Scoping Study on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications
Margaret Proctor
International Group
Background

Context

- In April 2006, Australia hosted the Asia-Pacific Education Ministers’ Meeting in Brisbane, Australia
- Attended by 27 Education Ministers and senior officials
- Developed the Brisbane Communiqué

Key Issues of the Communiqué

- Quality assurance frameworks for the region linked to international standards
- Recognition of educational and professional qualifications
- Common competency based standards for teachers, particularly in science and mathematics
Scoping Study on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

This study was progressed through the *Brisbane Communiqué* initiative. The study focussed on:

- An overview of issues, gaps, solutions
- Identification of opportunities for collaboration
- Facilitation of information exchange

**Two Phase Research conducted by consultant (BMA Consulting)**

- 40 countries were contacted with 18 countries responding
- Three Recommendations put forth in final report March 2008
- Report is published
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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
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<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Mrs Awhina Creswell</td>
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Key Findings of Scoping Study

- Diversity in the region reduces capacity to develop a common framework for recognition of qualifications
- Need for further official information on the recognition of qualifications within the region
- Employers and professionals face challenges in determining level of qualification reducing prospects for international mobility
- Need for information systems that include detailed information on the procedures and criteria for recognition of qualifications
Key Findings continued

• Little systematic coordination or communication between the various educational organisations and networks in the region

• Potential to develop a more coherent information dissemination system with mechanisms for identifying quality information and for streamlining communication avenues
Key Issues in Qualification Recognition - 1

**Issue:** Improve knowledge about qualification recognition in Asia-Pacific

**Recommendation:** Promote regional awareness and cooperation

**Objective:** To identify and promote the benefits, and gain the commitment of all countries within the Asia Pacific region to regional cooperation on the recognition of higher education qualifications.
Key Issues in Qualification Recognition - 2

**Issue:** Increase transparency of qualifications between countries

**Recommendation 2:** Establish National Information Centres

**Objective:** To increase the transparency of higher education systems, qualifications, and recognition processes of countries within the Asia Pacific region by facilitating the development and maintenance of, and access to, authoritative and accurate information on qualifications and recognition processes.
Key Issues in Qualification Recognition - 3

Issue: Transparency of education systems, qualifications, and recognition processes

Recommendation 3: Support development of national qualifications frameworks

Objective: To support the development and implementation of National Qualifications Frameworks for all countries within the Asia Pacific region as a common platform for benchmarking higher education qualifications and outcomes.
Next Steps

- Many countries in the region are facing new challenges with the GFC

- Manila workshop planned to
  - Promote regional awareness and cooperation
  - Establish National Information Centres
  - Support development of national qualifications frameworks

- Recognition leads to student and academic mobility
Next steps for enhancing qualifications recognition in the Asia-Pacific?

This workshop!