BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
Higher Education (HE) Reforms in Brunei Darussalam

List of educational institutions (universities and colleges) in Brunei Darussalam.

• 4 full-fledged public universities = 1 research university, 1 technology university, 1 Islamic university and 1 Religious Teachers University College.

• 1 Brunei Polytechnic

• 13 private institutes / colleges are available across the country.

• All public universities are having self-accrediting status to award the students with their internal degree credentials (qualifications).
How Higher Education System Functions in Brunei Darussalam?

• All government and private institutions are under the purview of the Ministry of Education & the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

• All private higher institutions must be registered with the private education section Ministry of Education.

• The programmes or courses offered must be accredited by the Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council (BDNAC).
Future Direction of Higher Education in Brunei Darussalam

• Increasing student enrolment in HE from 13.8% (2009) of the total student population to a target of 30% in 2014.

• Creating multiple pathways that will allow a greater number of young adults to progress from secondary to higher education.

• Increasing the number of university places

• Encouraging additional local private higher education providers to enter the local market by offering different programmes or courses conducted at the government higher providers.
Recognition of Foreign Qualifications in Brunei Darussalam

- The authority responsible to assess and evaluate foreign qualifications in Brunei Darussalam is the Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council (BDNAC).

- It is a sole accrediting body in Brunei Darussalam under the Ministry of Education Brunei Darussalam.

- Recognition of foreign qualifications is one of the fundamental aspects as stipulated in the Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council’s (BDNAC) Order 2011.
Recognition of Foreign Qualifications in Brunei Darussalam

- The BDNAC’s recognition of foreign qualifications considered on a case-by-case basis subject to the demands and needs from the relevant agencies in the government sectors including some private firms.

- Purpose of recognition of foreign qualifications in Brunei Darussalam - employment in the government sector; admission to HEIs; considering initial salary by employer; applying government scholarship; salary increment, job confirmation; registration as a private student overseas.

- Professional qualifications – based on professional bodies in that particular discipline recognized by the BDNAC.
Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications

- **Base on two (2) criteria:**
  - (i) institutions
  - (ii) Programmes

- (i) **Institutions** - considered in terms of its legal status - registration and accreditation.

- (ii) **Programmes** - considered on a case-by-case basis – based on six (6) criteria - entry requirements, duration, course content, mode of delivery, mode of assessment and language of instructions.
Issues and Challenges with regards to Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

• Comparability of qualifications
  Academic vs Professional

• Recognition of Qualifications via fast track pathways

• Recognition on Professional Qualification
Ratification Process of the Revised AP Convention

- Need to be processed and requires scrutiny by other relevant agencies & regulatory authorities, i.e., the BDNAC, Brunei MoE and AG Chambers.

- Time consuming – at least 3 months to go through various committees before endorsement.