11th Session
Regional Committee on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific in conjunction with the expert seminar on the National Information Centers

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Country Report

Republic of MALDIVES
by Aminath Asra , Director of Maldives Qualifications Authority - MQA
Introduction - Maldives

www.mqa.gov.mv
Maldives Accreditation Board (MAB) was created by a Presidential Decree in August 2000.

Renamed as Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA) on 17th May 2010.

www.mqa.gov.mv
MQA – Maldives Qualifications Authority
The official accrediting body of the Maldives

MANDATE

- MQA's mandate is to assure the quality of post-secondary and training qualifications awarded in testimony of educational attainments.
  - facilitate the development of quality assurance mechanism for the post-secondary education sector;
  - provide a framework for recognition of qualifications offered in the Maldives and abroad.
The Framework - **MNQF** is designed to:

- Facilitate the development of a quality assurance mechanism for the post-secondary education sector.
- Provide a framework for recognition of qualifications offered in the Maldives and abroad.
- MQA benchmarks and recognizes the international qualifications.
MQA recognition of overseas institutions / colleges / universities is based on the following criteria.

1. the institute/s (institute studying and the institute awarding) should be registered and accredited by government or government approved institutions within the country of origin.

2. Course of study should meet the standards and minimum criteria set by the Maldives National Qualifications Framework (MNQF).

   - All nursing courses require recognition from Maldives Nursing Council/Ministry of Health and Family

   - All medicine related courses require recognition from Maldives Medical Council/Ministry of Health and Family
Revised MNQF

- MNQF 2001 has been revised and MNQF 2009 was published on 1 September 2009.
- MNQF 2009 started functional on 1 September 2011

1. A competency-based framework
2. Acknowledges 10 levels of achievement
3. Provides level descriptors and specifies generic outcomes of learning at each level
Issues and challenges with regards to recognition of foreign qualifications

- Flexibility of entry and duration

- Accountability of Online /distance courses (difficulty in ensuring how the institutes ascertain the originality of work submitted)

- Benchmarking license like Qualifications.
What progress has been made in ratifying the revised Asia-Pacific Regional Convention?

- **Earlier:** MQA recognized ‘testamur’ with transcript received after completion of a course of study.

- **Now:**
  - MQA Recognizes the institute and programme of study prior to their study.
  - MQA assesses the study undertaken although the testamur would be awarded in a future date.
Based on the following unavoidable reasons:

- Population – small – scattered.
- One University
- Expensive Education & Training
- Increasing student mobility
- Increasing academic mobility

- We believe that it is high time for a Global Convention.

THANK YOU

Maldives Qualifications Authority – MQA

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