Fiji Higher Education Commission

Quality higher education for sustainable development and a knowledge society

Progress and Challenges in Ratifying and implementing the AP convention

Fiji- Country Report
Map of Fiji
Systems and Functions of Fiji Higher Education Commission

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Minister of Education

Higher Education Commission

Fiji Qualifications Council

Programme Accreditation Committee/ Recognising Foreign Qualifications

Registration Committee

Recognition Committee

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Directors Office
Director plus 5 professional Staff

QUALIFICATIONS DIVISION

Qualifications & Research Unit
Manager- plus 6 professional staff

ACCREDITATION DIVISION

ACCREDITATION Unit
Manager plus 6 professional staff

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Corporate Services Unit
Manager plus 6 staff
Key processes under FQF

1. **Recognition of providers**
   - Recognition committee

2. **Registration of providers**
   - Registration Committee

3. **Accreditation of Qualifications**
   - Accreditation committee
   - Translating overseas qualifications to the FQF

4. **Quality Management Systems**
   - Self Evaluation, External Evaluation & Review
   - CBT assessment, Moderation, Monitoring & Evaluation
FIJI QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Education & training provided by schools, industry, TVET and higher education institutions including universities.

- **SCHOOLS SECTOR**
  - Certificates

- **TVET SECTOR**
  - Diplomas
  - Certificates

- **HIGHER EDUC. SECTOR**
  - Doctorates
  - Masters
  - Post-Grad Dip
  - Post-Grad Cert
  - Bachelors (Hons)
  - Bachelors Degrees
  - Graduate Dips
  - Grad Certs

International recognition and equivalence

Meeting socio-economic planning needs

National consistency in recognition of outcomes

National quality assurance systems & mechanisms

Flexibility of movement/credit transfer

- Prelatory trade courses offered at F4, F5 and F6
- School leaving examinations and TVET entrance requirements
- Recognition of traditional knowledge & skills
- Professional licensing & maintenance requirements
Recognising foreign qualifications in Fiji

- Fiji recognises foreign qualifications through a system process which still at draft stage

- The process and system outlines the key steps in translating a foreign qualification onto the Fiji Qualifications Framework
Criteria and procedures for the assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications

• Identifying qualification and type
  • qualifications and components of qualifications:
    1. level and
    2. Credit; which is the allocation of a FQF level and the calculation of FQF credit

• Identify unit standards and learning outcomes
Criteria and procedures for the assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications

- Matching the learning outcomes to the level descriptors on Fiji Qualifications Framework
- Credit points
- Qualification type descriptors
  - the profiles for the level and credit points of each FQF qualification type;
  - the summary descriptors for each FQF qualification type.
Relevant Policies & Guidelines

• Policy on Translating a Qualification on the Fiji Qualifications Framework
• Guidelines and Procedures in the Registration and Accreditation of National Qualifications on the Fiji Qualifications Framework (FQF)
• Policy on Credit Point System and Credit Transfer
Issues and challenges relating recognition of foreign qualifications

- No credit point system and hence it is difficult to find the correct match to the FQF, particularly for the lower levels 1-6;
- Qualifications lack outcome statements that match the level and credit equivalence on the FQF;
- Variations in credit systems across countries;
- Conversion of grades and percentages of foreign programmes/ examination results into the local equivalences e.g. percentages to GPAs.
Progress made in Ratifying the Revised Asia-Pacific Regional Convention

- Terms and definition of qualifications are similar to those used in Fiji
- FHEC shall make decision in recognition cases for qualifications while recognition of studies is the prerogative of the institutions
Progress made in ratifying the revised Asia-Pacific Regional Convention

- A unit to be set up to assess foreign qualifications when FQF is in operation

- Transparency, coherence and reliability are built in the systems process of the FQF

- Providers issuing qualifications are recognised with submission of appropriate information
Progress made in ratifying the revised Asia-Pacific Regional Convention

- Report of the 11th Session meeting held in Seoul, Korea in 2011 was approved in principle by the Minister responsible for Higher Education in Fiji

- Process underway to seek final endorsement from the Ministry of Foreign affairs and Cabinet
Upload of Relevant information for UNESCO Managed Web Portals

• Fiji is ready to upload necessary information to the UNESCO managed web portals like UNESCO Portal to Recognised Higher Education Institutions and APARNET
THE END