

Quality Assurance, Academic Degrees and Professional Qualifications Recognition in Asia Pacific Region

Due to the greater globalization of higher education, there is an intensified demand in recognizing foreign academic degrees and qualifications. For the past decades, national qualification frameworks have seen a wide spread in Asia Pacific Region so as to unify the diverse credits, courses, diploma, or degrees domestically. In order to facilitating the comparability among different national systems, cross-border academic degrees and qualifications recognition becomes a critical issue in wider Asian region. It is against such wider context that this project aims to decipher the critical role of quality assurance in recognizing the foreign degrees and qualifications. Document analysis was used to garner relevant information in seven countries including Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. In general, governmental organizations are mainly responsible for the recognition of foreign degrees and qualification. Undeniably, quality assurance agencies play a major role in facilitating and assuring the comparable educational outputs among countries. Therefore, our findings suggest that HEEACT can further strengthen the information system of QA in connection to degrees and qualification. Moreover, it is desirable that HEEACT as a professional organization should plot the SOP in recognizing foreign degrees and qualifications based on its experiences with MQA and New Zealand. At the same time, HEEACT need to coordinate with other relevant agencies and professional associations if professional degrees and qualifications are to be recognized.