The Higher Education System of the Holy See

A unique, worldwide and sectorial Higher Education System
Basic distinction:

I) "Catholic" Universities
around 1500 worldwide

II) "Ecclesiastical" HE Institutions
around 260 + 400 worldwide
25 + 80 in Asia (+ 110 Seminaries)
The Holy See has ratified
4 UNESCO – Regional Recognition Conventions

- Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City, 1974)
- Africa (Arusha, 1981)
- Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 1983)
  (Tokyo, 2011)
- European Region (Lisbon, 1997)

numerous Concordats and
bilateral agreements
Recognition of foreign qualifications needs:

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  www.avepro.va

- Quick and reliable information - The National Information Center (2005)

  E-mail: enic@cec.va
National Policies and some recent activities:

- Collaboration between the various continental regions of UNESCO and among its regional Conventions.
- Dealing with issues that regard bilateral cooperation especially those related to the presence of HEIs of the Holy See in various countries.

Bilateral agreements

- Great variety of forms and purposes
- Special questions of State-Church relation and collaboration
Maintaining a common quality standard – promoting excellence

- “AVEPRO”: the first and only global acting Quality assurance Agency for Higher Education
- Mission: “create a culture of quality” within the specific mission of the Church

Follow-up action planned by the government

- Ratification of the Tokyo-Convention (2011)
- Initiatives and cooperation on a global scale
Suggestions:

• 2014 ENIC-NARIC TOKYO encounter in Rome

Proposal of a joint meeting or expert’s workshop back to back with the annual ENIC-NARIC meeting which could be hosted by the Italian NARIC in Rome, July 2014.