13th Session of the Regional Committee on the recognition of qualifications in higher education in Asia and the Pacific in conjunction with the Regional Workshop on Quality Assurance in Higher Education at Colombo, 4th & 5th August, 2014, Sri-Lanka
Indian Higher Education sector has become the largest in the world in terms of number of institutions and the second largest in terms of students; the sector is already educating and enabling nearly 28 million students in nearly 726 universities and 38000 colleges. The Gross Enrolment Ratio, as per 2011-12 survey, stands at 20.4% and the goal is 30% by 2020
1. Status

Status in connection with the 1983 Regional Convention on the recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific - India has recognized the Regional Convention

The name of the national body(ies) (Competent Recognition Authorities) in charge of recognition matters as defined by Article 9, paragraph 1 of the 1983 Convention - Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi is the acting nodal agency authorised by the Government of India for according equivalence to foreign degrees (other than Medicine; Nursing; Dentistry; Homeopathy; Pharmacy; Physiotheraphy; Veterinary & Animal Husbandry, Law for which the respective Statutory Council undertakes the work of equivalence)
2: Recognition of Secondary School Leaving Certificates and other Diplomas for the Purpose of Further Studies

- The number of international students undertaking undergraduate study programs

As per AIU, the number of International student studying at Indian Universities (both UG and PG), during the year 2012-13, were 20,176 for all the programmes.

- Foreign secondary school leaving certificates and other diplomas recognition in the undergraduate admissions process

Secondary School Leaving Certificates are granted equivalence provided the minimum duration of school education is 12 years.
2: Recognition of Secondary School Leaving Certificates and other Diplomas for the Purpose of Further Studies...

AIU has already accorded equivalence to some of the most popular systems of school education of the world i.e. the British System (GCE ‘O’ & ‘A’ Level), American System (High School Diploma), International Baccalaureate awarded by the International Baccalaureate Organization, Geneva, French International Baccalaureate, 12 year General Secondary School Certificate Examination conducted in most of the Gulf Countries etc., so far.

The complete list of + 2 level qualifications and their nomenclatures recognized by AIU are set out in Information Brochure on “Equivalence of Foreign Degrees” published by AIU and available on its web site.
3: Recognition of Higher Education Studies, Diplomas, Degrees, and Qualifications for the Purpose of Further Studies

Recognition in the postgraduate admissions process

- All accredited foreign universities following similar system of education as that of India, AIU issues equivalence certificates in respect of the degree awarded by them.

- Diplomas and degrees awarded by foreign higher educational institutions are considered recognized and valid for further studies after AIU establishes their equivalence / parity with their Indian counterparts.
3: Recognition of Higher Education Studies, Diplomas, Degrees, and Qualifications for the Purpose of Further Studies.....

- Under section 22 (1) of University Grants Commission Act, 1956, the right of conferring degrees is exercised only by a University or an institution deemed to be a University or an institution specially empowered by an Act of Parliament to confer or grant degrees. The degrees awarded by these institutions are recognized by other similar institutions on a mutual basis for the purpose of further studies.
4: Recognition of Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees for the Purpose of Practicing a Profession

How are foreign certificates, diplomas and degrees recognized and validated for the purpose of employment in various professions?

- In 1995 the Central Government had decided that those foreign qualifications which are recognized/equated by AIU are treated as recognized for the purpose of employment to the posts and services under the Central Government.

Are there designated agencies in your country that are authorized to provide recognition services and advice to employers on recruitment of new staff?

- AIU provides its services for equivalence to various Universities, Central & State Employment Agencies and State Recruitment Boards.
5: Bilateral and Multilateral Recognition Agreements

- Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India signs the MoUs for Educational Exchange Programmes with other countries. Till date EEPs have been signed with 40 countries. (9 in Asia Pacific)

- The +2 level qualifications of most of the countries in the Asia Pacific Region has already been accorded equivalence by AIU, which is the minimum eligibility requirement for admission to Bachelor Degree programmes. Accordingly, all other countries where the system of education is similar to that of India i.e. 10+2+3/4*+2, AIU accords equivalence to the degrees awarded by their accredited universities.

