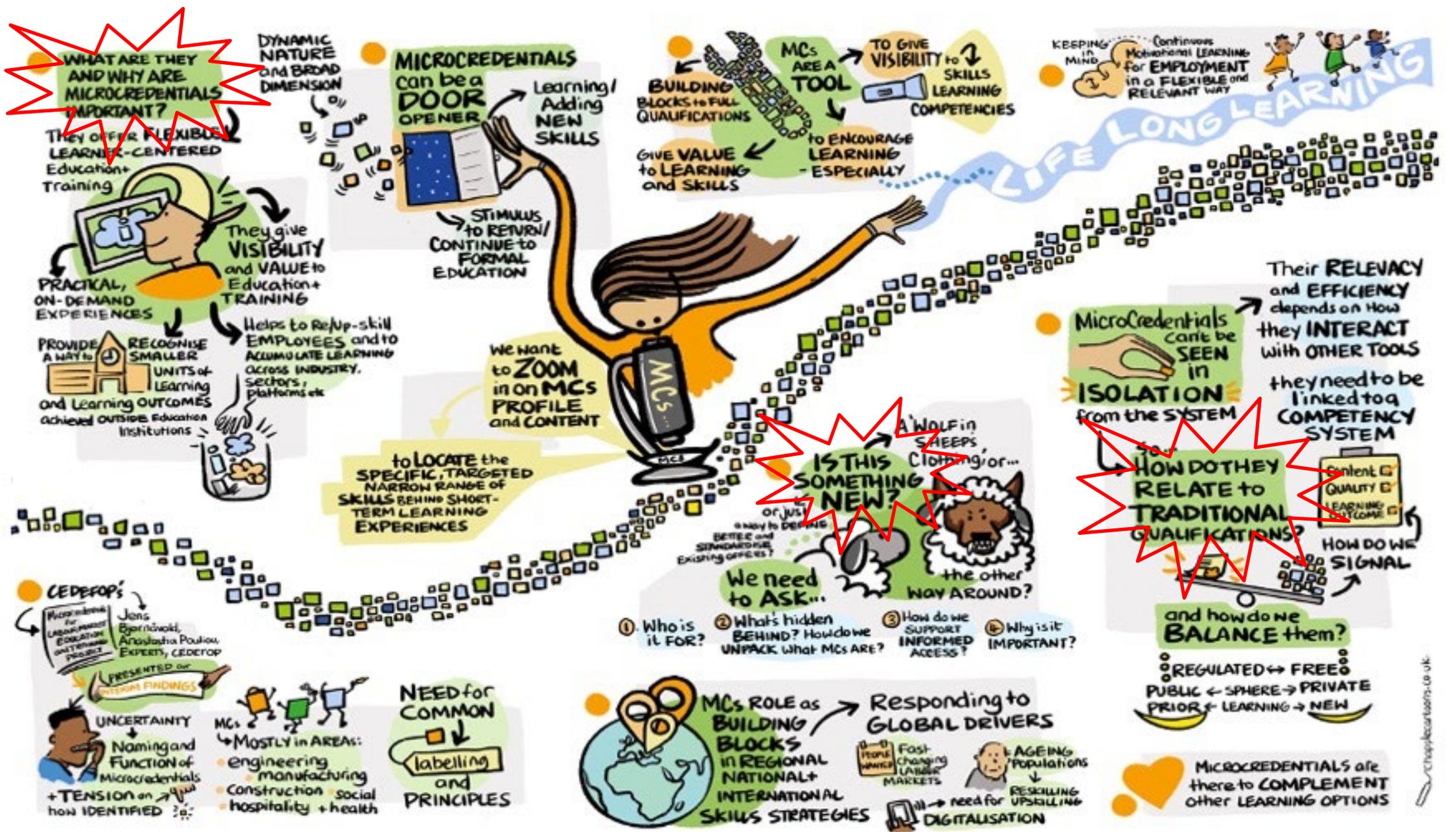


Development of Micro-credentials under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework



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INQAAHE Talk
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Source: <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/microcredentials-new-opportunity-lifelong-learning>

What are Micro-credentials?

