Recognizing Foreign Qualifications in Nepal

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Higher Education System in Nepal

• MOE is mainly responsible for policy matters;
• UGC has the mandate to recommend for the establishment of new universities and formulate policies on allocation of grants; besides UGC takes lead for coordination among the universities in the country;
• Universities and Academies are established under separate acts; (There are nine universities and three higher education academies).
Institutional Arrangement for Recognizing Foreign Qualifications

- GoN has entrusted responsibility to Curriculum Development Centre (Tribhuvan University) for University Education
- Individual universities recognize foreign qualifications for admission within their system
- Public Service Commission (PSC) also validates recognition of its candidates
- Recognitions are given to university Degrees/Diplomas (not to individuals)
- Lists of recognized university Degrees/Diplomas are made public
Application Process

– Foreign Degree/ Diploma holders need to apply for an Equivalent Certificate at CDC/ TU (Competent Body)
– Fee charged for application (i.e. Rs 500, about USD 6)
– Application should include:
  (a) Certificate of Degree/ Diploma
  (b) Curricula of the qualifications
  (c) University Charter (and other relevant docs)
– A university Degree/ Diploma is recognized and enlisted in the CDC documents
– Recognized list will be a reference for the students with the same degree/ diploma (they need not apply for recognition)
Process of Recognition

– After receiving application, CDC (Tribhuvan University) verifies the documents
– If documents are found genuine and satisfying to CDC, process is initiated
– CDC forwards the file to the relevant Dean’s Faculty Board for technical scrutiny
– Based on Dean’s Recommendation, individual file is submitted for consideration at the Equivalent Committee (headed by the University Rector)
– After deliberations in the Committee, decision is made for recognition to Degrees/ Diplomas
Issuing Equivalent Certificate

– Based on the Decision of the Equivalent Committee, CDC issues Equivalent Certificate
– University Degree/ Diploma included in the recognized list,
– For admission, a university can accept foreign qualification based on the approved list.
– For a new Degree/ Diploma CDC (TU) Equivalent Certificate is required
– Equivalent Committee comprises representative from CDC (MoE), Representatives from universities, Relevant Dean(s), subject experts.
Criteria & Procedures

• Requirements set for recognizing qualifications:
  (a) Certificate of Degree/ Diploma
  (b) curriculum of the qualifications
  (c) University Charter
  (d) Any other evidence/ document required by CDC

• No separate tests are conducted for the candidates

• If felt necessary, a candidate can be asked to be present in person

• CDC has the mandate to set the requirements as and when necessary

• UGC has the responsibilities for inter-university coordination in the country (if need arises)
Issues & Challenges

– Complexities - different univ, different systems; difficult to weigh knowledge;
– Weak information base on the subject area (vast)
– Higher Ed Reform Bill in Parliament (provision of Accreditation and Equivalence Committee)
– Countries in the region, need reciprocity
– For example, Degrees/ Diplomas in Ayurveda are recognized in one country, but not in the other.
– Likewise, popular course such as MBBS degrees recognized in some universities, but not in all
– How to transfer and recognize credits courses
– Urgent need for a Data Base (on Degr/ Dips)
Progress in Ratifying the Revised APReC

• MoE has been in consultation with the relevant stakeholders including MoLJ
• Delays are due to the priority given to the making of New Constitution
• Catalytic role of UNESCO country office will help accelerate the process
• SAARC level initiatives are also underway
• SAARC, ASEAN and regional organizations need to work in harmony for Ratifying APReC
Feasibility of Global Convention

• We welcome the idea for widening APReC agenda at the global level

• Regional and sub-regional mechanisms need clear understanding first, as a foundation for the Global Convention

• Regional priorities and diversities require deeper understandings - documentations

• Global Convention is feasible, underpinned by readiness and articulation of regional needs and priorities.
THANK YOU