*-for general & technical programmes, respectively
6: National Information Centers

The matter of proceeding towards the NIC, from the present mechanism of the AIU (the main agency undertaking the work of equivalence), the UGC (responsible for specifying degree qualifications and general standards for the same), the regulatory councils for degree/professional practice/non-university education, will be considered by the Government.

Subsequent to this examination, the matter of joining recognition-related regional information sharing mechanisms will be finalized.
The UGC has been tasked with developing a National Higher Education Qualifications framework.

School Education in the country is largely governed by the National Curricular Framework (NCF) and is by and large uniform across the country.

Skill development has been integrated with formal higher and school education through the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).
8: Ratification of the 2011 Revised Convention

The matter of ratification of the 2011 Revised Convention is under examination.
National Quality Measures

Accreditation has been made mandatory for all Central Universities, State Universities (including State Private Universities), Deemed to be Universities and all Colleges

- Assessment and Accreditation will be pre-requisites for recognition by the UGC.
- The accreditation will be valid for a period of five years
- 185 Universities, 5448 Colleges have already been accredited by NAAC.
Architecture of Assessment and Accreditation

Institutions

Accreditation Agency Regulator

NAAC

NBA

National Accreditation Board

State Assessment & Accreditation Agency
Thanks
PROCEDURE & PRACTICES ADOPTED FOR GRANTING EQUIVALENCE

The equivalence was established on course to course basis, based on information on the following:

- Structure from Primary to University education
- Entry requirements
- Nomenclature of the course certificate/degree
- Accreditation status of the University/Institution in the home Country
- Syllabus/course curriculum and regulation of the course
- System of evaluation
- Requirement for passing
- Parity of the degree outside the country – documentation thereof
- Sample copy of the degree and academic transcript
- Any other relevant information
PROCEDURE & PRACTICES ADOPTED FOR GRANTING EQUIVALENCE….

- Thereafter, each case for equivalence is examined in consultation with an Expert Committee and placed before the Equivalence Committee and the Governing Council for their ratification.

- The Policy adopted by AIU to accord equivalence to the degree has been as follows:

  “AIU accords equivalence to the degrees pursued by the candidates full time on the campus of the university of its origin, provided the eligibility requirements, duration etc. remains the same as that of Indian Universities”.
PROCEDURE & PRACTICES ADOPTED FOR GRANTING EQUIVALENCE.....

- AIU issues equivalence certificates only for the degrees which are pursued full time on the campus of the university(s) subject to fulfillment of the parameters. The Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, in 1995, had decided that the equivalence done by AIU will be valid for the purpose of admission to higher education as well as for employment, in the country.

- Till few years back AIU followed the same Policy, but after the increase in students mobility and also the numbers of universities where from the students have obtained their degrees from various parts of the world, AIU found it difficult to examine each and every case of equivalence and therefore, the equivalence is now established on the basis of the following parameters:

  1. Eligibility requirements
  2. Duration of the programme
  3. Accreditation status of the University(s)
PROCEDURE & PRACTICES ADOPTED FOR GRANTING EQUIVALENCE
…..Cont.

- Thus, AIU still continues to issue equivalence certificates in respect of degrees pursued full time on the campus of the university, of its Origin, provided the duration of the course and eligibility requirements remains the same as that of Indian Universities.

- AIU facilitates the students by issuing Equivalence certificates to those students who have obtained their degrees after fulfilling the above parameters, from accredited foreign universities.

- Degrees which are offered by the foreign accredited universities but are pursued, either partly or fully in India, are not accorded equivalence by AIU. The AIU also does not issue equivalence certificates for the degrees which are lesser in duration in comparison to the Indian degrees. Similarly, no Equivalence is issued for Diploma level programmes (offered in the field of engineering/short term Diploma programmes etc.) conducted in various parts of the world.