Micro = *small / short / focused / relevant*

Flexible (*demand driven, delivery mode, more accessible, affordable*)

Credential = *award / quality assured / assessed / transparent*

Recognition (*standalone, portable, transferable, industry-recognised*)

Are these new?



資歷架構

Qualifications Framework



Qualification types on Qualifications Register

7	Doctor						
6	Master	Postgraduate Diploma	Professional Diploma	Advanced Diploma	Diploma	Certificate	
		Postgraduate Certificate					
5	Bachelor		Professional Certificate	Advanced Certificate			
4	Associate	Higher Diploma					
		Higher Certificate					
3							
2							Foundation Certificate
1							

Short Qualifications on Qualification Register

Qualifications below 60 QF Credits → around 50% of the total qualifications on QR

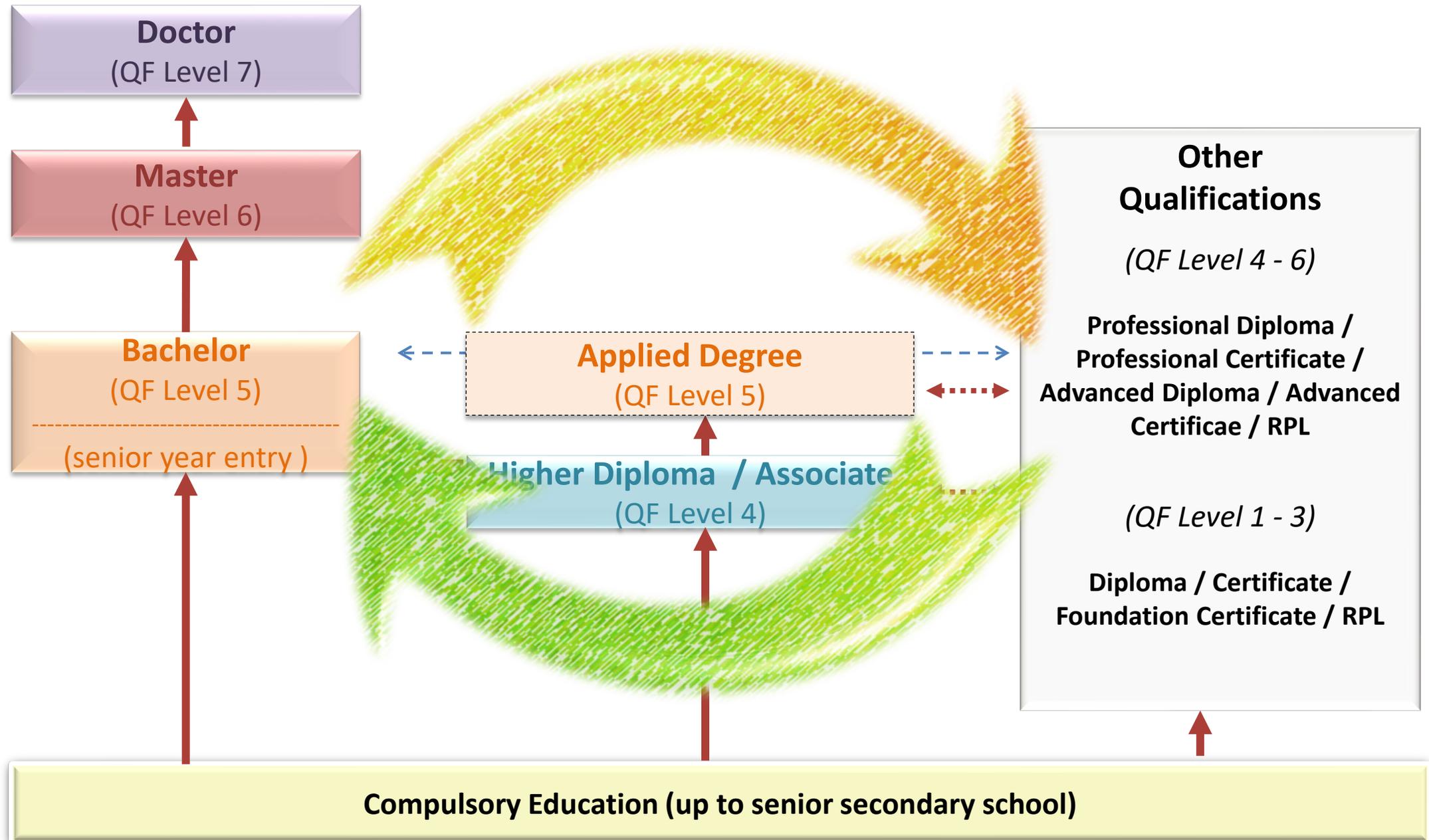
QF Credit Range	QF Level						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1 - 10	839	1088	345	84	3	1	2360
11 - 20	306	179	96	314	9	5	909
21 - 30	221	353	150	61	6	5	796
31 - 40	40	29	37	51	7	2	166
41 - 50	1	10	44	73	1	1	130
51 - 59	0	2	8	5	0	0	15
Total	1407	1661	680	588	26	14	4376

