Trends and Issues of Recognition of Foreign Degrees and Challenges Encountered in Ratifying the AP Convention: The Case of Cambodia

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Outline of Presentation

1. Overview of Higher Education System
2. Recognition of Foreign Qualifications (FQ)
3. Criteria and Procedure for Recognition of FQ
4. Issues and Challenges of Recognition of FQ
5. Progress in Ratifying the Revised APRC
6. Uploading Relevant Information onto the UNESCO Web-Portals
7. National Information Center
1. Overview of the HE System

1. Fragmented System
   - HEIs are supervised by 14 different Ministries;
   - 102 HEIs (38 Public HEIs)

2. Student Enrolment (2011-12): 246,069; F: 38.26%

3. Quality Assurance
   - Licensing/Recognition: Sub-decrees no. 01 and 54 and Prakas no. 1435
   - Internal QA: HEI’s IQA Unit for Self-Assessment
2. Recognition of FQ

Key Elements for Recognition:
1. National Committee of Evaluating Degrees and Diplomas was form (NCEDD) formulated in 2005,
2. Assessment Criteria and Procedure,
3. Secretariat to serve the NCEDD.
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 NCEDD Meeting to approve submitted certificates of degrees and diplomas,

• When submitted certificates of degrees and diplomas approved, the Chairman of the NCEDD signs 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.
6. Uploading Relevant Information onto the UNESCO Web-Portals

Cambodia is not yet ready to upload relevant information onto the UNESCO managed web-portals. We are in the process of building up a higher education management information system.
7. National Information Center

The Office of statistics and information within the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport plays a role as an information center for Higher Education.
Thank You!