Fiji Higher Education Commission

Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific
Introduction

• Status: Cabinet Paper before Minister for Education for signing of Convention and ratification

• Competent Recognition Authority: 7-member Fiji Higher Education Commission with staff of 31
  – governed by Higher Education Promulgation 2008
  – 2 subsidiary legislations (HER 2009, HE(Q)R 2010)
  – 15 policies
  – Fiji Qualifications Council, Recognition Committee, Registration Committee
Recognition of Secondary School Leaving Certificates, diplomas for Further Studies

Percentages of International Students
(Under Graduate & Post Graduate)
2009 - 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>16.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>23.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>25.8</td>
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Recognition of Higher Education Studies, Diplomas, Degrees for Further Studies

• Secondary school leaving Certificates from the region are generally equated with Fiji’s Year 12’s and Year 13’s. Baccalaureate equivalent to Fiji’s Year 13’s.

• Post-graduate admissions are currently left to HEIs.
Recognition of Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees for Practicing a Profession

• Fiji Medical Council
• Fiji Institution of Engineers
• Fiji Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji
• Fiji Nursing Council
• Fiji Institute of Accountants
• Fiji Teachers Registration Board
Bilateral and Multilateral Recognition Agreements

- Bilateral/Multilateral – Pacific Qualifications Framework (Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards)
- Asia Pacific Regional Convention ??
  - Recognition but no formal discussion on relative positioning
National Information Centres

- NIC establishment – databases (4)
- Sharing Information:
  - MoU (to reflect policies applicable)
  - technicians
- Regional Information sharing mechanisms – subject to above
- Collaboration on development of methods and machinery – policy framework
National Qualifications Framework

- Fiji Qualifications Framework (FQF) 2012
  - Populated with 23 national qualifications
  - Policy on the Registration of Qualifications on the FQF
- 10 levels – (certificate – doctorate)
- Regional Qualifications Framework for harmonization of quality standards?? Yes.
Ratification of the 2011 Revised Convention

• Fiji’s readiness reflected in its processes since 2010 including launch of the Fiji Qualifications Framework

• Challenges:
  – Strengthening of accreditation unit and ICT unit
  – Policy development to support the implementation of Convention
  – Advocacy
THE END
Vinaka Vakalevu! Thank you!