→ 92%

→ 99%

How to facilitate recognition of these short qualifications?

Education and Training System in Hong Kong



Continuing Education, Life-long Learning and Employment

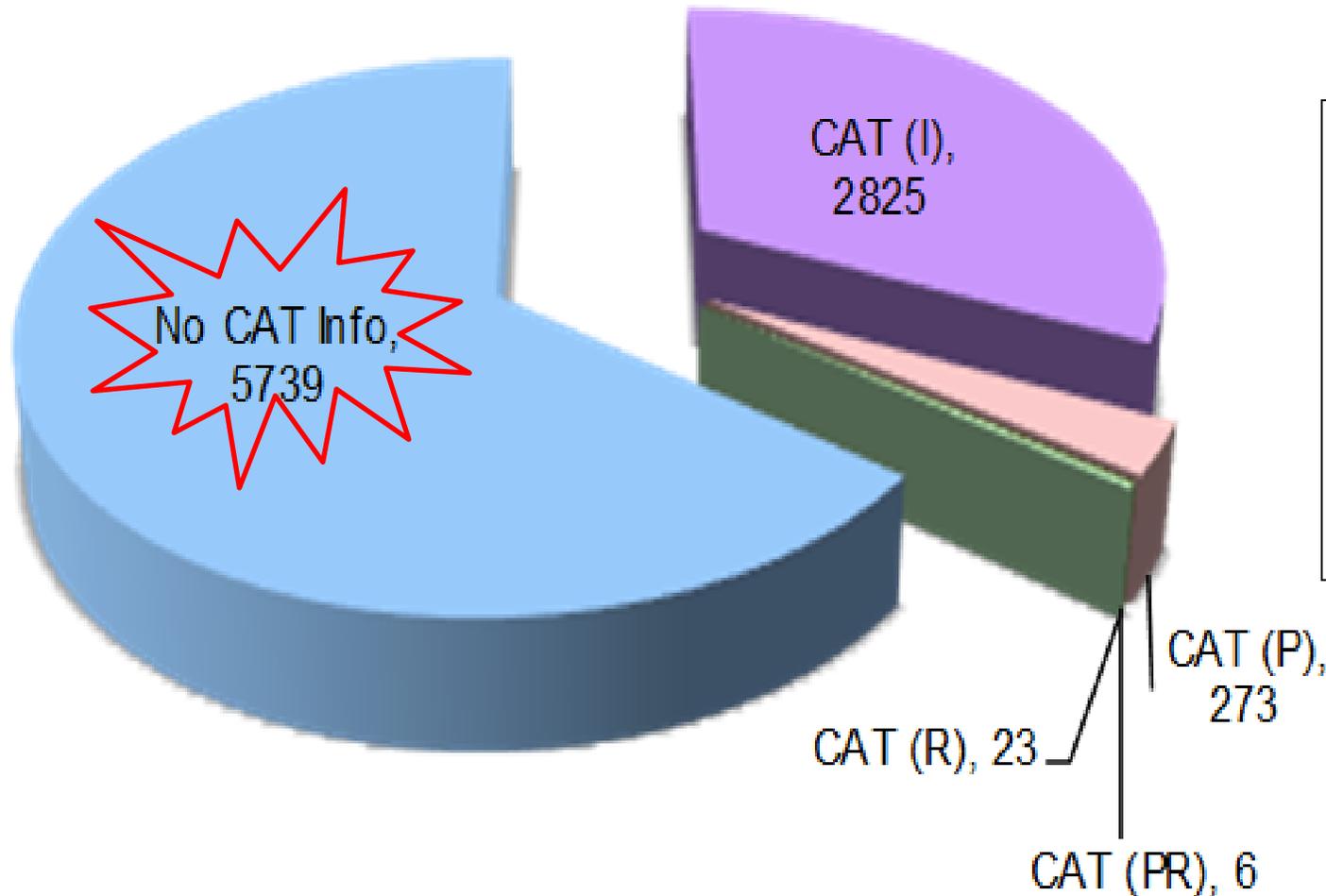
Academic Recognition: Credit Accumulation & Transfer

