• 12th Session of the Regional Committee on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in Asia and Pacific, Bangkok, 21-23 May 2013

Sharing Malaysian Qualifications Framework for Higher Education & Framework for ASEAN HE

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Malaysian Qualifications Agency
TOPICS

- Education and Training in Malaysia
- Developing the MQF
- MQF in relation to recognition for foreign qualifications
- Lessons learnt
- A Regional Quality Framework?
Transformation Strategies in Basic Education, Higher Education and TVET

✓ 57 + years of independence - 28 million population
✓ Clear legal frameworks-Legislations
✓ Ministry of Education (MOE+MOHE)
✓ Ministry of Human Resources
✓ Other Ministries with training centers
   ◦ 20 Public (5 research universities)
   ◦ 5 Branch foreign campuses
   ◦ Malaysian Teachers Institutes
   ◦ Private universities and universities and university colleges and colleges
   ◦ Polytechnics & Community Colleges
   ◦ Technical and vocational/skill education and training centers (public/private)
   ◦ Schools
   ◦ Local and International students

• MOE Education Blue Print
  • National Higher Education Strategies and Plans 2007-2020
  • TVET Review
    • “Quality Agenda”

• Human Capital Development
• Higher Income economy/
• Government Transformation Plans/
• Economic Transformation/
• National Key Result Areas
• Vision 2020

Support
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-1996</td>
<td>QA Internal Matter of Institutions</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Lembaga Akreditasi Negara (LAN) for Private providers-programme</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Dept for QA audits for Public Universities</td>
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<td>2002-2005</td>
<td>Exploring the need NQF, consultations, consensus, referencing, and approval of MQF</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Preparing legislative framework</td>
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<td>1/11/2007</td>
<td>Malaysian Qualifications Agency (Act 2007)-custody and guardian of MQF</td>
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<td>2008-2010</td>
<td>New regulations and policies and codes of practice - awareness and developmental approach—capacity building and training—migration to MQF</td>
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<td>2012 onwards</td>
<td>Support services continues / Maintenance audit check for full compliance of MQF</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Full review of the MQF and QA systems</td>
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A BRIEF ON THE MALAYSIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Why? NQF drives Quality

- Coherency, transparency & classification of qualifications - shared understanding (trust & protection)
- Learner centered
- Parity of esteem of qualifications by sectors
- Progression tool / pathways
- LLL
- Mobility, portability and recognition-equivalency
- Improves human capital
- National sovereignty-CBHE

What’s in the Framework?

- Higher education
- 8 levels
- Academic, TVET and Skills
- Common Levels descriptors - generic Learning outcomes
- Nomenclatures of qualifications
- Credits for student academic load
- Educational pathways
- Accreditation of Prior Experiential learning (APEL)
MALAYSIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK DEPENDANT ON SUPPORTING POLICIES, SYSTEMS & STAKEHOLDERS

Phase 1 (1997-2007: Developing and Approval)
- Norms/practices of qualifications
- Needs identified
- Mixed Task force
- Extensive Consultation
- (2005) Approval of MQF
- 2007- Establishment of MQA (ACT 679)
- Stakeholders representation in MQA

Phase 2 2008-2009: Developmental phase
- Essential-technical, social, ministerial and institutional processes
  - Policies / Regulations
  - QA arrangements (Prog Accr.)
  - Information sharing and capacity building
  - Programme Discipline Standards
  - Guide to Good practices
  - Establish Malaysia Qualifications Register
  - Basis for recognition

Phase 3 Implementation 2010-2013
- Incremental compliance by HEPs
  - Programme accreditation
  - Academic Performance Audit project
- More Programme standards and Guide to Good Practices
  - ODL requirements
  - APEL requirements
  - Learning Outcomes
- Articulation policies Equivalency assessment
- Monitoring progress - audit
- Collaborations with Partners
- Training and capacity building

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MQF is underpinned by Quality Assurance Systems (IQA-EQA)

Programme proposal - 9 areas of QA standards designed to incorporate Learning outcomes - inputs, systems and outcomes

1. Assessment for programme provisional accreditation/ approval

2. Assessment for Full Accreditation Registration in MQR

3. Programme Maintenance Audit

Learning Outcomes of MQF integrated into the QA standards

- Vision Mission Goals - 1
- Curriculum & Design 2
- Student Assessment - 3
- Student Selection & Support Services - 4
- Leadership, governance Administration - 8
- Continual Quality Improvement 1 - 9
- Educational Resources - 6
- Academic Staff - 5
- Programme Monitoring / review - 7

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Assessment of Programmes and Qualifications for:

- Accreditation - fulfilling Quality Assurance Standards and the MQF level by MQA (recognition of fulfillment) or by statutory professional bodies.

