Trends and Issues of Recognition of Foreign Qualifications in Cambodia

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background of Higher Education
1.2. National Education System
1.3. Current Higher Education System
1.1. Background of Higher Education

- The 1980s – Reconstructed Period from ZERO
- The 1990s – Privatization Introduced into HE: First Private HEI was created in 1997. The war ended in late 1998
- The 2000s – Growth Period: 32 years later (1980-2012), Cambodia:
  - Has the institutions of a modern state,
  - Is a member of regional and global bodies (ASEAN and WTO member in 1999 and 2004 respectively),
  - Has about 223,030 students in HE institutions.
1.2. Current Education System

- **Primary Education**
  - Grade 1 to Grade 6
  - Children with Age of 6 are eligible for G1

- **Secondary Education**
  - Lower-Secondary Education – G7 to G9 (National Exam). After G9, Students access to TVET or Upper-Secondary Ed.
  - Upper-Secondary Education – G10 to G12 (National Exam). Students who failed the exam access to AD, but who passed the exam access to Bachelor’s degrees

- **Higher Education**
  - Post-Secondary Education – Associate Degree (AD) to Doctoral Degree (DD)
1.3. Current Higher Education System

1. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
   – HEIs are supervised by 14 different Ministries;
   – 97 HEIs (38 Public HEIs)

2. Student Enrolment (Bachelor’s Programs)
   – 207,666 (Female Students 40.2%)

3. Quality Assurance
   – Licensing: Sub-decrees no. 01 and 54 and Prakas no. 1435
   – Internal QA: HEI’s IQA Unit for Self-Assessment
     • Accreditation is a MUST for all HEIs
2. Recognition of FQ

Key Elements for Recognition:
1. Committee of Evaluating Degrees and Diplomas was form (CEDD) formulated in 2005,
2. Assessment Criteria and Procedure,
3. Secretariat to serve the CEDD.
3. Criteria and Procedure

• Application should describe an education background and include:

  – Certificate(s) of Degree or Diploma,
  – Academic transcript,
  – Student ID Card,
  – Copied passport and visa,
3. Criteria and Procedure (Cont.)

- Individual or institution shall submit an application to the Secretariat,
- Secretariat checks and verifies submitted certificates of degrees and diplomas for accuracy and adequacy,
- Secretariat calls for CEDD Meeting to approve submitted certificates of degrees and diplomas,
- When submitted certificates of degrees and diplomas approved, the Chairman of the CEDD sighs for recognition.
4. Issues and Challenges

- Differences in education systems across countries, which brings about difficulties in evaluating the qualifications.
- The Secretariat lacks information whether the HEIs accredited or non-accredited.
- The Secretariat of CEDD is lack of knowledge whether the qualifications are genuine.
- In effective channel of communication, thus leads to slow or no responses from the enquired HEIs abroad.
5. Progress in Ratifying the Revised APRC

• Cambodia has signed the Convention last November 2011 in Tokyo.

• Ministry in charge has to submit the Convention to the Council of Ministers for endorsement before the Prime Minister would approve and submit it to the National Assembly for ratification.

• Working group is studying necessary legislative process and protocols so as to submit the convention to the Council of Ministers.
Cambodia sees the Global Convention as a common framework for recognition of foreign qualifications and degrees within the context of globalization. The Global Convention would help facilitate the mobility of students, academia, and professionals throughout the Globe. However, the impact of the Convention on specific country and/or regional diversity needs to be seriously considered. Therefore, Cambodia wishes to be well-informed by the findings of the feasibility study on a Global Convention.
Thank You!