[CAT Booklet 160316.pdf \(hkqf.gov.hk\)](#)

*Adoption of the CAT policy, principles and operational guidelines is **voluntary***

8 Principles	
1	CAT policy should be formulated with a view to promoting learner mobility across sectors, levels and types of qualifications by minimising duplication of learning.
2	Systems and procedures developed in institutions to support CAT should be transparent, fair, flexible and easy to use .
3	Decisions regarding credit transfer should be timely, academically defensible, equitable and based on learning outcomes .
4	Credit awarded in recognition of prior non-formal and informal learning is of equal standing to credit awarded through other forms of assessment.
5	In line with the concept of institutional autonomy , CAT shall not affect the authority of a receiving institution to make decisions about the admission of learners. There is a distinction between the separate processes of admission and credit transfer.
6	Credit recognition and credit transfer should not undermine the academic rigour or integrity of the qualification into which the learner is accepted.
7	Institutional commitment and cooperation are essential for the optimal functionality of CAT.
8	CAT systems and procedures should be subject to rigorous quality assurance measures .

Qualifications by CAT arrangement in QR



CAT Types:

No CAT ~ 65%

CAT(I) – CAT (Institutional) ~ 32%

CAT(P) – CAT (Programme) ~ 3.5%

CAT(R) – CAT (RPL)

CAT(PR) – both CAT(P) & CAT(R)

Institutions' Concern for Offering Credit Transfer



Institutions' Plan on MC Development

Programme

- **unbundle modules** as MCs in existing programmes
- new programmes with **embedded MCs**
- **modular design** in programmes
- programmes with **work-based learning**
- as **alternate / complementary qualifications** for admission/seek credit transfer
- **convert professional / specialist programmes** as MCs
- **articulation pathways** for CPD courses
- Explore **“clearing house” programme**

Internal Policy

- **Internal guidelines for credit transfer**
- **In-house programme rules** for credit assignment, esp. for online programmes
- **collaboration** with industries & institutions

Institutions' Concern for MC development

Policy Issues

- definition of MC
- stacking / transfer rules
- online programmes / non-formal learning
- public awareness

