Information on Accredited Registers (AR) Scheme

What is Accredited Registers (AR)?
The Food and Health Bureau has proposed to set up an Accredited Registers (AR) Scheme for healthcare professionals currently not under Statutory Regulation. The key objectives of the AR Scheme are to protect the public through quality assurance and to uphold standards of the professions by accrediting organisations as holders of registers which demonstrate the ability to meet acceptable standards of quality.

What is the proposed structure of the professional body?
A limited company by guarantees is the most appropriate form of legal entity to register the practitioners. Tentatively, the professional body should follow this structure:

What if I am NOT an “Accredited Speech Therapist”? 
Without accreditation, one can still

- Claim oneself a speech therapist without legal liability, but cannot claim oneself as Government Accredited Speech Therapist
- Practice as a speech therapist
Is working experience taken into account for accreditation?
No. The accreditation mainly focuses on training but not working experience.

What are the standards of accreditation?
The following standards for accreditation are proposed to be included in the assessment:

- Structure of governance
- Education and training requirement
- The register
- Professional standards and continuing competence
- Complaint handling & and investigation and disciplinary procedures,
- Risk assessment and management.

Can I be accredited if I am NOT a HKAST member?
No. The government suggests a principle of One Profession, One Council, One Register for the AR scheme. The HKAST is the only organization that is recognized by the government to have the recommendation right for accreditation. The HKAST has no right to access non-members’ qualifications and to recommend their accreditation. Hence, there is no alternative way of accreditation application other than through HKAST in order to be listed in the Accredited Registers kept by the government.

What is the liability of Accredited Speech Therapists?
- Demonstrate a minimum level of training and/or experience
- Adhere to Code of Ethics
- Fulfill the mandatory criteria, e.g. CEPST points
- Financial contribution to maintain the system