East Asia Summit Meeting on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in the Asia-Pacific Region

23 to 25 June 2011
Bangkok, Thailand

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Call for governments to invest in higher education because of the crucial role it plays in building knowledge societies.

Expanding access while promoting quality is a major challenge
5 Regional Conventions and 1 Inter-regional Convention

On recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education:

1975: Latin America and the Caribbean
1976: Arab and European States bordering the Mediterranean
1978: Arab States
1979: Europe – revised 1997 (co-depository Council of Europe)
1981: Africa – up for revision in 2012 (co-depository African Union)
1983: Asia and the Pacific – up for revision in 2011
Parties to the 5 Regional Conventions on Recognition in Higher Education
Main Objectives

• Promote international co-operation in higher education

• Reduce obstacles to mobility of students and teachers through mutual recognition of degrees and qualifications

• Contribute to preserving and strengthening the cultural identity and diversity of peoples, respecting the specific character of their educational systems
Common Elements

• Preamble
• Structure
• Terminology
• Objectives
• Scope
• Implementation
1983 Asia-Pacific Convention

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Key Concepts

• Fair recognition

• Information and networking at the expert level

• Supporting instruments
  • guidelines, good practice, recommendations
Principles of Fair Recognition

• applicants have the right to fair assessment of qualifications

• recognition is granted if no substantial differences can be demonstrated

• if recognition is not granted, substantial differences are demonstrated

• applicants' right to appeal
Quality Assurance

An on-going process of evaluating and enhancing the quality of a higher education system, institution or programme to assure stakeholders that acceptable standards of education, scholarship and resources for delivery are being maintained and enhanced.
UNESCO’s work

GLOBAL OUTREACH THROUGH:

• UNESCO’s 6 recognition conventions
• UNESCO-World Bank Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity Building (GIQAC)
Article X.1
1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession by:
(a) The member States of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Region;
(b) Any contracting Party to the 1983 Convention; [Holy See, Armenia, Azerbaijan]
(c) Any other State which has been invited to the diplomatic conference entrusted with the adoption of this Convention. [All UNESCO Member States]
Regional Committee

- Composition: each Party + Observers
- Support Implementation
- Connect with UNESCO Regional Committees
- Follow Rules of Procedure
- Meet at least every 3 years
- Secretariat ensured by UNESCO
1997 Lisbon Convention National Information Centres

ENICs/NARICs

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, "San Marino", Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "FYR Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA.
# Table of Contents

1. Introduction ........................................................................................................ 3
2. Schematic outline of the recommended procedure for the assessment of foreign qualifications ............... 5
3. Transparency and Information Provision ........................................................................... 12
4. Accreditation and Quality Assurance (status of the institution) ........................................... 16
5. Authenticity ............................................................................................................... 20
6. Purpose of Recognition ............................................................................................... 25
7. Diploma Supplement (and other information tools) ................................................................... 27
8. Qualification Frameworks ............................................................................................... 30
9. Credits, grades, credit accumulation and credit transfer ..................................................... 33
10. Learning Outcomes .................................................................................................... 36
11. Substantial Differences ............................................................................................... 40
13. Refugees .................................................................................................................. 47
14. Non-Traditional Learning ............................................................................................ 50
15. Sub Topic – Flexible Learning Paths ............................................................................... 52
   Subtopic - RPL ........................................................................................................... 54
   Sub topic - Open/Distance learning ................................................................................. 56
16. Transnational education ............................................................................................... 58
17. Qualifications awarded by joint programmes .................................................................... 61
18. Non-Recognised but Legitimate Institutions ..................................................................... 64
19. Diploma and Accreditation Mills ..................................................................................... 67
20. Sources of Recommendations for EAR recognition manual ............................................ 70
21. Glossary .................................................................................................................... 72
Toward Effective Practice: Discouraging Degree Mills In Higher Education
Web Portal on HEIs

1. Institutions recognized by competent authorities
2. Higher education programmes recognized by competent authorities
3. Information for students planning to study in the country
4. Information on the higher education system
5. Foreign credential assessment and recognition
6. Information on financial assistance opportunities
7. Cross-border higher education
8. National Information Centre
9. Other information sources
10. Definition of key terms
GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY IN CROSS-BORDER HIGHER EDUCATION

The Principles

• Responsibility for partnerships, sharing, dialogue, mutual trust and respect between sending and receiving countries

• Recognition of national authority and of the diversity of systems

• Recognition of importance of international collaboration and exchange, internally, externally

• Access to transparent and reliable information

Recommendations to 6 Stakeholders:

• Governments
• Higher Ed. Institutions
• Student Organisations
• Quality Assurance Agencies
• Recognition Bodies
• Professional Bodies
Thank you

For more information, please contact
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