

On-screen assessment of UK qualifications becomes a reality for Commonwealth students

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An initiative spearheaded by Exam on Demand Ltd, one of the UK's largest providers of on-demand, on-screen qualifications delivery systems, has led to the formation of a new consortium of awarding and accreditation bodies to offer a wide range of UK basic, key and vocational qualifications to students across the Commonwealth.

Details of the formation of this innovative consortium were unveiled at the 4th international conference of the Association of Commonwealth Examination and Accreditation Bodies (ACEAB) in Jamaica by Dr Michael Kingdon. Dr Kingdon, chair of Exam on Demand's Assessment Advisory Group, delivered a paper on the role of mathematical models in the planning of new qualification systems as a keynote speech on the theme of this year's conference of 'Quality assurance in qualifications delivery'.

The first awarding bodies to join the consortium include, the Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT), National Proficiency Test Centres (NPTC), Award Scheme Development Accreditation Network (ASDAN), and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH).

The consortium will provide more than 280 qualifications covering agriculture, business, administration, IT, law, retail, commercial, leisure and tourism, education, health, beauty, arts, media and publishing, languages, literature and personal and social development. Discussions are ongoing with other leading UK awarding bodies that have also expressed interest in joining the initiative and details will be released shortly.

The consortium is taking a fresh approach to the delivery of qualifications overseas. Rather than everything being done from the UK, local regulators will work closely with their UK counterparts and will control the delivery of the qualifications, and share responsibilities, including registration and certification. Exam on Demand Ltd has pioneered innovative techniques for using IT systems to ensure the integrity of qualifications delivery and invigilation.

Announcing the formation of the consortium, Mark Robinson, managing director of Exam on Demand explained, "UK qualifications are valued throughout the Commonwealth and the world. All Commonwealth countries share traditional qualifications, but the development of high quality qualifications is expensive, so the first aim of the new consortium will be to assist Commonwealth countries to fill the gaps in local provision." He continued. "The on-screen delivery systems provided by Exam on Demand, means learners throughout the Commonwealth will be able to be assessed when they are ready, receive rapid results and have detailed feedback on their performance."

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Editors notes.

Dr Mike Kingdon is available for further comment or interview.

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About Exam on Demand Ltd

Exam on Demand is the largest UK provider of on-demand and on-screen qualifications delivery systems for learners in prisons and other secure institutions. Rather than working exclusively with one awarding body, Exam on Demand work with a number of UK awarding bodies delivering on-screen services.

About Dr Michael Kingdon

Dr Kingdon is an independent education consultant with 25 years experience specialising in assessment, examination and qualification systems, and the use of examination and assessment results for the improvement of learning and teaching. He is recognised by UNESCO and the International Association for Educational Assessment as an international expert in educational assessment.

Prior to becoming a consultant, Dr Kingdon was Head of Research for the University of London School Examinations Board (ULSEB), Director of the University of London Examination and Assessment Council's (ULEAC) National Curriculum Unit and General Manager of Edexcel Foundation's Professional Examinations and External Assessment Centre. He has managed assessment projects for UK government agencies & professional bodies, including the Key Stages 2 and 3 national data collection which involved all schools and LEAs in England, plus many overseas.

Dr Kingdon has a PhD and MEd in Education (University of London), MBA (Durham University), BA Mathematics & Education (Open University), Teacher's Certificate (Nottingham University). He is a Chartered Mathematician, Fellow of Institute of Mathematics & its Applications (IMA) and a Chartered Scientist.