Perspectives from the ASEAN Plus Three Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education

Yuto Kitamura
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education, The University of Tokyo
Advisor, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan
Changing Environments in East Asia

• **Diversity** in East Asia → Political sensitivities; Economic interactions; Cultural exchanges

• **Growing economies** in East Asia → Stronger economic ties, value chains, and economic convergence

• **Evolving political and economic architecture** in East Asia → ASEAN, ASEAN+3, East Asia Summit (ASEAN+6), APEC, ASEM and TPP as trans-regional forums

→ Free flow of goods, services, money, and people (including skilled labor)
Higher Education Harmonization in East Asia

• Promotion of student mobility → Increasing flow of students across borders subsequently stimulates the dynamics of workforce in the region and promotes cultural exchanges.

• Create “common Space” in higher education, through “harmonization” which make higher education more “comparable” and “compatible” in and outside the region.

• ASEAN way or ASEAN uniqueness (“Mosaic” Model): No single platform in higher education harmonization and networking/multi-layered systems → How to co-exists?
ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation

• Since the process began in 1997, ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation has broadened and deepened. There are 68 mechanisms (1 summit, 15 ministerial, 21 Senior Officials, 1 ASEAN CPR Plus Three, 2 Director-General, 23 technical level meetings and 5 other track meetings) coordinating APT cooperation.

• The Ministers of Education agreed the general objective of the APT Plan of Action on Education (2010-2017) to encourage APT countries to expand their efforts in implementing the Plan at the national and bilateral levels to the regional level. Under the Plan, the Working has been established.
The Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education

• Mission of the Working Group → Promoting and protecting benefits of students who study at higher education institutions in countries of diverse backgrounds

• Close collaboration among APT countries as well as multilateral organizations and international networks such as ASEAN Secretariat, SEAMEO, ASEAN University Network (AUN), and Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)
Objectives of the Working Group

① Develop **ASEAN+3 Guidelines** for the promotion of student exchange with quality assurance

② Set up an “**ASEAN+3 Quality Assurance Expert Meeting**”

1ˢᵗ WG (30 September 2013, Tokyo)

2ⁿᵈ WG (16 October 2014, Bali)

3ʳᵈ WG (11 June 2015, Bangkok)
The First Meeting  (6 March 2014, Hanoi, Vietnam)
Agreed to conduct an online survey to share regulations, practices, and perspectives for QA in relation with student mobility and cross border collaborative provision.

The Second Meeting  (17 October 2014, Bali, Indonesia)
Reported interim results of the online survey on QA related to student mobility
ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Working Group

2013
Sep. 1st Working Group: Agreed upon the future direction

2014
Mar. 1st APT QA Expert Meeting: Agreed to conduct an online survey on QA
Oct. 2nd Working Group: Discussed the draft of the Guidelines on Student Exchanges
Oct. 2nd APT QA Expert Meeting: reported results of the online survey on QA

2015
Jun. 3rd Working Group: Agreed upon the Guidelines on Student Exchange

2016
Mar. Expert Meeting on Guidelines on Transcripts for Exchange Students
May 3rd APT Education Ministers Meeting: Approved the Guidelines on Student Exchanges
Sep. 4th Working Group: Discuss the draft of the Guidelines on Transcripts
Providing Basic Framework for Student Exchanges

CAMPUS Asia  AIMS  UMAP  AUN  Project between university A and university B...

Guidelines on Student Exchanges
Guidelines on Student Exchanges

1. Vision
2. Objectives
3. Participation
4. Student Exchanges and Mobility
   ① Length of Study and Programme Types
   ② Student Level
   ③ Languages
   ④ Academic Fields
   ⑤ Selection of Participating Students
Guidelines on Student Exchanges

5. Credits and Credit Transfer System

6. Quality Assurance
   ① Government
   ② Universities/Programmes of Study

7. Financial Costs and Other Responsibilities
   ① Finance
   ② Student Support

8. Monitoring

9. Remarks

A Common Framework = Minimum Standard
Credit Transfer: Benefits for Students

• Upon the return of exchange students who studied in another APT country, their credits obtained in the host country need to be counted properly in the home country.

• Universities will be expected to refer to the following comparison table of the credit transfer systems.
Credit Transfer System

- UK
- Europe
- SEAMEO-RIHED (GMS)
- ACTFA
- AUN (ASEAN)
- UMAP (Asia and the Pacific)
- ACTS
- USA
- UCTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

MEXT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN
## The Comparison Table of Credit Transfer Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nations &amp; Systems</th>
<th>ACTFA (Asia)</th>
<th>USA (2/3)</th>
<th>ECTS (Europe)</th>
<th>CLAR (Latin America)</th>
<th>CATS (UK)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credit Conversion</strong></td>
<td>1 credit point</td>
<td>≅1 credit</td>
<td>≅1.5 ECTS</td>
<td>≅1.5 CLAR</td>
<td>≅3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student workload</strong></td>
<td>38-48 hours</td>
<td>≅45 hours</td>
<td>37.5-45 hours</td>
<td>37.5-45 hours</td>
<td>Converted from ECTS (30 CATS hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching hours</strong></td>
<td>13-16 hours</td>
<td>≅15~16 hours</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This chart requires more detailed explanations regarding each indicator*

Source: Prof. Taiji Hotta (Hirosima University)
Monitoring

Information of student exchange programs (statistical data, good practices, student reports) need to be monitored by and shared among APT countries.

