National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI- NOOSR)

- Australian Government recognised coordinating authority on recognition of overseas qualifications
  - Acts as the National Information Centre (Lisbon Recognition Convention)
- Provides information and advice about overseas education systems to facilitate the recognition of foreign qualifications in Australia
- Provides information about the Australian Education system to promote the recognition of Australian qualifications in other countries
Recognition of Foreign Qualifications: Australian Principles

- UNESCO Regional Recognition Conventions
  - Asia-Pacific (Tokyo Convention 2012)
  - Lisbon

- Recognition is about improving mobility for educational and employment purposes
  - National productivity

- Default position is (positive) recognition unless ‘substantial difference’

- We say ‘comparable’ not ‘equivalent’
  - Compare an overseas educational qualification to the educational level of an AQF award
Australian Recognition decision-makers

• For study ➔ education providers
• For employment ➔ employers
• For migration ➔ Department of Immigration and Citizenship and professional assessing authorities

• Organisations use AEI-NOOSR information services to inform their decisions
  – Country Education Profiles (online recognition tool)
  – Professional Development training on Qualification recognition
  – Advisory Service

• Educational Assessments
  – Complex cases only
  – Fee for service
Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

- **Focus on higher education**
  - Decisions based on comparison with our qualification framework (standard/benchmark)

- **Recognition Convention Principles**
  - Decisions are defensible, timely and transparent
  - About establishing there is a *Substantial Difference*

- **Recognition is our focus not fraud (integrity)**
  - We decline to assess fraudulent documents
AEI – NOOSR Assessment Methodology

• A methodology is a framework that ensures comparisons are consistent and transparent

• Comparing qualifications is not always easy
  – Need to establish the key points of comparison
  – Not like an examination that applicants pass or fail
  – Education systems and qualifications are often very different

• A methodology must be flexible enough to deal with these issues
Methodology continued:

• We undertake analysis at 3 levels:
  – Country
    • Regulation and quality assurance, current factors in country
  – Institution
    • legal status of institution, accreditation in country
  – Qualification
    • what can one do in country with this qualification
    • Entry level, academic level etc

• Overseas qualifications are compared to the educational level of an AQF qualification

• Based on outcomes, not length
Australian Qualification Framework

- Both Higher Education and Vocational Education covered in this framework
- Descriptors describe outcomes of qualifications
- Higher Education (UG, Masters and PhD)
- Vocational Education- competency based programs
- Institutions can offer VET and Higher Education Qualifications
- Qualifications include a range of pathways
- Framework promotes flexibility
- No National Credit system
Australian Qualifications Framework
CEP Online: An recognition tool

- Database containing research and analysis of overseas education systems, 120 countries covered
- Information tool to support quality, consistent, timely decisions
- Subscription based product with over 8000 users and 20% of these are from Overseas
- Designed to add value to decision-making by providing:
  - Educational comparability of overseas qualifications to the Australian Qualifications Framework
  - Qualitative information about education systems
  - Comprehensive lists of recognised institutions
Issues and Challenges in Recognition

• Recognition work is challenging due to:
  – Different country education systems
  – Different recognition practices and authorities
  – Lack of official information

• Critical elements
  – Access to quality information
  – Transparent policies and processes
  – Focus on quality outcomes

• International co-operative approach
  – Tabling issues; problem solving
  – Sharing recognition tools
  – Eliminating barriers to recognition

Australian Education International
Ratification of the Asia Pacific Recognition Convention

- Australia has signed the 1983 convention and intends to ratify the 2011 revised convention
- We are awaiting the formal release of the Convention text to our government
- Ratification requires scrutiny by Parliament and approval by Executive Council
  - This could take several months to go through various committees
- There are no regulatory impediments to ratification
Contact AEI – NOOSR

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