Quality Assurance and Recognition in China, and Three Action Plans for Implementing ASEM Bridging Declaration

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ASEM Dialogue on Quality Assurance and Recognition
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China’s Reform and Opening-up: since 1978

President Xi Jinping reiterates:

“Reform and Opening-up are the driving forces for China’s social progress, and play a key role in determining the destiny of contemporary China.”
The Chinese Context

◆ Int’l Cooperation and Exchanges of China’s Education

✓ full-scale, multi-layered, and wide-range

◆ National Education Conference 2013

Education Minister Yuan Guiren pledges:
“to advance educational reform through raising the level of openness to the outside world.”
China's Report on Outbound Study (2013)

- Outbound-study students:
  - 1978-2013: 3,058,600
  - 2013 alone: 413,900

- Increase Rate (2007~2012): nearly 20% annually

China: the largest number of outbound-study students
The Chinese Context

Issues accompanying education mobility:

✓ Qualification Recognition

✓ Quality Assurance for Cross-border Education
The Chinese Context

 Recognition in China:

✓ recognition when applying for overseas universities

✓ recognition when coming back to China with overseas qualifications
The Chinese Context

- Recognition when applying for overseas universities:
  - Vast education system;
  - Complex education types and levels;
  - Diversified qualifications
  - Fraudulent transcripts and certificates
The Chinese Context

◆ Fraudulent qualifications:
  Agents—profit-driving

◆ Fundamental factors:
  ✓ Lack of transparency in educational information;
  ✓ Inadequate communication between competent bodies;
The Chinese Context

- China: to verify Chinese education qualifications since 2000 (CDGDC)
  Credential Report ≈ Diploma Supplement

- to strengthen qualification administration;
- to combat counterfeit qualifications;
- to protect China’s education reputation;
- to safeguard quality of students going-aboard

- In 2013: 150,000 out of 410,000 verified more than 1/3
The Chinese Context

- Recognition when coming back to China with overseas qualifications

☑ China Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE)
The Chinese Context

♦ Cross-border Education in China (Typical)

Sino-Foreign Jointly Run Schools and Programs
The Chinese Context

❖ Scale of joint schools and programs: 1800

❖ Offering courses leading to Bachelor degree and above:
  ✓ around 40 joint schools
  ✓ around 800 joint programs
  ✓ educational partners from more than 20 countries
The Chinese Context

Problems in Joint Schools and Programs:

- without government accreditation;
- low-level duplication;
- too profit-oriented;
- inadequate management;
- unsatisfactory overall quality
The Chinese Context

Comprehensive Quality Evaluation (CDGDC)

- Target: government-approved schools and programs offering courses leading to bachelor degrees and above
- Correction within a fixed time period; or cancellation of the schools or programs
The Three Action Plans

- **ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration**

  ✓ Drafted at the 2nd Working Group Meeting in Beijing

  ✓ Endorsed in the ASEMME4
The Three Action Plans

**ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration**

- to apply the same recognition principles to holders of qualifications;
- to strengthen cooperation between national information centers, as well as between networks of NICs.
The Three Action Plans

- CDGDC-ASEAN Day: July, 2013
  (in cooperation with China-ASEAN Center)

- Seminar on China-ASEAN Education Integration, Quality Assurance and Recognition: September, 2013
  (the 6th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week)
The First Working Group Meeting

Working Group (12) established:

- Asia (5): Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, and Republic of Korea
- Europe (7): Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, and United Kingdom
Three Action Plans

- **Action Plan 1:**
  To build a Website for the Asian NICs;

- **Action Plan 2:**
  To establish a Cross-border Quality Assurance Network (CBQAN);

- **Action Plan 3:**
  To draft a Handbook of Guidelines, Principles and Good Practices on Recognition;
Action Plan 1: To build a Website

Europe:
European Higher Education Area

Education Integration:
Degree system, Study length, Credit system
Cooperation among QA bodies
Collaboration among QR bodies
Action Plan 1: To build a website

Europe: Recognition

✓ National Academic Recognition Information Centres
✓ National Information Centres
✓ Network of ENIC-NARICs

Asia: in the process of establishing NICs
**Action Plan 1**: To build a website

**Objectives of website:**

- Enhancing transparency of Asian Education
- Urging Asian countries to establish NICs
- Laying foundation for Network of Asian NICs
- Effective communication platform
Action Plan 1: Website

**Schedule**

**ASEAN-CDGDC Day**
- Officials from Embassies of ASEAN Countries in Beijing
  - 30 July, 2013

**1st Working Group Meeting in Kunming, China**
- QR experts
  - 10 Dec., 2013

**Uploading Information of Asian Countries**
- May-Oct., 2014

**ISOM of ASEMME5**
- 8-9 May, 2014

**Comprehensive Review**
- 2nd Working Group Meeting in Riga, Latvia
  - November, 2014

**Official launch**

**Solicit opinions**
- China-ASEAN Education Exchange Week
  - QR & QA professionals
  - 16 Sep., 2013

**Web design**

**Pilot website**
Action Plan 2: To establish CBQAN

- China: Lack of high-quality education resources
- ASEM region: imbalanced mobility
  - More Asian students to Europe;
  - More European Education providers to Asia
Action Plan 2: To establish CBQAN

- Balanced mobility in ASEM region
  - Balanced scale;
  - Equally-matched quality

Important: methods and approaches of QA for cross-border education
Action Plan 2: To establish CBQAN

- Specific concern on cross-border education
- Raise the awareness of quality for providing and receiving countries
Action Plan 2: To establish CBQAN

- CBQAN in the work domain of the working group
- QA: pre-condition
- Third-party qualifications
- QA and QR: separated
Action Plan 2: To establish CBQAN

- Missions of CBQAN
  - Information sharing and experience exchange
  - Raise the quality awareness
  - Facilitate recognition of qualification awarded in cross-border education
**Action Plan 3:** To draft a handbook

**Objectives:**

- To give references on recognition principles, criteria, procedure
- To recommend good practices on qualification assessment
- To provide practical information for qualification holders
**Action Plan 3: To draft a handbook**

**Fundamental Guiding Documents (Conventions):**

- Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region” (Lisbon, 1997),

- Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (Bangkok, 1983)

Action Plan 3: To draft a handbook

Tools:

- Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education (Paris, 1993),

- Revised Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications (Sèvres, 2010)

- Toolkit for the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications: A Reference for Asia-Pacific Practitioners (Bangkok, 2013)
Action Plan 3: To draft a handbook

Proposed Schedule:

- Agreed in the 1st Working Group Meeting in Kunming, China, Dec., 2013
- Structure worked out and agreed, May, 2014
- Drafted by China and UK, Oct., 2014
- Reviewed in the 2nd Working Group Meeting in Riga, Latvia, Nov., 2014
- ASEMME5, 2015
All the 3 Action Plans

- Proceed smoothly at each agreed speed;
- Considerable efforts and significant inputs from members of the Working Group;
- Comprehensively reviewed in the Second Meeting in Riga, Latvia, in December, 2014
THANK YOU!