• To be reported to Education Ministers Meeting

• To be provided through websites such as National Information Center and/or other websites designated by the governments
Guidelines on Transcript for Exchange Students

Guidelines on Student Exchanges

REMARKS

The following things could be further expected:

• Guidelines on transcript for exchanged student including comparison table of the different credit transfer systems will be developed among the ASEAN Plus Three countries.
• Comparison table for different systems such as academic records and academic calendar will also be developed among the ASEAN Plus Three countries.
• Each country is encouraged to promote further international exchange among researcher, faculty, and staff in addition to the student exchanges.
Format of Transcript

1. Information Identifying the holder of the qualification
2. Information Identifying the qualification
3. Information on the level of the qualification
4. Information on the contents and results gained
5. Information on the function of the qualification
6. Additional information
7. Certification of the supplement
8. Information on the national higher education system

Annex 1
Grade

Annex 2
Syllabus
Transcript Supplements

• Transcript Supplement will contain contextual information about the program student studied and the higher education system of the host country, possibly in a standard format which can be shared across the APT countries.

• If the original transcript of the host university already contains all the necessary information, there will be no need for attaching the Transcript Supplement to the transcript.

• The draft Guidelines on Transcripts for Student Exchange will be discussed at the 4th Working Group (September 2016 in the Philippines).
Transcript Supplements

Home University

Students

Host University

Transcript + Supplementary document
Questionnaire for Guidelines on Transcript

Respondents: The person in charge of student exchange at the university

Indicator:
1. What kind of information do you use to recognize the result of one’s study abroad?
2. What kind of information do you need further?

Finance: ASEAN+3 fund

Time schedule: To be collected by Summer 2016
Questionnaire for Guidelines on Transcript

What kind of information do you use to transfer credit of one’s study abroad?

a. Grades
b. Credits
c. Teaching Hours
d. Learning Outcomes
e. Content of the Lecture
f. Info of administration
g. Info of each educational system
h. Student Workload
i. Others

Bachelor (349) Graduates (151)
Efforts to Promote the Harmonization of Higher Education in East Asia

Priority Areas of Harmonization

- Common Credit Transfer System (ACTS and UCTS⇒ACTFA)

Still discussing...
Academic Credit Transfer Framework for Asia (ACTFA)

I. Recognition
- Level of recognition
  - institutional
  - academic program
  (must agree)

II. Credit
- Type of courses (core & elective)
- # of teaching hours
  (must agree)

III. Grade
- Letter grade (included in GPA calculation)
- S/U grade (excluded in GPA calculation)
  (flexible)

IV. Information Infrastructure
- Accreditation documents by authorized organizations
  - Course description
  - Workload & # of credits
  - Agreed study plan, etc.

Source: SEAMEO-RHIED
ASEAN+3 Credit Transfer System?

Diagram:
- ASEAN+3
- ACTFA
- AUN
- SEAMEO-RIHED
- ACTS
- UCTS

Logos:
- The University of Tokyo
- MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan)
Prospects for Future Discussion

• Mutual Recognition and Trust → Universities must mutually recognize and trust the compatibility of institutions, curriculums, credits, grades, academic degrees, etc.

• The Guidelines are essential to establish a common framework in the region in order to promote inter-university and student exchanges. → Reflecting diversity in the region

• The Working Group will discuss how to deepen their cooperation for the establishment of “Asian Higher Education Community.”
The Ministers approved the APT Guidelines on Student Exchange and Mobility with the aim of promoting the development of higher education in the APT countries through greater promotion of student exchanges and mobility supported by quality assurance mechanisms.

The Ministers stressed the importance of fostering long-term and mutually beneficial educational cooperation and promoting people-to-people exchanges.
Sharing Our Experiences

Asia and the Pacific, ASEM, EU-Share ...
• founded in 1993.
• a voluntary association of government and non-government representatives of the higher education sector
• aims to achieve enhanced international understanding through increased mobility of university students
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Counties, Territories and Administrative Regions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UMAP 25th Anniversary Symposium

◆ September 23, 2016 9:30 – 20:00
◆ Toyo University Hakusan Campus, Tokyo
  125 Commemorative Hall (in Building 8)
Thank you very much for your attention!