To whom it may concern,

You may have heard of this joke: http://xkcd.com/927/. It was the thing that came to my mind when I read the news that your organization wanted to "bring about a unified industry standard for ICT practitioners" in Hong Kong with a new professional qualifications framework. There are N qualifications frameworks. After this, there will be N + 1 of them.

There is no lack of certification programs for the areas in which there are certification programs. The areas of software maintenance and support, project management, networking and security are well covered by existing widely recognized qualifications, or the respective vendors of the software, The other areas, perhaps most notably in software development and programming, don't really have any widely recognized certifications at all.

I wonder how you are going to implement your plans. On the one hand, you are competing against established frameworks from reputable organizations who have been doing certification work for years. On the other hand, you are trying to establish a qualification framework for an industry that has largely resisted formal qualification or certification schemes of any kind. Unless you know something that I don't, it's not going to work.

The technology industry is large and diverse, and I will not pretend I know outside of my area. I write software for a living for a California-based tech company that you have heard of. Our team does have a presence in Hong Kong and we do hire in Hong Kong. I occasionally interview candidates. Will the new "qualification framework" have any bearing at all on how we choose a candidate? Probably not. The government has never had a reputation for having access to the real "professionals" (in quotes because I hate this term) in our field who really know their trade. Thus, the notion that the government would be able to produce a useful qualification framework that meets our needs would be laughable. I would be pleasantly surprised to be proven otherwise.

Sidney