12th Session of the Regional Committee on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific in conjunction with Regional Workshop on the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

Co-organised by UNESCO Bangkok, the Australian Government’s Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education and the Korean Council of University Education (KCUE)

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Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA) MALDIVES
Recognition of Higher Education and Skill Training Qualifications in Maldives

Maldives Accreditation Board (MAB) later Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA) established in 2000.

The central aim of the Maldives Qualifications Authority is to:
• Facilitate the learners, employers and the public in general to understand the full range of qualifications available, and to improve the skills, competences and the quality of life of the workforce;
• Help people access education and training in a lifelong context.
• Assist training sectors and providers in the design of qualifications, assessment and certification that best fit the Levels of MNQF;
• Recognize formal learning in vocational training;
Higher Education and Skill Training

Higher Education in Maldives is provided mainly by one Government University and six Private Colleges. Many Learning Centres, training institutes, mobile units.

Higher Education typically falls within the levels 5-10 of Maldives National Qualifications Framework (MNQF).

Learning Centres, training institutes, mobile units can offer courses up to level 6.
Recognition of foreign qualifications has been in effect since the establishment of MNQF.

It improves opportunities for individuals who have gained qualifications abroad to practice their learned professions in Maldives.

The process and criteria for recognition have been standardized, which facilitates the integration of people with good foreign qualifications on the job market.
Qualification Validation (official recognitions)

Qualification Validation (official recognition) service is necessary in the following circumstances:

• to get a job in Maldives.
• to pursue higher/further education or skill or vocational training or for recognition of prior learning.
• to apply for public funding or scholarship.
Criteria for recognition of foreign qualifications

The criteria set by the Maldives National Qualifications Framework (MNQF) are:

- **Institutional Status:**
- **Entry, admission criteria or eligibility and providing advanced standing:**
- **Credits, duration and the delivery of the programme;**
- **Curriculum and the delivery of the programme;**
Issues and challenges in recognition of foreign qualifications

1. Institutions without access to National accreditation system.

2. Difficulty of verifying foreign documents.

3. Difficulty in communication with institutions.

4. Language proficiency of the qualification holders.

5. Barriers to practical experiences, such as cultural practices.

6. The programme of study transforms into tailor-made courses.

7. Distance, online courses
Has any progress been made in the ratification process of the revised AP Convention?

1. We believe the practice of MQA, in recognition of foreign qualification is in-line with the AP Convention.

2. And we (Maldives Qualifications Authority) is ready to upload relevant information, such as the higher education institutes and other related information on the HE system onto the UNESCO managed web-portals- UNESCO Portal to Recognized Higher Education Institutions’ and APARNET.
THANK YOU for listening