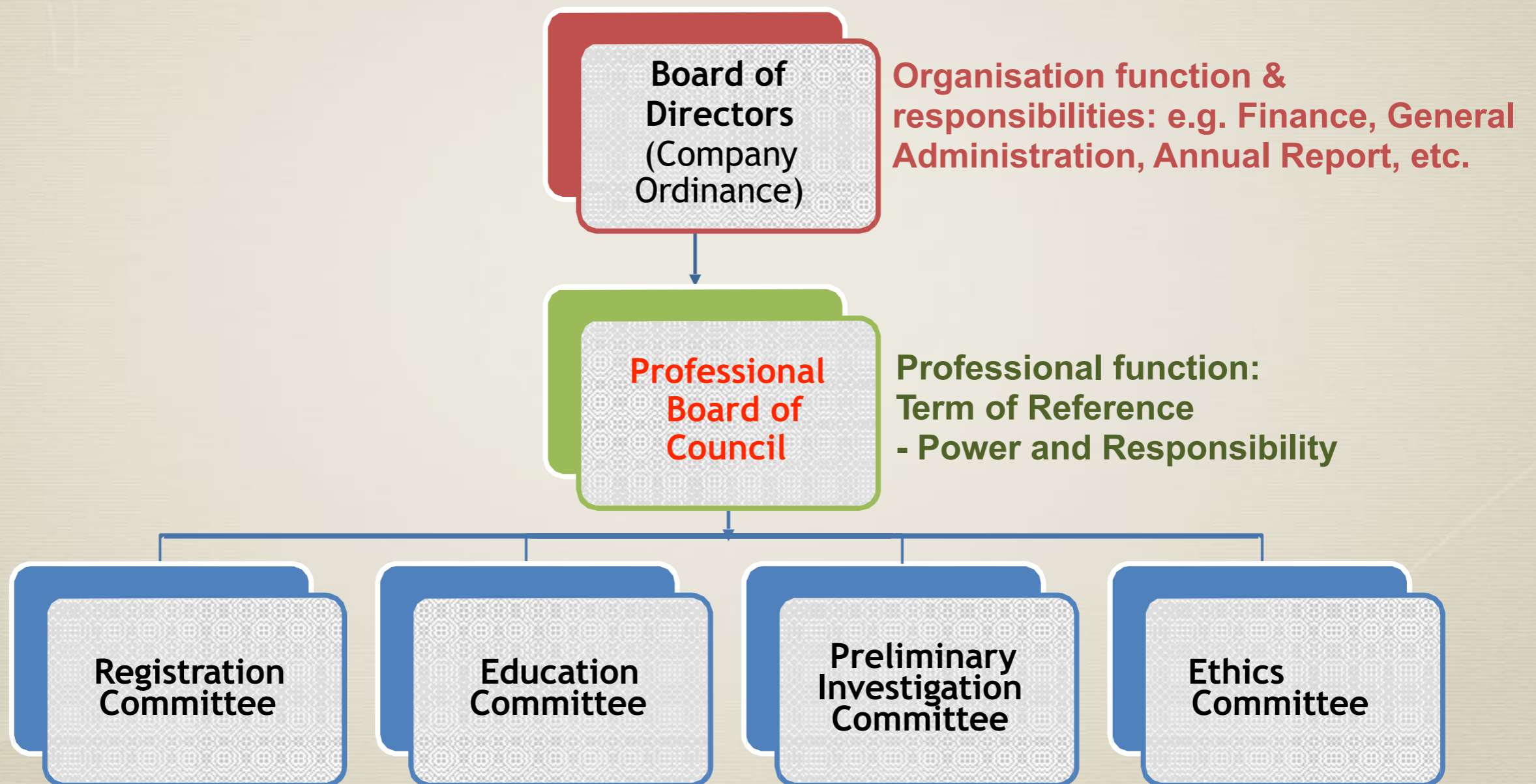
- * Effective communication and safe swallowing, a human right, accessible and achievable for all people in Hong Kong

1. Governance Structure of Hong Kong Speech Therapists Council

* Mission

1. To safeguard the public interests in accessing speech therapy services
2. To ensure adequate standards of professional practice and of professional conduct among accredited speech therapists