- Equivalency - assessment of qualification against the MQF to determine its Level by MQA.

- Recognition - distinguish by purpose, (admission to further education or employment) process and the authoritative body (Debt of Public Service/ professional bodies).
ACCREDITATION, EQUIVALENCY AND RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS IN MALAYSIA

Assessment of Programmes and Qualifications for-

- Accreditation-fulfilling Quality Assurance Standards and the MQF level by MQA (recognition of fulfillment) or jointly with statutory professional bodies (supports admission, employment and practice)

- Equivalency-assessment of a qualification against the MQF to determine its Level by MQA (support admission to HE or employment)

- Recognition-distinguish by purpose, (admission to further education or employment) process and the authoritative body (Dept of Public Service /professional bodies)-quality assurance, MQF and prerogative of the authority
  - MQA Accredited qualifications recognised by govt
EXPERIENCE- BUILDING STATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE (SOC)

- SOC refers to agreements between two Quality Assurance Agencies to mutually recognise each other’s accreditation decisions.
- Recognition on the premise of acceptable quality
- Adopting EU’s criteria and processes
  - 2 basic requirements
    - A compatible higher education system
    - Comparability of Qualifications
    - Procedures and consultation
    - Joint Statement
LESSONS LEARNT

- “cannot be just copied or transplanted”
- NQF “must support national strategies, fit national need and institutions but **glocal**”
- It must be owned and actively supported by its stakeholders
- Serious challenges in Implementation at institutional levels - A slow gradual process
- Capacity development is crucial
- A quality system must be embedded in the institutions.
- Easily facilitates recognition and mobility
- Must evolve to address changing needs
- No perfect system
Regional Convention For Recognition Of Qualification in Higher Education In Asia and Pacific 2010

- Legitimate Competent authority (s) / Central authority
- Purpose and Application Process
- Transparent and fair assessment systems for equivalency (comparability or Substantial difference)
- Presence of a NQF (preferably)
- Support of Quality assurance systems
- National Information centre
- Promotes Diploma Supplement

- long history of unilateral recognition
- MQA, Professional bodies, Dept of Public Service and HEIs
- Application process for equivalency or recognition to specific authorities
- Assessment systems and criteria
  - Reference to MQF or relevant standards
  - Information on Quality Assurance system and the awarding institution
- Malaysian Qualifications Register - National Information Centre, UNESCO HE Portal
- Diploma Supplement (in progress-Malaysian Qualifications Statement)

Basic Requirements

Check list for Malaysia
TOWARDS AN ASEAN REGIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

“Quality Assurance Framework”
“Qualifications Framework”
“TVET Qualifications Framework”
Interested parties SEAMEO RIHED, ANZFTA, AOAN
2008 Ministers of Education - SEAMEO Council Meeting agreed “The Structured Framework for Regional Integration in HE in SEA: the Road towards a common Space”

AQAN 2008

Economic, & social benefit- Human capital, mobility, integration

Learning from other

Major on going reforms in ASEAN countries

An ASEAN Regional Quality Framework HE
Authority responsibility for Q of HE
Social/economic and political supporting role
Trust & confidence
NQF implementations
A major actor in MRAs and harmonisation
Commitment to develop AQAAFHE
AQAN PROJECT - PHASE 1 PROPOSE BASIC FRAMEWORK AND PHASE 2 EXPLANATORY DETAILS, GUIDELINES AND MANAGEMENT

1. Principles for EQA establishment
- EQA establishment
  - Policy
  - Independence
  - Credibility
  - Effectiveness

2. Principles for EQA Processes
- EQA Standards
  - Procedures
  - Practices
  - Information sharing

3. Principles for Institutional IQA
- Institutional
  - QA guidelines
  - Quality ownership
  - Accountability
  - Performance

4. Principles for Qualifications and learner centeredness (NQF)
- National Qualification Framework
  - Learning outcomes, credit system, pathways, levels, sectors

Main Purpose
Referencing and non-binding
CHALLENGES TO HARMONISATION

- Seeking commonalities-HE systems, QA systems Qualifications framework
- Different needs, policies, systems and stages of development
- Work together to build capacity
- Harmonisation takes a long time, collaborative effort is important
- There is no perfect system