ASEM Expert on Regional Quality Assurance
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“National Qualifications Framework
The Case of Malaysia”

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Malaysian Qualifications Agency
Outline

A. Key Facts
B. Maturing system in Higher Education & National Higher Education Strategies
C. Qualifications Framework
D. Quality Assurance
E. Key questions
Key Facts

• Population: 27.6
• Federal system – 14 states
• Independent Day 31/08/1957

Education and Training providers
• Primary and Secondary Education schools (Ministry of Education
  (Teachers Training Institutions)
• Higher Education (Ministry of Higher Education)
  • 61 Universities (public/private/foreign branch campuses)
  • 500+ Private HE Colleges
  • Polytechnics, Community Colleges
  • Wide variety of programmes-local and foreign programmes
  • Enrolment – 1,326,346 (2010)
  • Cohorts 17-23 youth in higher education- 40% (2010)
• Skills Training (Ministry of Human Resource) & MARA- training organisations
• Main Recognition parties – Public Service Dept, Skills Board and
  Professional bodies
A Quote

- “The most important resource of any nation must be the talents, skills, creativity and the will of its people. Our people are our ultimate resource. ... Without a doubt, in the 1990s and beyond, Malaysia must give the fullest emphasis possible to the development of this ultimate resource.”

(Quoted “Malaysia: The way forward” Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, then Prime Minister, 28 February 1991)
“Enhancing Quality” of Higher Education

- 6 major legislation in 1996 (major amendments 2009)
- 2004 Ministry of Higher Education
- Phase 1 National Higher Education Strategies Plans 2007-2010 set policies, amendments of the Acts, directives and initiatives
  - Access and Equity
  - Quality of Teaching and Learning - MQF
  - Research and Innovation
  - Strengthening of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
  - Internationalisation
  - Life-Long Learning - MQF
  - MoHE Delivery System
  - Autonomy & accountability
- Phase 2 NHESP 2011-2015 – continued focus on quality of Higher Education
- QA practices and the MQF plays key role in these initiatives

7/18/2011

“Forging Transformation of Higher Education”
Malaysian Qualifications Agency (2007)

• MQA a Council- the Agency
• Key functions
  – guardian of the Malaysian Qualifications Framework
  – Set and implements Quality assurance standards and processes for all HEPs
  - provides equivalency assessments
  – maintains the Malaysian Qualifications Register (MQR)
  – Training and liaison
Values Local Collaboration and International Engagement

Commitment to collaborations with

• local key external stakeholders (employers, agencies & professional bodies)

• bilateral understanding – capacity building, sharing and towards mutual arrangement for recognition (MOC/MOUs)

• Sub regional Networks-ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) & QA Islamic (OIC)

• INQAAHE & APQN
B. Higher Education Quality Assurance System
QA +QF+MQR
(CURRENT) QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

- International Practices & Collaborations
- Stakeholders Consultations
- Partnership with Professional Bodies
- Expert Peer Review

1. MQF
2. Standard Setting
3. Quality Audits
MQR-Reference Centre

Internal Quality System of Higher Education Providers

General Public

MQA :: We Nurture Confidence
1. Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF) S. 35 MQA Act 2007

“Work in Progress”

• **Why?**- Internal factors & pressures – dual QA practices, diverse norms in qualifications, higher education revolution” to meet national needs

• **How?** Exploratory work 2002 & consultations and national seminar 2003, final approval 2005

• **Who?** Involved variety of key stakeholders - 21 major consultations

• **Referred to key frameworks**- e.g. Bologna Process, NZQF, UK and Scottish
Malaysian Qualifications Framework
A summary of objectives S. 35 MQA Act

- Constitution of Malaysian HE qualifications (umbrella framework)
- Clarifies qualifications –levels, sectors (Skills, TVET & Academic), learning outcomes, credit systems (recognition and mobility)
- Defines Core & Generic skills
- Learner centric
- Integrate and link all qualifications, supporting credit transfers, flexible pathways, includes accreditation of prior learning: Supports lifelong learning
- Intends to be inclusive
## Malaysian Qualifications Framework

