Recognition of HE Studies, Diplomas and Degrees

TONGA
Country Report

Uhila moe Langi Fasi
TONGA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND ACCREDITATION BOARD
Background

- Location
- Size – about 499 sqkm; 170 islands, 36 inhabited
- Population – 105,000
- Education system – follows closely the NZ system
Recognition of HE studies and programmes

- Prior to 2009 – Ministry of Education
- 2009 – establishment of the Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board (TNQAB Act)
  - register PCET providers
  - Review and accredit educational and training programmes
  - Verify/recognise all qualifications
Tonga Qualifications Framework

- Developed by TNQAB
- Register all accredited training programmes
- 10 levels
  - L1 – L4 Certificates
  - L5, L6 – Diploma & Advanced Diploma
  - L7 – Bachelors
  - L8 – PG Diplomas
  - L9 – Masters
  - L10 - PhD
Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

“recognised” institutions (NZ, Australia, UK, some US institutions, Japan) – countries with long standing educational links with Tonga

Other countries – a bit of a problem
Process:

- Original documents – certificate/diplomas, transcripts, letters of confirmation from universities etc.)
- Scrutiny and reviews by Qualifications Unit
- Contact overseas institutions
- Seek assistance from NZQA
- Match qualifications against the appropriate levels on the TQF
Pacific Register of Quality and Standards (PRQS)

- Regional body to register qualifications after they have been registered on national qualifications framework and have gone through quality assurance processes.
Challenges and Issues

- Many!!
- Comparability of levels: BA=BA? Or diploma?
- Different lengths of programmes: 1yr diploma vs 2 yr diploma
- Names of qualifications may be misleading: certificate of participation vs diploma
- On-line courses and qualifications
Ratification of the Revised A-P Convention

- On-going
- Legal implications
- Go through parliament
Global Convention

- Not on the Tongan menu yet!!

THANK YOU