Overview of the 11th Regional Meeting in Seoul

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Internationalization increased mobility of students and intensified global competition in higher education

Massification of tertiary education: 97m students (‘00), 263m students (‘25)

Diversification of providers in higher education: “Our major competitor in 10 years time will be Google… if we are still alive.” (by Ernst & Young)

Sustainability became more critical due to global economy down turns

Leveraging ICT and awareness on open paradigms became the key issue to education innovation

Tokyo Convention and the draft Toolkit for the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications are expected to be a common framework for facilitating collaboration among Member States in the AP region
Nine Member States signed the revised 1983 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in AP at the International Conference of States in Tokyo, Japan in November 2011

- Republic of Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, Turkey, The Holy See

Expert Seminar on National Information Center for the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in May 2012

The revised text has been officially released by UNESCO Paris in August 2012

Now, the internal process has been proceeding for ratification in most Member States
Objectives: moving beyond the signing of the revised 1983 Regional Convention (Tokyo Convention)
Venue and date: Seoul, Republic of Korea on 23-24 May 2012
Organized by UNESCO Bangkok, MEST (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea, and KCUE (Korean Council for University Education)
Participants: the representatives of 12 State Parties, 9 countries with observer status and 9 expert resource persons
Outcomes
  ✓ Agree to develop a Toolkit for the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications
    • Explanatory notes to the revised Regional Convention
    • Criteria and procedure to assess foreign qualifications
    • An advocacy brief on the ratification of the Regional Convention
  ✓ More attentions to revitalizing the Asia-Pacific Academic Recognition Network (APARNET) to facilitate sharing of information and experiences
  ✓ Convening a follow-up meeting by China was confirmed
More on the 11th Regional Committee (1)

- Types of programs: the 11th Regional Committee and Expert Seminar on NIC
- Opening remarks by Mr. Gwang-Jo Kim
  - Awareness on Tokyo Convention
  - Dialogue among member states in its ratification and application
  - Follow-up actions to draft an “explanatory note” and “subsidiary text”
  - Establishment of National Information Centers and development of the Qualification Recognition Network in the AP region
- Election of the Regional Bureau
  - Chair: Ms. Margaret Proctor, Australia
  - Vice Chairs: Mr. Dae Joon Hwang, Republic of Korea and Mr. Ming Tingxi, China
  - Rapporteur: Dr. Maria Cynthia Rose Bautista, Philippines
Country reports

- Presentations from 19 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, The Holy See, Tonga, Turkey, Vietnam
- Highlighted the existing systems of recognizing qualifications in higher education: institutions, the criteria and procedures for assessing foreign qualifications, issues and challenges, status of ratification of the Tokyo Convention, country’s position on a Global Convention
- Subsequent discussions identified the follow-up actions to Tokyo Convention

Presentation on Lisbon Convention

- Overview of the development and the features of Lisbon Convention by Mr. Yves Beaudin, Canada
- Discussions on follow-up actions done by Mr. Peter Wells, Program Specialist of UNESCO HQ and followed by his report on what stage the Revised Convention is in
Expert seminar on the establishment and networking of the National Information Centers

1st session on Networking of NICs (Chair: Mr. Dae Joon Hwang, Korea)
  - Experiences and challenges facilitated by Ms. Margaret Proctor, Australia
  - European Network of Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility (ENIC) and The National Academic Recognition Information Centres Network (NARIC) by Mr. Yves Beaudin, Canada
  - Mediterranean Recognition Information Centers (MERIC) by Ms. Stamenka Uvalik-Trumbic
  - Asia-Pacific Academic Recognition Network (APARNET) by Ms. Molly Lee
  - Capped by Mr. Peter Wells, the UNESCO Higher Education Portal National Information Centers, UNESCO HQs
2nd session on NIC in the AP region: Current Situation and the Way Forward (Chairs: Ms. Margaret Proctor, Australia and Mr. Ming Tingxi, China)

- Presentations from 4 countries
  - Australia by Ms. Margaret Proctor
  - China by Mr. Ming Tingxi
  - The Philippines by Dr. Ethel Agnes Valenzuela
  - The Republic of Korea by Mr. Jang Wan Ko

Closing ceremony

- Adopted the report of the 11th session with the synthesis of the key issues and challenges of Tokyo Convention prepared by Dr. Cynthia Rose Bautista
Summary of Working Group Meeting on the Draft Toolkit

- **Objectives:** a face-to-face deliberation among WG Members to review and discuss the draft Toolkit and to plan the next course of actions
- **Preparing a Toolkit which contains**
  - Explanatory notes to the revised Regional Convention
  - Criteria and procedure to assess foreign qualifications
  - An advocacy brief on the ratification of the Regional Convention
- **Venue and date:** Nanjing, China on 29-31 October 2012
- **Organized by:** UNESCO Bangkok, Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange - China Academic Degrees & Graduate Education Development Centre and Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education, China
- **Participants:** Working Group members
- **Outcomes**
  - Drafting the Toolkit for the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications
  - Convening 12th Session of the Regional Committee in Bangkok was confirmed by Australia and Republic of Korea
Issues

- Stages of historical development of country systems for recognizing qualifications
- Levels of country participation in multilateral or bilateral agreement
- Practices and authorities responsible for the recognition of qualifications
- Levels of development of National Qualification Frameworks
- Perspectives on whether validating the authenticity of document is within the purview of the recognizing body
- Lack of quality information on programs and institutions due to still under developing their NQF
- Significance of fraudulent qualifications in the AP region
- Strengthen the NICs as an officially recognizing body
- Inadequate information and unstable connectivity of APARNET
Issues and Challenges and the Way Forward (2)

- Imperatives
  - Immediate release the text of the revised convention to the permanent delegations by UNESCO Paris
  - Adopt the basic premises and principles underlying the recognition
  - Disseminate and advocate for the Tokyo Convention among government bodies and the public
  - Different levels of analysis and actions in implementation of the Tokyo Convention
  - Groundwork for a competent recognition system by developing NQF
  - Establish and/or strengthen networking of NICs
Roles of UNESCO/the Regional Committee

- Facilitate the establishment of an ever growing network of recognition authorities
- Incorporate another insights on the success of the Lisbon experience: toolkit development, working regional website
- Revitalize and further develop APARNET as the infrastructure for sharing practices and uploading conference documents and country reports
- Extend connections of APARNET to ENIC-NARIC, MERIC, and UNESCO portal
- Organize several Working Groups to challenge urgent issues
- Ensure the implementation of the Tokyo Convention
Conclusion

- Consider on a goal-driven approach to facilitate ratification of Tokyo Convention

- Member State collaboration came to bring tangible outcomes: draft Toolkit, the on-line consultation service by UNESCO Bangkok, Working Group

- Pay attention to revitalize APARNET as a knowledge sharing framework for facilitating regional cooperation and a gateway toward global collaboration network

- Implement various levels of collaboration to promote sharing information among NICs under establishment

- UNESCO Bangkok and the Regional Committee are further encouraged to keep taking initiatives for coordination and challenging diverse issues of Member States
The 12th Session of the Regional Committee on the Recognition of Studies, Diploma and Degree in Higher Education in AP, 21-23 May 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

Thank You
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