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Minimum Credit load/student leaning time</th>
<th>Sectors</th>
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Accredited Prior Experiential Learning
7 Principles of the MQF

- Recognition for Qualifications
- Recognition of Awarding Sectors
- Levels of Qualifications
- Learning Outcomes
- Credit and Academic Load - Student Learning Time
- Flexibility of Movement
- Educational Pathways for Individual Development (Lifelong Learning)
Learning Outcomes Domains / Descriptors Provided for Each Level

- 1. Knowledge of discipline areas
- 2. Practical skills
- 3. Social skills and responsibility
- 4. Values, attitudes and professional
- 5. Communications, leadership and team skills
- 6. Problem solving and scientific skills
- 7. Managerial and Entrepreneurial skills
- 8. Information management and life long learning skills
Further Defined/Supported by Programme (Discipline) Standards & Guides to Good Practices (GGPs)
Intended Outcomes to HE sector

• National to global
• Focus on Internal institutional QA
• Quality control to quality enhancement
• Interlinked
• Student centered and Outcomes focus
• Encourages Collaboration
• Flexible pathways support recognition, mobility and portability
• Dynamic – amendable by national consensus
2. Quality Assurance of Qualifications
   IQA & EQA
   (Voluntary Compliance and Guided Autonomy)"
Evaluative Approach – A programme life cycle

• “No programme will be accredited unless it is in compliance with the MQF.”

• How? Compliance with QA standards and criteria and the Malaysian Qualifications Framework through
  – Approval of programmes /
  – Provisional accreditation of programmes
  – Full accreditation of programmes
  – Programme maintenance audit
  – In addition -Licensing regulations and accreditations become mandatory by various authorities –licensing, recognition for employment, scholarships/loans/admissions/practice
QUALITY AUDIT CYCLE

Programme Provisional Accreditation

Ministry’s Approval

Full Accreditation perpetual / cessation date

Registers qualification-MQR

Programme Maintenance audits

EQA-PROG

IQA

INSTITUTION-IQA

• EQA-INSTITUTIONAL
  • AUDIT
  • SELF ACCREDITATION

Self assessment report/ Peer / onsite
THE QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM - COPPA (2008)

Quality Assurance Codes of Practice: Nine Standards and Criteria
2. Systemic focus - 9 areas QA Standards

External Stakeholders Feedbacks

Input
- Governance & Administration
- Program Design
- Academic Staff
- Student Selection
- Edu Resources

Transformation
- Program Delivery
- Student Support Service
- Student Assessment
- Program Monitoring & Review

Output
- Student Grades & Graduate
- Monitoring Feedbacks & Program Review Report

Continuous Quality Improvements
(Finally) The Malaysian Qualifications Register (MQR) of accredited programme and qualifications (NIC)

http://www.mqa.gov.my
Last but not least

Our Issues
• Phase 1 - capacity building - all parties
• Phase 2 – 2011 Verification – Compliance
• Educational performance and educational gains?
• Increasing cross sector / border mobility
• Increasing demand, complexity and rapidity of changes in higher education 
  & national needs.

Key questions
• the similarities and differences of NQF within the ASEAN and compared to Europe? Can comparable trend be observed in ASEAN and Europe?
• quality assurance mechanisms to assure transparency
• Inter regional cooperation between ASEAN and Europe benefit from adjusted regional frameworks?

Response
• ASEAN – a region great diversity - commit to liberalisation & students and other personnel mobility cross border is on going
• All members of ASEAN - different stages
• Whose got a NQF? M, T, I, P, /V, C, L, B/TI
• It is about confidence, not being identical - but seeking the “common steely core which matters” in each QA & QF structures to relate to another
  – Serving national interests
  – QF- credit systems, pathways, learning outcomes and specifics need by field of study
  – QA- IQA & EQA standards to assure confidence & enhancement
  – Other inter-regional initiatives
Thank you : Terima kasih

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www.mqa.gov.my