



H K S P O

香港眼科視光師學會

8 March 2016

Dear Dr. Cheung,

We were informed that the Vocational Training Council (VTC) is launching a new 2-year Higher Diploma (HD) programme in Optometric Support Services under the Department of Applied Science. It is our understanding from the meetings with your department that the aim of this programme is to equip students with various skills as an assistant in the public and private health sectors including hospitals, ophthalmologist and optometrist clinics. At the same meetings, you reassured us that the VTC programme does not lead to any optometric qualification and will not seek approval from the Optometrists Board.

We note that you did consider some of our suggestions after the first two meetings and your course content has been amended by removing those inappropriate eye examinations and contact lens practical sessions. However, our association would like to remind VTC to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Supplementary Medical Professions (SMP) Ordinance in running the Diploma (HD) programme in order to prevent any breaches of this Ordinance.

Based on your curriculum, the graduates of your programme will be trained as assistants in many ophthalmic related workplaces. The term "Ophthalmic" is more appropriate than the term "Optometric". Therefore "Higher Diploma in Ophthalmic Assistant" should be the title of the course. With respect to your revised course title "Higher Diploma in Vision Health and Eye Care", "Vision Health" and "Eye Care" are redundant terms. Only the term "Vision Health" should remain in the course title.

We thank you for inviting us to render our opinion. We trust our views on your course will be adopted.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Law
President

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