UNESCO Meeting on Regional Guidelines for NQFs

Bangkok, Thailand

27-29 July April 2015

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
BACKGROUND

• 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
## Implementation Methodology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Scoping and drafting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>2010-2012</td>
<td>Project development, creating awareness and alignment of national and regional developments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3</td>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>Began populating the PRQS database, support of national and regional agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Consultations on Professional Licensing and Occupational Standards (PLOS); collaboration with OCTA, PIFS, MSG</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td><em>Qualifications recognition</em> and <em>External quality assurance function</em></td>
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</table>
The PRQS

• Is supported by two *meta-frameworks*

1. The Pacific Qualifications Framework; and
   • Developed over 2009-2013

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 Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards (PRQS)

Three domains

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http://prqs.spbea.org.fj
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
- NZQF
- TNQF
- COL-TQF
- SPC-PQF
Quality Assurance in the Pacific
Alignment to the PQF is established - enables the registration of national qualifications at the appropriate PQF level.
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 PQF

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 of national and regional accrediting agencies
   - On request. E.g. SPATS Training and Conference in July
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
<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>
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<tr>
<td>PICTA-TMNP</td>
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<td>MSG-SMS</td>
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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

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

Facilitate international recognition of Pacific qualifications

Support the Movement of Pacific Learners and Labour

Establish transparent relationships between Qualifications in the Pacific
THANK YOU
# 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>120 – 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bachelor Honours</td>
<td>120 – 480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post Graduate Diplomas</td>
<td>60 – 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post Graduate Certificate</td>
<td>120 – 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bachelor degree</td>
<td>360 - 480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate Certificate</td>
<td>60 – 120</td>
</tr>
<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>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>40 – 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>40 – 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>40 – 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Certificate</td>
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PRQS ADVISORY BOARD