UNESCO 14th Meeting of the Regional Committee on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education

THE PACIFIC REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS (PRQS)

‘Looking after Learners of today and tomorrow’
Outline

• Background
• The Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards (PRQS)
• QFs and QAs in the Pacific
• Focus areas:
  – Qualifications recognition
  – Regional quality assurance
  – Support of national developments, regional initiatives and agencies
2001: FEdMM “... that Ministers of Education consider the setting up of a regional qualifications framework, covering basic, primary, secondary, TVET and tertiary education, benchmarked against appropriate international standards and qualifications”. Later amended to a Register prior to developing the PQF.

2006: Asia Pacific Ministers determined ‘to develop a quality assurance framework for the region linked to international standards, including courses delivered online’

2009: The Accreditation and Standards Unit established; to implement a five-year Project funded by the Australian government

Funded by the Australian Aid Programme
The PRQS

- Is supported by two *meta-frameworks*

1. The Pacific Qualifications Framework; and
   - A translating device

2. The Pacific Quality Assurance Framework
   - Developed in 2012 in response to the Brisbane Communique

Supported by an [Advisory Board](#)
The PRQS Database

Three domains

1. Accredited qualifications
   • Submitted by national and regional accrediting agencies

2. Occupational Skills and Standards
   • Support of labour migration schemes

3. Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Skills
   • Undeveloped but retained for future developments
The PRQS Database

Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards:
http://prqs.spbea.org.fj

Referenced the following NQFs against the PQF:

1. Fiji
2. Papua New Guinea [NQF being revised]
3. Samoa
4. Tonga
5. Vanuatu [report discussed last week]
6. COLs-TQF [feedback fed into fine-tuning TQF]
The PQAF was informed by the following QA strategies:
1. APQN
2. ENQA
3. INQAAHE

The PQAF has been referenced against:
1. COLs-TQF
2. Pacific national QA strategies:
   i. Fiji
   ii. Samoa
   iii. Tonga
   iv. Vanuatu
QFs in the Pacific

- PNG-NQF
- AQFC
- VQF
- SQF
- FQF
- NZQF
- TNQF
- COL-TQF
- SPC-PQF
Quality Assurance in the Pacific
The Pacific Qualifications Framework as a referencing instrument

Alignment to the PQF is established - enables the registration of national qualifications at the appropriate PQF level

PACIFIC QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Master’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bachelor (honours), Post-graduate certificate, Post-graduate diploma</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bachelor, Graduate certificate, Graduate diploma</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Diploma</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Diploma</td>
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<td>Certificate</td>
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<td>Certificate</td>
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<td>Certificate</td>
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GEOGRAPHIC REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS
The Way forward

2015 - 2016:

1. Develop procedures for Qualifications Recognition;
   – The qualification:
     • is delivered by an accredited institution
     • has been accredited by an accrediting agency
   – The Institution is:
     • recognised by all its stakeholders
     • registered with an accrediting agency
   – The accreditation agency’s:
     • qualifications framework is referenced against the PQF, where relevant;
     • quality assurance strategy is referenced against the PQAF;
     • QA strategy “observed” in action
Qualification Recognition

Accrediting Agency
- The Agency is established as a standards setting body
- Quality Assurance Strategy is referenced against the PQAF
- QF is referenced against the PQA

Institution
- Recognised by stakeholders
- Registered with an Accrediting Agency

Qualification
- Delivered and awarded by a Recognised Institution
- Accredited by an Agency
The Way Forward

2015 – 2016:

a) Develop EQAP’s *external quality assurance function*; (2013 SPBEA Review Report)
   • Soliciting an Australian Volunteer to assist with this

b) Support of national systems: Kiribati, Solomon Is., Tuvalu and Vanuatu;
   • Priorities for 2015
   • Engage with WASC accredited countries

c) Support development of Regional Qualifications on Climate Change adaptation and Sustainable Energy
The Way Forward

2015 - 2016:

d) Support of *Labour Migration* components of Regional Trade Agreements:

- **Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations** (PACER Plus): Office of the Chief Trade Adviser (OCTA), Vanuatu

- **Pacific Island Countries’ Trade Agreement & Temporary Movement of Natural Persons** (PICTA-TMNP): Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Suva

- **Melanesia Spearhead Group’s Skills Movement Scheme** (MSG-SMS): MSG, Vanuatu
# Labour Migration in RTAs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market Access</th>
<th>Qualification recognition</th>
<th>Occupational Skills &amp; Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PACER Plus</td>
<td>National and Regional agencies</td>
<td>Regional and National agencies and Professional Bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICTA-TMNP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MSG-SMS</td>
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</table>
Challenge

• The PRQS is not just an “educational quality” issue
• “Quality education” underpins
  – Economic: human resource development
  – Trade: socio-economic growth and development
  – Capacity building: strengthening national and regional development and cooperation.

Therefore, need *regional political will* to prioritise PRQS as a key regional instrument and foster cooperation
Strengthening Regional Cooperation

Facilitate international recognition of Pacific qualifications

Establish transparent relationships between Qualifications in the Pacific

Support the Movement of Pacific Learners and Labour

Quality Assurance (of Institutions and Qualifications)
- National agencies
- Regional agencies
- SPBEQ

... SUPPORT GREATER REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification Name</th>
<th>Qualification Code</th>
<th>Provider Name</th>
<th>Provider Accreditation Status</th>
<th>NQA Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Qualification Accreditation Status</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate in Information Technology</td>
<td>C-N001-P003-Q0001</td>
<td>Beaufort Technical Institute</td>
<td>Non-Accredited</td>
<td>Fiji Higher Education Commission</td>
<td>Fiji Islands</td>
<td>InActive</td>
<td>Non-Accredited</td>
<td>Edit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate in Agriculture</td>
<td>C-N001-P002-Q0001</td>
<td>Veitoto Agricultural College</td>
<td>Non-Accredited</td>
<td>Fiji Higher Education Commission</td>
<td>Fiji Islands</td>
<td>InActive</td>
<td>Non-Accredited</td>
<td>Edit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Certificate 4 Heavy Mobile Plant Mechanic</td>
<td>N001-205-Q0002</td>
<td>Fiji Higher Education Commission</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>Fiji Higher Education Commission</td>
<td>Fiji Islands</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>Edit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Certificate 4 in Aircraft Maintenance, with straonds in Aircraft Mechanics and Aircraft Avi</td>
<td>C-N001-P025-Q0004</td>
<td>Fiji Higher Education Commission</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>Fiji Higher Education Commission</td>
<td>Fiji Islands</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>Edit</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Certificate 4 in Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanic</td>
<td>C-N001-P025-Q0005</td>
<td>Fiji Higher Education Commission</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>Fiji Higher Education Commission</td>
<td>Fiji Islands</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIST Certificate in Electrical Engineering (Trade) Level 4</td>
<td>M-N001-P012-Q0001</td>
<td>Tonga Institute of Science and Technology</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>Edit</td>
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# The Pacific Qualifications Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PQF Level</th>
<th>Qualification Titles</th>
<th>Credit Profile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>360 – 480</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>120 – 240</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bachelor Honours</td>
<td>120 – 480</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post Graduate Diplomas</td>
<td>60 – 120</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post Graduate Certificate</td>
<td>120 – 240</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bachelor degree</td>
<td>360 - 480</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate Certificate</td>
<td>60 – 120</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate Diploma</td>
<td>120 – 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Diploma; Associate Degree</td>
<td>120 – 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>120 – 240</td>
</tr>
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PRQS ADVISORY BOARD