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

Sri Lanka – The Most Cost Effective and Quality Education Hub in Asia

21-23 May 2013, Bangkok, Thailand
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)

21-23 May 2013, Bangkok, Thailand
After 30 years of war....
After 30 years of war...
Post-war macroeconomic environment

- Population 21 million (61% below Age 35)
- 8% GDP growth, 2nd fastest growing economy
- Stable government with 2/3 majority in the parliament
- Per capita income US$ 2,900 in 2012 - expected to double by 2015
  Inflation rate 6.8%; unemployment below 5.4%
- Booming tourism sector
- Natural Gas & Oil Exploration
- Conducive environment for investment attracting FDI
- Rapid infrastructure development (highways, shipping/air ports, telecom infrastructure, housing)

Sources: Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Department of Census and Statistics
Government vision (Mahinda Chinthana)

“Develop a youth who can see the world over the horizon”

“We have the opportunity to make this country a knowledge hub within the South Asian region. I will develop and implement an operational plan to make this country a local and international research and training centre for knowledge”

Mahinda Chintana 2010 (President’s Mandate)
Sri Lanka’s Long-term Vision
Mahinda Chinthana Idiri Dekma

Sri Lanka - Miracle of Asia

Knowledge Hub

Commercial Hub

Aviation Hub

Naval Hub

Energy Hub

21-23 May, 2013

Sri Lanka – The Most Cost Effective and Quality Education Hub in Asia
Vision of Ministry of Higher Education

To be an international hub of Excellence in Higher Education by 2020
Strategic GOALS

1. Increased opportunities and access to HE
2. Converted & new world class universities
3. Improved employability and quality of graduates
4. Improved stakeholder satisfaction
5. Improved global compatibility, global links and exchanges
6. Enhanced research, innovation and commercialization
7. Empowered universities & institutes with freedom to be competitive & unique
8. Improved effectiveness and efficiency of the HEIs
9. Converted higher education for attracting investments & foreign exchange
10. Enhanced entrepreneurship among graduates & diploma-holders
11. Contributing to the national development, reconciliation and peace
12. Improved infrastructure facilities of national higher education system
2. Converted & new world class universities
Objective 2.7

At least 5 world class new foreign universities to be established by 2015

Objective 2.8

Attract foreign professors, joint research and foreign students
K- SAM

Knowledge
Skills & Capabilities
Attitude, Values & Vision
Mindset
K- SAM

Knowledge
• Theory
• Practice

Skills
• Fundamental
• Specific

Attitude
• Daily Behavior
• Relationships

Mindset
• How do you see the world / perception
Goal 5

Improved global compatibility, global links & exchanges

Objective 5.1

Introduce the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) to all state and non state Higher Education Institutes to implement the Quality Assurance System and allow lateral & vertical mobility of the students by 2015 (National QAA & QFC).

Objective 5.2

Increase the credit transfer of the Higher Education system by 30% from the present level by 2015.
Objective 5.3

Improve academic & intellectual exchange by enhancing number of MOUs signed between foreign universities and research centers

Objective 5.4

Increase the number of scholarships received from foreign countries from 303 in 2011 to 400 in 2015

Objective 5.5

Increase the number of foreign students in local universities under the 100 foreign scholarship programs from 5 in 2011 to 100 in 2015
Objective 6.1
Develop a research culture in the university system by increasing the number of research projects & joint research projects and allocates at least 10% from the capital budget.

Objective 6.2
Encourage academics for international publications by increasing the number of articles published in world-class academic journals, private sector participation, Royalty, Income.
Goal 7 Converted Higher Education for attracting investments and foreign exchange

Objective 7.1
Develop Knowledge Cities - Puttlam, Deniyaya, Hambantota, Kandy, Baticaloa & Kilinochchi
5 new world class international universities

Objective 7.2
Introduced an investor friendly policy
99 year leased lands
Tax concessions
Duty free imports
Speedy approvals

Objective 7.3
Allow new model of universities to grow
SLIIT/NIBM/NSBM
Japan Sri Lanka friendship university
Objective 7.4

Increase the number of foreign students in local universities from 1435 in 2011 to 10,000 by 2015.

Objective 7.5

Introduce a student exchange program, a study abroad program, an education tourism program.

Objective 7.6

Build hostels for foreign students enabling to accommodate 200 students by 2015.

Objective 7.7

Increase the number of foreign faculty members & joint researchers.

Objective 7.8

Reduce the number of students going aboard for higher education and foreign exchange outflow.
Higher Education Reform

“Higher Education Competitiveness is Nation’s Competitiveness.”

Basic Principles

• From Quantitative Expansion to Qualitative Upgrade
• Differentiation and Specialization  
  “From Department Store to Specialized Shop”
• Local manpower to Global human resources
• From limited knowledge to Life-long Learner
• Reinforcing Industrial & Societal Ties
• From K to K-SAM

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Summary

1. Sri Lanka – is in the Growth phase (8%)

2. National HE Strategic Management Plan (NHE-SMP) aligned with National Vision (Mahinda Chinthana - Way Forward)

3. Five Hub Strategy – Knowledge Hub

4. An International Hub of excellence in HE by 2020 – Vision of MOHE

5. Main Goals and Strategies:
   a. World Class Universities and Globally Employable Grads
   b. 5 – World Class Unis
   c. 7 – National Uni as WC
   d. 10,000 Foreign Students by 2015
   e. Education Tourism and Study Abroad Programs (Short-term)
   f. Inter University and Colleges, Inter Faculty Mobility is allowed
   g. Around 10,000 students are going abroad annually

21-23 May, 2013

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Major Challenge

- There is no **Globally Aligned System** yet in SL
- This is a **very timely and JIT tool kit** – SL
- Closely working with Australian Government – Dept of Industry, Innovation, Science and Tertiary Education
- 2nd 8 member delegation visit Aust – 3rd – 8th June

- **SLQF** – Framework is ready
- **NVQF** – also done
- How to **implement, maintain, systems, processors, procedures**, are needed
- Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Qualification Framework Act to be introduced
- **UNESCO** – 12th Session - QIHE is the answer
Vote of thanks

- UNESCO and UNESCO Bangkok office and staff
- All the co-sponsors – KC4UE, Australian Government
- All the participants
- Bohoma Istuti – Nanri
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