Country presentations of the State Parties: Lao PDR

By Panya CHANTHAVONG
Deputy Director, Education Quality Assurance Center
Ministry of Education and Sports

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Introduction

• Lao PDR is State Party since 1983 Convention and also the 2011 Revised Convention
• The national body in charge of recognition matters in Lao PDR was considered as the department of Higher Education, which providing the service on recognition of foreign certificates, diplomas and degrees mainly.
• From 2012, Ministry of Education setup the Department of Student Affairs, and still there are some confusion on recognition matters during these departments
Recognition of Secondary school leaving certificates and other Diplomas for the purpose of Further Studies

• There are very few number of International students study in Lao PDR, most of them is taking Lao Language course.
• Number of international undergraduate students 2013-2014

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<th>Country</th>
<th>National U. (NUOL)</th>
<th>Souphanuvong U.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
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<td>Chinese</td>
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<td>Cambodian</td>
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<td>Korean</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>49</td>
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Recognition of Secondary school leaving certificates and other Diplomas for the purpose of Further Studies

• The foreign secondary school leaving certificates and other diplomas are recognized in the undergraduate admissions process, however, the admission testing is required Lao language competent; the international students have to take the pre-course for Lao language.

• For schools provide the international secondary certificate to Lao student (international school), the student need to take the supplementary course to get the equivalent secondary school leaving certificate (as the Non-formal program) for the admission process.
Recognition of Higher Education Studies, Diplomas, Degrees and Qualifications for the Purpose of Further Studies

- There are no international students undertaking postgraduate study programs in the country
Recognition of Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees for the Purpose of Practicing a Profession

- Foreign certificates, diplomas and degrees can be recognized by department of Higher education for the purpose of employment

- For providing recognition advice to students and employers was responsible by department of student affairs.
Bilateral and Multilateral Recognition Agreements

- We have the Bilateral Recognition Agreement with Vietnam; and some Educational cooperation agreement with the others

- The understanding about Asia-Pacific Regional Convention is still limited with the individual person and need to introduce to the National recognition system with the in charge National body and clear processes.
National Information Centers

- There are no National Information Centers take in charge for academic recognition

- Department of Student Affairs was just established Student service center in February 2014 that provides information on study aboard
National Qualification Framework

• Lao PDR, drafting the NQF and going to be approved in the end of 2014

• For regional Qualifications Framework, the ASEAN has finished the drafting of “ASEAN Qualifications Referencing Framework” which can be used for us to develop the NQF and also compare/reference with each others in ASEAN

• However, we need to consider how to expand for Asia-Pacific regions
The 2011 Revised Convention

- Need to clarify all matters on recognition bodies, processes, tools, information system with the concerned line departments (such as Department of Higher Education, Department of Student Affairs, Education Quality Assurance Center).

- Develop the action plan (with clear mandate) for implementing the Regional Convention.

- The NQF and QAS are the key matter to drive forward the Regional Convention.
Thank you