Building Capacity for Qualifications Frameworks in Asia and the Pacific
What is a National Qualifications Framework (NQF)?

- A national qualifications framework is to define the **levels of tertiary qualifications** with level descriptors of knowledge, skills, competencies, values and attitudes, etc.

- It sets out general **learning matrix** or **domains of learning** to cover cognitive and non-cognitive aspects of learning (holistic approach to learning)

- It provides an **overarching and generic framework** for the development of subject/profession/occupation – specific quality standards
Learning outcomes-based National Qualifications Framework

- Vertically and horizontally coherent
- Engage all stakeholders to ensure internal and external coherence in terms of content
- All types and forms of learning recognizable and contribute to the establishment of lifelong learning society

NQF levels and level descriptors:
- Level 8
- Level 7
- Level 6
- Level 5
- Level 4
- Level 3
- Level 2
- Level 1

Higher Education TVET
TVET Senior Secondary E
Junior Secondary E
Primary Education ECCE
Benefits of establishing NQF

- Provides **umbrella (quality assured) framework** to get different types and levels of learning connected with one another (vertically and horizontally coherent)

- Makes all types of learning (credits/partial learning) **comparable, recognizable** and **transferable**, and thus contributing to the establishment of **lifelong learning society**

- Helps to address **skills mismatch** through **engagement with all stakeholders**, including employers, in the development of subject/profession/occupation – specific quality standards (employability)
Benefits of establishing NQF

- Provides common template (domains of learning) to define **learning outcomes** (unity within diversity)
- Makes learning outcome-based **academic recognition** possible among systems so as to promote the cross-border **mobility** of students
- Enhances **better system-wide coordination** within MOE or among line ministries to avoid fragmentation, inconsistency and duplications
- Helps to achieve proper balance between **institutional autonomy** and **social accountability** in the context of higher education massification
Development stages of NQF in Asia-Pacific

n = 28/33
Potential framework for regional HE harmonization

- National Qualifications Framework
  - NQF Levels
    - Generic requirements in knowledge, abilities, competencies, values, attitudes, etc.

- National Subject-specific Quality Standards
  - Academic
  - Professional
  - Higher vocational

- Templates for Programme Development

- Asia-Pacific Higher Education Area

- Regional Qualifications Framework
- Regional Subject-specific Quality Standards
- Regional Common Templates for Programme Development

Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
Thank you very much for your attention