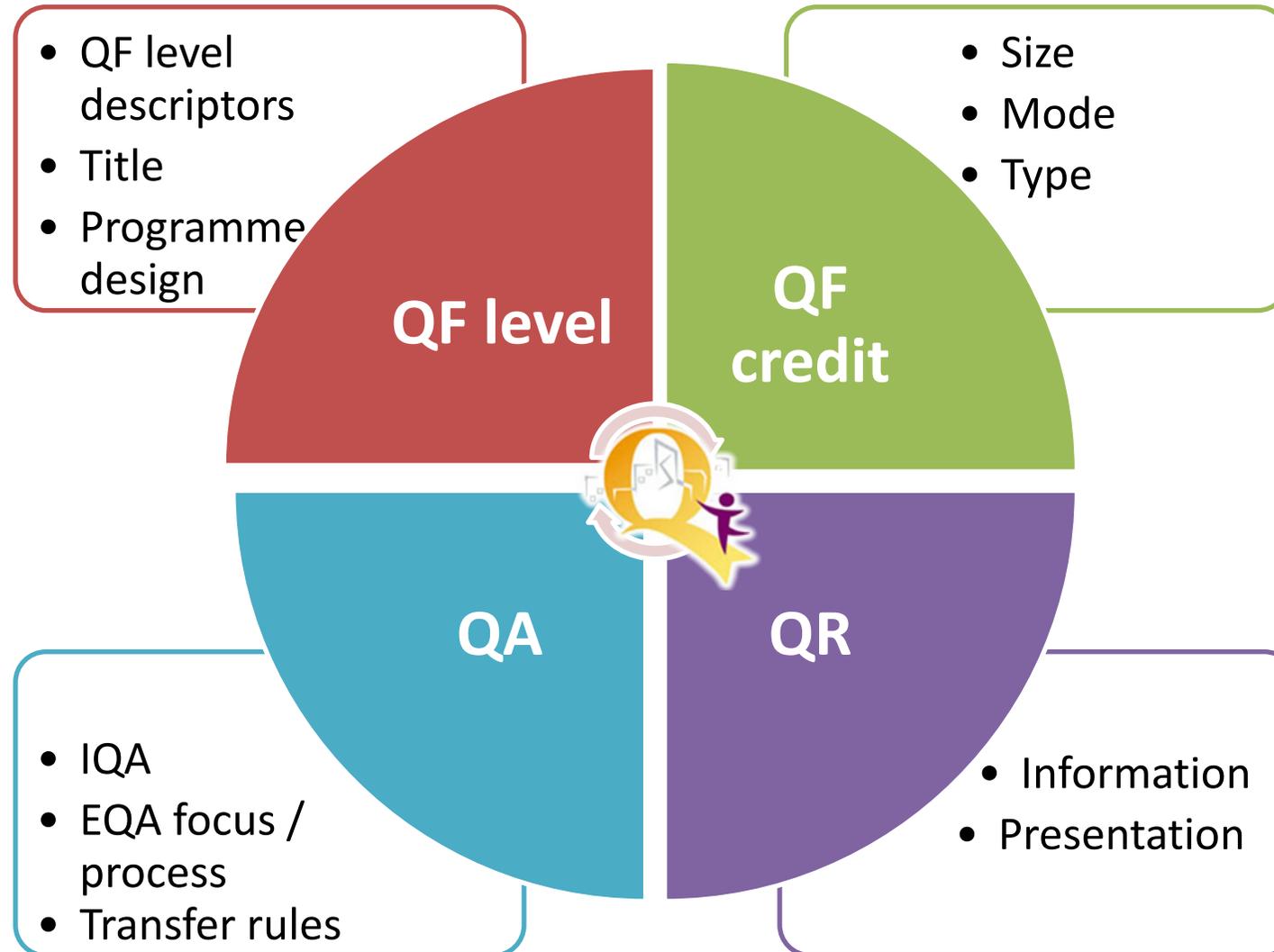
Programme design

- consistency and coherence
- evaluate qualifications across institutions
- assign credits to WBL
- evaluate non-formal learning

Quality assurance

- IQA
- EQA
- accreditation process / costs

Micro-credential Framework under HKQF





THE
JOURNEY
OF A THOUSAND MILES
BEGINS WITH
A SINGLE STEP

- LAO TZU -
-SWIWE

Thanks you

Action Plan

- **Collect stakeholder views and needs**
- **Policy development**
 - Definition
 - Rules
- **Pilot initiatives**
 - Different models (design, collaboration, QA, recognition)
- **Operation guides / Good practices**
 - Enriched CAT guidelines with operational tools for competency mapping (including non-formal learning) & internal QA
- **Quality assurance**
 - Revised QA standards & streamlined process
- **Support**
 - Guidelines / Tools / training on programme design / credit transfer
- **Transparent information platform**
 - Digital Credential Hub
- **Public education and engagement**