

**Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process
in Brunei Darussalam Vocational and Technical Education:
Stakeholders' Perceptions and Future Challenges**

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BSc(Ed)(Hons)(Brunei) MSc (Distinction)(UK)

April 2007

**This dissertation is presented for the degree of Doctor of Education of
Murdoch University**

**I declare that this dissertation is my own account of my research and contains
as its main content work which has not previously been submitted for a degree
at any tertiary education institution**

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(Haji Ashri bin Haji Ahmad)

ABSTRACT

‘Quality’ and ‘quality assurance’ in education have become global issues in the last decade. Educational institutions around the world are focusing on designing and implementing quality assurance systems to ensure students a high quality of education. In many countries, including Brunei Darussalam, the development of a national system of quality assurance in education has sometimes brought confusion and controversy. The main reason for this stems from the conflicting perspectives of different interest groups: mainly governments, administrators and academic staff, but students, employers and the general public also have significant voices. All, of course, are committed to quality but each regards quality in a slightly different way.

This study set out to explore the perceptions of two groups of stakeholders, administrators and teachers, about the quality assurance system and in particular, the quality assurance of the assessment process in vocational and technical education (VTE) in Brunei Darussalam. The study examined the stakeholders’ understanding of the term quality and the significance of quality assurance measures. It assessed the extent to which these measures have been utilised by the Department of Technical Education (DTE) and its Vocational and Technical Education Institutions (VTEIs) and it also examined the challenges facing DTE and its VTEIs in ensuring quality VTE.

A mixed-method research approach was used in this investigation, including document analysis, semi-structured interviews and questionnaires. The results provide insights into stakeholders’ perceptions of quality and a range of purposes for quality assurance system implementation. The effectiveness of the current system

based on an external moderation system generated mixed views. The study identified the lack of a structured comprehensive quality assurance system for the assessment process in the DTE and VTEIs and highlighted ways in which quality assurance of the assessment process measures are currently formulated. Both groups of stakeholders agreed that there are challenges confronting the DTE and its VTEIs. Several recommendations were made to improve the current quality assurance measures. The study was timely in light of the increased interest in shaping quality assurance mechanisms in VTE in Brunei Darussalam.

Overall this study carries implications for a better understanding of quality in VTE and issues related to the implementation of a quality assurance system.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During my research journey, there were many wonderful people who provided assistance in the preparation and completion of this dissertation.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Negara Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Education for providing opportunity for in-service training.

I wish to express my immeasurable gratitude and sincere appreciation to my supervisors, Professor Simone Volet and Dr. Rick Cummings, for their invaluable encouragement, guidance and motivation for making the completion of this dissertation a reality. Their exemplary supervision enabled me to gain purpose, confidence, clarity and inspiration in my exploration of the quality assurance concept. They also ensured that this research study was a stimulating, beneficial and positive learning experience.

I am exceedingly grateful to the Director of Technical Education for allowing me to conduct this research within the Department of Technical Education and the five VTE institutions. Moreover, I wish to thank my colleagues in the Department of Technical Education and the five VTE institutions, for their unfailing support, interest and willingness to participate in my research study.

Finally, I am indebted to my family who has helped make my dream a reality. Special thanks and a deep sense of gratitude go to my parents, Haji Ahmad Shaari and Hajah Saadiah Haji Jomel, for their prayers. They helped lay my educational foundation and plant the seeds of knowledge. To my wife, Hajah Monaliza Haji Abdul Halim, and to my children, Ahmad Izzul Muqri, Mirra Izzati Haziqah, Mizza Izzati Farzana and Irdina Firzanah, for their prayers, tolerance, support and encouragement from the commencement to the last pages of this dissertation. Thank you for your constant demonstrations of love.

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LIST OF KEY ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE STUDY

BCGCE	Brunei-Cambridge General Certificate of Education
BDTVEC	Brunei Darussalam Technical and Vocational Education Council
BTEC	Business and Technology Education Council
C&G	City and Guilds of London Institute
DTE	Department of Technical Education
HND	Higher National Diploma
ITB	Institute Technology Brunei
MKJB	Maktab Kejuruteraan Jefri Bolkiah
MOE	Ministry of Education
MTSSR	Maktab Teknik Sultan Saiful Rijal
ND1	National Diploma Year 1
ND2	National Diploma Year 2
NPAC	National Programme Advisory Committee
NTC2	National Trade Certificate Level 2
NTC3	National Trade Certificate Level 3
NVC	National Vocational Certificate
PDEC	Programme Development Evaluation Committee
PDS	Programme Development Section
PLM	Pusat Latihan Mekanik
PND	Pre-National Diploma
PPDS	Programme Planning Development Section
SB	School of Business
SVNR	Sekolah Vokasional Nakhoda Ragam
SVSB	Sekolah Vokasional Sultan Bolkiah
SVW	Sekolah Vokasional Wasan
UBD	Universiti Brunei Darussalam
VTE	Vocational and Technical Education
VTEIs	Vocational and Technical Education Institutions