Presentation from Bhutan

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Introduction

• Bhutan has not signed 1983 Convention

• The Bhutan Council for School Examination and Assessment (BCSEA) takes care of recognition up to class 12.

• The Department of Occupational Standards, Ministry of Labour and Human Resources looks after the recognition of Vocational certificates and diplomas.

• The Bhutan Accreditation Council oversees the recognition of higher education qualifications.

• Bhutan Accreditation Council is the highest authority on the recognition of degrees
Recognition of secondary school leaving certificates and other diplomas for the purpose of further studies

- The BCSEA takes care of recognition up to class 12.
- Bhutan has five full-time foreign students as of now as follows:
  - College of Natural Resources – 3
  - Gaeddu College of Business Studies – 1
  - Royal Institute of Health Sciences - 1
  - Royal Thimphu College – 1 graduated; 2 admitted; 20 on Student Exchange Program
Recognition of Higher Education Studies, Diplomas, Degrees and Qualifications for the Purpose of Further Studies

• No foreign students in post graduate studies

• The institute/college has to be affiliated to recognised University

• The University must be recognised by University Grants Commission or equivalent bodies in their country or be a member of national/regional/international association/s.
Recognition of Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees for the Purpose of Practicing a Profession

- The Bhutan Accreditation Council validates and recognises foreign certificates, diplomas and degrees for employment and other purposes using the above methods of recognition.

- Additionally, Bhutan Medical and Health Council validates and registers all medical practitioners.
Bilateral and Multilateral Recognition Agreements

• Bhutan has not signed any agreements.

• It is in the process of signing the Revised Asia-Pacific Convention on Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education.
National Information Centre

• Bhutan is preparing to establish the National Information Centre (NIC) as per the UNESCO framework

• Once the NIC is in place, Bhutan is committed to abide by the rules of APARNET and other related information sharing mechanisms

• It would be better if the member countries could jointly develop a reliable system to support NIC in their countries (UNESCO could provide technical support in developing the system). This will ensure uniformity, comparability and reliability.
National Qualifications Framework

- Bhutan has developed and launched its Bhutan Qualifications Framework in 2012.
- Developing the regional qualifications (e.g. SAARC QF) framework would help harmonize the system and ease to enhance the mutual recognition of qualifications.
- This would promote comparable and compatible HE qualifications and reduce substantial differences among the nations.
Ratification of the 2011 Revised Convention

• Bhutan is processing with the government approval for signing 2011 Revised Convention.
• We do not have the problem in signing the Convention.
• The signing of the Convention would enhance the mutual recognition of qualifications within the region and beyond.