ASEM DIALOGUE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE AND RECOGNITION, KUALA LUMPUR

25-26 AUGUST 2014
AN ASEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION (AQAFHE)

ASEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE NETWORK (AQAN)

Zita Mohd Fahmi
Executive Secretary
AQAN
POINTS:

• ASEAN Higher Education Common Space
• Formation of AQAN
• Importance of QA and AQAFHE to ASEAN Initiatives (confidence and recognition)
• AQAFHE Purposes and Characteristics
• AQAFHE – 4 quadrants
• Future Plans
ASEAN agenda – ASEAN Economic Community by 2015


2008 Establishment of ASEAN Quality Network (AQAN) Kuala Lumpur Declaration

BACKGROUND:

- Student mobility
- Quality assurance
- Credit systems
- Promotion of benefits of QA
- Harmonisation

Harmonisation of benefits of QA
Establishment of EQAs in ASEAN

Diagram showing countries and institutions involved in EQAs in ASEAN:
- Myanmar
- Thailand
- Laos
- Philippines
- Malaysia
- Brunei Darussalam
- Singapore
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Timor Leste

Institutions and Acronyms:
- ONESQA
- ACC
- NPE
- MQA
- NAAHE (BAN-PT)
- ESQAC
- GDETA
- CHED
- AACCUP
- PAASCU
- PACU-COA
- AICU
- Timor Leste NAAA
Importance of Quality Assurance to ASEAN Initiatives

- ASEAN Economic Community – Integration
- Capacity building-improving higher education
- ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) (AANZFTA Project)
- ASEAN Student & Skilled Workers Mobility - Services
- Recognition of qualifications with ASEAN Partners
- SEAMEO RIHED, AUN and AQAN partnership common focus
The 2011 5\textsuperscript{th} Meeting of Director Generals, Secretary Generals and Commissioners of Higher Education in Nha Trang Vietnam agreed that:

- AQAN will promote on, the benefits, capacity building & the development of the QA harmonisation Southeast Asian countries.
- Tripartite agreement with SEAMEO RIHED, AUN and AQAN 2011
Various AQAN Developmental Activities

- Information sharing
- Sharing practices
- Auditors workshop
- Dialogues
- Capacity building:
  - ASEAN QA Capacity Building Project with 6 partners (EQA-IQA) 3 years phase 1 & phase 2 IQA capacity building
  - Future project
AQAFHE - purpose and characteristics

AQAFHE consists of 4 thematic interrelated principles

It is intended to serve as a common reference point for alignment by the quality assurance bodies, qualifications and higher education institutions.

Improves consistency of quality assurance practices, provides clarity and builds confidence structure to facilitate recognition of qualifications.

Strives towards harmonisation amidst the rich diversity in ASEAN countries.
AQAFHE - 4 interconnected quadrants

1. External Quality Assurance Agency
2. EQA policies, standards & processes
3. Institutional Quality Assurance System
4. National Qualifications Framework
1. External Quality Assurance Body

- Appropriately established competent body
- Functions
- Policies
- Resources
- Independence
- Information center

EQA bodies - differences (developing, established, Restructuring)
- Brunei: BDNAC
- Cambodia: ACC
- Indonesia: NAAHE
- Laos: ESQAC
- Malaysia: MQA
- Philippines: CHED
- Singapore: CPE
- Thailand: ONESQA
- Timor Leste: ANAAA
- Vietnam: GDETA
- Myanmar- (developing)
2. EQA – Policies, Standards and Processes

- QA Principles
- Accreditation assessment, and audit
- Programme-based or institutional-based
- QA standards and applications – criteria
- Generic to specifics standards
- NQF related matters
- Quantitative and qualitative assessments

- Different levels of implementation
- Highly similar statements of standards
- Good practices
- Differences in approach
- Capacity development
- National needs
3. Institutional QA Principles

- Institutional responsibility for quality assuring programmes and other academic activities
  - Internal QA systems / processes
  - Generally reflects EQA’s QA standards
  - Self assessment culture
  - Stakeholders involvement
  - Performance indicators

Findings
- Strength quality systems varies across institutions
- Generally reflects EQA requirements
- Capacity building projects
4. Qualifications Framework

- **Principles**: generic guides pertaining to the characteristics of a national qualifications framework or its sub systems
- Underpinned by National QA systems
- Information center
- **Key elements**
  - Levels (8)
  - Learning outcomes
  - Credits and student learning time
  - Learner centered

- Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF-2007)
- Thai Qualifications Framework (TQF-2009)
- Indonesian Qualifications Framework (IQF-2013)
- Brunei National Qualifications Framework (BNQF 2013)
- Philippines Qualifications Framework (2013)
- Cambodia Qualifications Framework (2014)
- Laos (in progress)
- Singapore (Workforce Skills Competency Certification)
  - Myanmar (developing)

- Various Credit Transfer System-ACTS UMAP CTS, ACFTA
- ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework 2014-2018
Future Plans of AQAFHE

Phase 1: Endorsement
To acquire formal endorsement from ASEAN Community (2014-2015)

Phase 2: Capacity Building
Organise capacity building for members, strengthening partnerships and dialogues

Phase 3: Referencing
Promoting the use of the Framework in development and reviews of QA systems

Phase 4: Adherence
Voluntary benchmarking exercise by national systems

AQAN registration & ASEAN affiliation 2014
Terima Kasih

Zita Mohd Fahmi
zita@mqa.gov.my
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