PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY:
REGIONAL TRENDS, NEEDS AND READINESS LEVELS RELATED TO THE 2011 REVISED CONVENTION

Wesley Teter | Senior Consultant | UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Bangkok

Regional Capacity Building Workshop:
The Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in Asia and the Pacific
21-23 October 2015, Bangkok, Thailand
OVERVIEW

I. Workshop participants

II. Level of awareness with regards to the nature and significance of the 2011 Regional Convention

III. Country status with regards to ratification and implementation

IV. Challenges and technical issues

V. Questions and other issues

VI. Taking action - How do we do it?
Regional Capacity Building Workshop, 21-23 October 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

I. Workshop Participants:

26 Member States Participating in the Workshop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>23,343,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>754,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>15,135,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>1,385,567,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>881,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,252,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>249,866,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>77,447,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>127,144,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>16,441,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>6,770,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>29,717,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>345,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>2,839,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>53,259,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>27,797,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>4,506,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>182,143,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>7,321,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>98,394,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>49,263,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>21,273,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>8,208,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>67,011,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>91,680,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>28,934,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population sub-total: 2,577,290,140
Global total: 6,909,012,000
Percentage: 37.3%

Source: UIS 2013
INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY TRENDS: ASIA-PACIFIC IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Source: UIS

Regional Capacity Building Workshop, 21-23 October 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Source: UIS
II. LEVEL OF AWARENESS
RESULTS FROM THE PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY

Regarding the **nature and significance** of the 2011 Revised Convention:

- **Very aware**
  - Participated in the 10th (Manila, 2009), 12th (Bangkok, 2013) and 13th Session of the Regional Committee (Colombo, 2014)
  - Participated in the meeting around the 2011 Revised Convention held in Tokyo in Nov. 2011
  - Well aware that we need wider recognition of qualifications in the context of globalization
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is preparing the Instrument of Accession

- **Aware**
  - Aware that we are one of the signatories of the 2011 Revised Convention. However, do not know about how this Convention will enter into force in my country

- **New to the 2011 Regional Convention**
  - The 2011 Revised Convention is very new to me
  - Never been to any related meetings (several participants)
  - Very little awareness in my country on the nature and significance of the Regional Conventions

Regional Capacity Building Workshop, 21-23 October 2015, Bangkok, Thailand
Regarding ratification and implementation

A) Readiness level related to ratification:
   - In July 2014, ratified the 2011 Revised Convention
   - Planning to deposit with UNESCO
   - We were ready for the Secretary of Education, who is the Registrar to tertiary education, to travel to Paris to sign the Revised Convention
   - Ready to materialize such actions on priority basis
   - Ministry of Education is considering ratification
   - QA authorities have requested the Ministry of Education to find ways of ratifying the 2011 Revised Convention
   - Once we complete an internal review, we will let Ministers decide
   - Recognize the need to move this particular agenda forward
III. CURRENT STATUS
RESULTS FROM THE PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY

Regarding ratification and implementation

B) Current status of implementation:

- Most of convention is already practiced
- Ministry has raised some technical queries on the ratification and implementation process
- Continues to engage in implementing the Convention including NIC
- NIC is under construction
- Planning for developing of National Information Centre but there is a need of budget and expertise
- Operations are still largely ad hoc and would probably need institutionalization
- Need to have national centre for the recognition of qualifications in higher education
- Still in planning phase
IV. CHALLENGES AND TECHNICAL ISSUES
RESULTS FROM THE PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY

Regarding ratification and implementation

- No specific political challenges at national level
- We do not see any political challenges: mutually beneficial for the cross-border mobility of students (and even workers)
- Getting departments of national government to understand the urgency and impact of the convention is a challenge
- Educating politicians
- Information system needs to be improved and translated
- We may have technical issues at our national level
- Another problem is the distance learning programme
**V. QUESTIONS AND OTHER ISSUES TO ADDRESS**

**RESULTS FROM THE PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY**

- Yes, I would like to know the procedures for ratification, what should we do step by step.
- What is the procedure if we have to follow if we want to ratify the convention 2011?
- What is the major difference between the 1983 Conventions and 2011 revised conventions?
- What kind of preparations should we make technically and urgently to facilitate implementation of the Revised Convention?
- What is the first priority in dealing with the cross-country recognition of qualifications in HE sector? Please suggest the priorities to implement the recognition of qualifications in HE sector.
- By ratification, I understand that the Parliament must endorse. In case, if there are any clauses or provisions that, for example, XYZ is not happy with, how could we sort this. Would the Parliament of a country change any clause of the Revised Convention?
- What is exactly meant by (Article X.1 c)? “These States may express their consent to be bound to this Convention by: (c) the deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.”
- Once the 2011 revised conventions are adopted globally, what would be the official significance of 1983 Conventions? Those parties who are not signatories to the 1983 Convention, what would be their position on the clause 1 of Article X.3 of the 2011 convention?
V. QUESTIONS AND OTHER ISSUES TO ADDRESS

RESULTS FROM THE PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY

• I would like clarify the matter of multilateral vs bilateral recognition posed by our government’s political departments. Could an issue such as this arise?

• Is there any other obligations mandatory to be fulfilled by the 2011 Conventions’ signatories that are not interested in ratifying 1983 conventions?

• UNESCO Office in countries should provide the leadership to Higher Education Ministries.

• How to assess the quality of the doctor degree with the distance learning mode.

• Sometimes we have to rely on the information available online which we are not sure of their authenticity.

• Another difficulty is when it concerns online education: we could not yet certify this mode of education.

• Sharing good practices or successful cases of ratification would be useful.
VI. TAKING ACTION – HOW DO WE DO IT?

Workshop agenda

• Pass off to participants…
VI. TAKING ACTION – HOW DO WE DO IT?

Workshop agenda – Open SPACE

4 Principles

1. Whoever comes is the right people
2. Wherever it starts is the right time
3. Whatever happens is the only thing that could happen
4. When it's over, it's over

The Law of Two Feet

Bees + Butterflies

Passion

Regional Capacity Building Workshop, 21-23 October 2015, Bangkok, Thailand
THANK YOU

UNESCO Asia-Pacific will join you on this journey…
MOBILITY AND MIGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

Origin and destination of international migrants

Source: