Tenth Session of the Regional Committee Meeting for the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific

Co-organized by
APEID, UNESCO Bangkok, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Australia and Commission of Higher Education, Philippines
8 May 2009, Manila, Philippines

General Information Note

Background

Since 1975, UNESCO has initiated six regional conventions on mutual recognition of degrees, diplomas and studies in Latin America and the Caribbean (1975), in the Mediterranean States (1976), the Arab States (1978), Europe (1979), Africa (1981), Asia and the Pacific (1983). These regional conventions are legally binding instruments which aim at promoting and facilitation academic mobility. At present, more than 130 countries have ratified one or more of the six regional conventions.

In recent years, there have been significant shifts in higher education development with an accrued focus of the international community on quality assurance and accreditation, as well as increased acknowledgement of the importance of a fair recognition of qualifications in a more globalized world. To respond to new developments in higher education, a number of these regional conventions have either undergone or is undergoing revision. The 1979 Europe Convention was the first one to be revised resulting in the 1997 Lisbon Recognition Convention. Currently, the 1981 Arusha Convention in Africa, the 1978 Arab States Convention, as well as the 1983 Asia-Pacific Regional Convention are undergoing revision.

The Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific was adopted in Bangkok in 1983. A total of 21 countries have ratified the regional convention and the most recently one being Indonesia which ratified in October 2007. Since adoption of the Convention, the Regional Committee has been meeting bi-annually and examining periodic reports from state-parties on the progress and difficulties in applying the Convention. At the 8th Session of the Regional Committee which was held in Kunming, China in 2005, it was agreed that a working group should be formed to revise or amend some parts of the Convention taking into account the many challenges of cross-border education.

Since then a Working Group has been established to work on the draft of the revised Convention through on-line discussion and face-to-face meetings which were held in conjunction with the 9th Session of the Regional Committee Meeting in Republic of Korea, in May, 2007 and in Bangkok, Thailand in April, 2008. Finally the Working Group has produced a draft of the revised Regional Convention.
Now on the invitation from the Commission of Higher Education, Philippines to host the Tenth Session, the Meeting will be held in Manila, Philippines. The Tenth Session will focus on the finalizing the draft of the revised of Convention and discussion on the future plan and strategy to proceed with the revision process.

**Objectives**
The objectives of the meeting are to finalize the draft of the revised Regional Convention and to set up a strategic plan to adopt the revised Regional Convention.

**Participants**
Participation in the meeting is by nomination of the member states and invitation from UNESCO Bangkok and Co-organizers in the Philippines. Representatives from the states that have ratified the Convention and observers from non-state parties, NGOs, IGOs, and experts are expected to attend the meeting.

**Dates and Venue**
8 May 2009
ROMA SALON, Manila Hotel, Manila, Philippines

**Language**
English will be the working language of the workshop.

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Annex.

### Meeting Programme

**Tuesday, 8 April**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>08.30-09.00</td>
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| 09.00-09.30 | **Opening Ceremony**  
Welcome Remarks                               | **Molly Lee**, UNESCO  
Bangkok  
**Nona Ricafort**, Chair of the Regional Committee  
Chaired by **Nona Ricafort** |
|         | Opening Remarks                                                          |                                                       |
|         | Election of the Bureau Members                                          |                                                       |
| 09.30-10.00 | Break                                                                   |                                                       |
| 10.00-10.30 | Overview on the Revision of the Regional Convention                     | **Molly Lee**  
**Tony Davis** |
|         | Introduction on the Draft of the Revised Regional Convention             |                                                       |
|         | **Discussion 1: Section I-III**                                         | Facilitated by **Molly Lee**                         |
| 10.30-12.00 | Lunch                                                                   |                                                       |
| 12.00-13.00 | Lunch                                                                   |                                                       |
| 13.00-15.00 | **Discussion 2: Section IV-X**                                          | Facilitated by **Molly Lee**                         |
| 15.00-15.30 | Break                                                                   |                                                       |
| 15.00-17.00 | Strategic Planning of the Revision Process including Subsidiary Texts  | Facilitated by **Molly Lee**                         |
| 17.00-17.30 | Wrap up all discussion                                                 | **Molly Lee**  
Chair of Regional Bureau                              |
|         | Closing Remarks                                                         |                                                       |