1. Governance Structure of Hong Kong Speech Therapists Council



1. Governance Structure of Hong Kong Speech Therapists Council

- * Proposed composition of Professional Council

- * 1 member from Education sector

- * 1 member from Social Welfare sector

- * 1 member from Medical and Health Sector

- * 1 member from Private Sector

- * 1 member from ST training institutions

- * 2 Lay members

- * At least 25 % lay representation in the Professional Council

- * Lay representation in Preliminary Investigation Committee/
Panel, Disciplinary Committee

2. Accreditation criteria

- (i) Persons who were trained in Hong Kong
Persons who were trained in Hong Kong must
 - (i) hold a Bachelor degree or above in speech therapy in a recognized tertiary institution, and
 - (ii) demonstrate competency as specified in CBOS 2011 with reference to the supplementary document by HKAST
- (ii) Persons who were trained in other countries
Persons who were trained in other countries must
 - (i) hold a speech therapy degree recognized by a recognized tertiary institution;
 - (ii) demonstrate that they can practice in their own country;
 - (iii) be a member of their local speech therapy association;
 - (iv) and meet CBOS 2011 with reference to the supplementary document by HKAST.

*Same as the current HKAST Full membership eligibility criteria

3. Grandfathering criteria

1. Must once have been a full member of HKAST before 2018
2. Possess the Bachelor of Science (Speech and Hearing Sciences) degree offered by The University of Hong Kong before 2020
3. Evidence of completion of speech therapist training programme and working locally as a speech therapist for at least 10 years

* Grace period: Applicants should apply before 30/6/2018

4 .Continuing Education requirements

Continuing Education Program for Speech Therapists (CEPST) points

* Include but not limited to

* Attending/delivering lectures/seminars/workshops/journal clubs

* Research activities

* Postgraduate studies

* Presentations

* Mentoring and supervision

* Reading of literature

* Minimum of 100 CEPST points (~100 hours) every 3 year

* Randomly select 5% registrants CEPST record every 3 year cycle

5. Professional indemnity

The organization requires its registrants to acquire appropriate indemnity cover for their practice

* Indemnity should taken into account

1. the risks associated with the profession
2. individual scope of practice (where relevant)
3. whether or not registrants are already covered by their employers' indemnity schemes or insurance

6. Declaration of No Criminal Conviction

Declaration from:

- the Commissioner for Oaths,
- Solicitor, or
- Barrister

7. Proposed Complaint/Disciplinary Procedures



8. Risk Management Framework



8. Risk Management Framework

Risk Matrix

LIKELIHOOD	Highly likely	M	H	E
	Likely	L	M	H
	Unlikely	I	L	M
		Minor	Moderate	Major
		IMPACT		

Each risk will be quantified as:

I: Insignificant risk

L: Low risk

M: Medium risk

H: High risk

E: Extreme risk

9. Registration fee

Accredited speech therapists are required to pay registration fee annually

- * Amount is estimated to be \$1000-\$2000, depending on the financial support from the government

Important documents of the Council for Consultation:

1. Ethical framework
2. Code of Practice
3. Scope of Practice

These documents will be sent out via email and can be downloaded at HKAST website later.

**Accredited Registers (AR) Scheme for
Speech Therapists
Consultation Forum**

Date: 28 July 2017 (Fri)

Time: 7:30pm

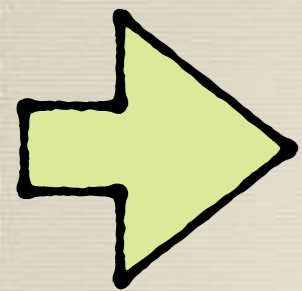
Venue: Room AG710, HK PolyU

Please come and give us feedback!!

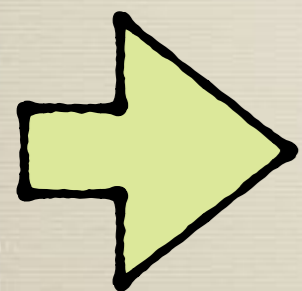
You may also give us feedback on the above issues and documents by:

- 1. Email: hkast@speechtherapy.org.hk**
- 2. Leaving a message on HKAST website: www.speechtherapy.org.hk**

There are just a few steps for Speech Therapists to have our own registration...



Please support AR for Speech Therapists!!



Apply for registration once AR for STs is possibly launched in 2018!!