MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE S.R. VIETNAM (MOET OF VN)

RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DEGREES IN VIETNAM

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Vietnam Education System (1)

Structure of the education system: 5-4-3:

- 5 years of primary education (grades 1-5)
- 4 years of lower secondary (grades 6-9)
- 3 years of upper secondary (grades 10-12)
- HE programs: 3 – 6 years.
Vietnam National Education System

- **Primary Education** (5 yrs)
  - Pre-School Education (Kindergarten)
  - Crèche

- 6 yrs old
- 11 yrs old
- 15 yrs old
- 18 yrs old
- 21 yrs old
- 24 yrs old

- **Upper Secondary Education** (3 yrs)
  - Secondary Technical and Vocational Education (3-4 yrs)

- **Higher Education** (4-6 yrs)
  - Doctor of Philosophy (4 yrs)
  - Master (2 yrs)

- **Junior College** (3 yrs)

- **Vocational Training**
  - Long-term (1-3 yrs)
  - Short-term (< 1 yr)

- Non-formal Education
Vietnam Education System (3)

4 broad types of universities in Vietnam:

- Specialized universities focusing on a single area of study (law, transportation, economics, engineering, fine arts…)
- Multi-disciplinary universities: national and regional universities (VNU HN, VNU HCM, TNU, DNU, HU, CTU)
- Open universities: Hanoi Open University and Ho Chi Minh City Open University
- International Universities (Vietnam-Germany, Vietnam-America, Vietnam-France, Vietnam-Japan, Vietnam-Russian…); Branches of foreign universities (RMIT) in HN and HCMC; English Univ. in HCMC.
Vietnam Education System (4)

Characteristics of Vietnam’s HEIs:

- **Training focused** (i.e. small institutional size, a limited number of academic programs, and a small number of institutions offering similar courses);

- **Those with centralised management** (centralised control of curriculum, funding and resources by MOET);

- **Those with restricted competition** (not due to markets, students or business, but to stated-controlled resources; high consumer demand but low recognition of this by the universities).
Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements:

- Up to now (2014), the MOET VN has signed about 13 BAs with: In Asia (Laos, Cambodia, PR of China); in Europe (Russian Federation, Austria, Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, France, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan); In Africa and Caribe (Cuba).

- In addition, VN is still one of members of the Multilateral Agreement on Recognition of all education documents and diplomas which was signed in 1972, in Varsava, Poland between the former socialist countries (still in force).
Education Law 2005 (Article 110)

- The recognition of foreign qualifications for Vietnamese citizens shall follow the regulations of the Minister of Education and Training and international agreements in qualifications that Vietnam is member.

- The Minister of Education and Training is responsible for signing agreements on mutual qualification recognition.
Number of international students in VN:

- The number of foreign students in Vietnam public Univ. is not so big (except of the UN school, other International schools and Univ. or by their own budget), mostly foreign students are in the framework of the bilateral agreements such as: Russian Federation, CIS countries (Former SU countries), China, Laos, Cambodia, and others. Many of these students go to VN to study or practice for the short-term courses.
Legal Documents on RFD (2)

Decision 77/2007/BGDDT of the Minister of Education and Training

- Regulate the procedures and documents for the recognition of foreign qualification issued for Vietnamese citizens;
- Has 11 articles which regulate the authority, procedures, documentation, etc. for recognition.
Criteria and Procedures (1)

1. GDETA (General Dept. of Education Testing and Accreditation) are assigned by the Minister to recognize the overseas qualifications

2. Applying for qualification recognition is voluntary and free of charge at the moment

3. Documents for qualification recognition include:
   - Application form
   - A certified copy of the degree in Vietnamese
   - A certified copy of the academic transcript in Vietnamese

(Note: Application for Master degree recognition needs to submit a copy of Bachelor degree and application for PhD. degree recognition needs to submit a copy of Master degree)
Criteria and Procedures (2)

4. In order to recognize a qualification, the following needs to be evaluated and verified:

- The applicant has completed the programme;
- The qualification that needs to be verified is (or is not) within the scope of the agreements;
- The programme is accredited or permitted by the authorized agency;
- The qualification is in which level of the foreign education system and equivalent to which diplom in Vietnam education system.
5. The qualifications that are issued by countries signing agreements on equivalent diplomas with Vietnam are recognized according to the regulations in these agreements or International Agreements in qualifications that Vietnam has signed or is member.
Issues and Challenges of RFD

- The recognition of overseas qualifications issued for the Vietnamese is still new and complicated;
- The education and qualification system is different in each country;
- The management of programmes is different in each country;
- The qualification system is not consistent. For example, in Australia, there is no difference in vocational and academic degrees;
Recommendations

- Organize a conference on foreign qualifications among Institutions in Viet Nam in the end of 2014 (Maybe be supported by UNESCO);
- Set up the National Information Centers;
- Organize trips to some countries such as the Philippines, Australia, NZ, Russia, … in order to learn and exchange experiences;
- Publicify accredited programmes or programmes that are permitted by authorized organizations;
- Support the suppliments attached to the qualifications;
- Encourage the signing bilateral agreements on mutual qualification recognition.
Ratification of the 2011 Revised Convention:

- In practice, we have an effective system for recognition of education qualifications, including foreign. However, the ratification of the 2011 RC is the aim to a decision by the MOET and the Government in near future.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!