



Australian Government

**Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations**

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

23 to 25 June, 2011
Sakura, 37th Floor
Imperial Queen's Park Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand

BACKGROUND

To further recognize educational and professional qualifications in the East Asia Summit (EAS), a regional meeting and workshop will be held to build awareness of and capacity to implement the revised UNESCO Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific. The workshop is being co-organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Bangkok, Thailand and the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) as an education cooperation activity for East Asia Summit (EAS) member countries.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

The Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in the Asia-Pacific Region Workshop seeks to improve awareness and commitment of EAS member countries to the revised UNESCO Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific. The workshop will:

- Provide an overview of the Revised Regional Convention with particular reference to benefits and obstacles, ratification process, support materials and other recognition issues.
- Discuss supporting mechanisms to the Convention including, national qualification frameworks, diploma supplements, and national information centres.
- Provide an overview of relevant tools and guidelines including the UNESCO/OECD Guidelines, UNESCO/APQN Toolkit, UNESCO Higher Education Portal, etc.

The expected outcomes of the workshop include:

- Raising awareness of the Revised Regional Recognition Convention
- Providing opportunities for collaboration and identifying best practices in qualification recognition within the Asia-Pacific region.

- Sharing information on qualification recognition in each country and identifying challenges within different national contexts.
- Encouraging the contribution of ideas, perspectives, and approaches to qualifications recognition for higher education in the region.
- Strengthening regional coordination in the education sector.
- Strengthened commitment by EAS member countries to the Asia-Pacific regional recognition convention.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

The workshop will bring together EAS member country officials with policy responsibility for qualifications recognition. Invitations will be sent to international experts to attend the workshop and to provide specialist advice and training on qualifications recognition issues.

PROGRAM

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

TBA, Bangkok, Thailand
23-25 June, 2011

DAY 1: 23 JUNE, 2011

Time	Activity
08:30–09:00 a.m.	Registration
09:00–09:45 a.m.	<p><i>Welcome Address</i> Scott Evans, Australian Embassy</p> <p><i>Opening Address</i> Dr. Gwang-jo Kim, Director, UNESCO Bangkok</p> <p><i>Opening Remarks</i> Margaret Proctor, Chair, Regional Committee for the UNESCO Regional Convention</p>
09:45–10:30 a.m.	Photo Session and Tea Break

Time	Activity
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<p><i>Revised UNESCO Regional Convention with particular reference to benefits and obstacles, ratification process, support materials including UNESCO Portal on Higher Education and other issues</i></p> <p>Presenter: Anna Glass, Section for Higher Education, UNESCO Paris Chair: Molly Lee, UNESCO Bangkok</p>
12:00–01:30 p.m.	Lunch
01:30–03:00 p.m.	<p>RECOGNITION TOOLS <i>National Qualification Framework: Development, Implementation, Issues, Barriers, and Solution : The Malaysian Case</i></p> <p>Presenter: Dr Zita Mohd Fahmi, Deputy CEO, Malaysian Qualification Authority Chair: Margaret Proctor, Chair, Regional Committee for the UNESCO Regional Convention</p>
03:00–03:30 p.m.	Afternoon Tea
03:30–05:00 p.m.	<p>RECOGNITION TOOLS <i>National Qualification Framework: Development, Implementation, Issues, Barriers, and Solution: The New Zealand Case</i></p> <p>Presenter: Judith Brown, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Quality Assurance, New Zealand Qualifications Authority Chair: Margaret Proctor, Chair, Regional Committee for the UNESCO Regional Convention</p>
06:30–08:30 p.m.	<p><i>Welcome Dinner</i> Host: Australian Embassy Speech: The Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, HE Mr James Wise Venue: Imperial Queen’s Park Hotel</p>

DAY 2: 24 JUNE, 2011

Time	Activity
09:00–10:30 a.m.	<i>National Information Centres – Country Perspectives</i> Presenter: Margaret Proctor, Australia & Weimin Che, Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange <i>Diploma Supplements</i> Chair: Dr Zita Mohd Fahmi, Deputy CEO, Malaysian Qualification Authority
10:30–10:50 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:50–12:30 a.m.	<i>Diploma Supplements</i> Presenter: Professor Richard James, Melbourne University, Australia Chair: Colin Tarr, Acting Manager Qualifications Recognition Services New Zealand New Zealand Qualifications Authority
12:30–14:00 p.m.	Lunch
14:00–15:45 p.m.	<i>UNESCO-OECD Guidelines & UNESCO-APQN Toolkit</i> Presenter: Wong Wai Sum, Joint Quality Review Committee, Hong Kong Chair: Anna Glass, UNESCO Paris
06:30–08:30 p.m.	Conference Dinner Host: UNESCO Bangkok Venue: Imperial Queen’s Park Hotel

DAY 3: 25 JUNE, 2011

Time	Activity
08:30–10:45 a.m.	<i>Lisbon Convention National Information Centres and ENIC-NARIC</i> Presenter: Dr. Carita Blomqvist, Finnish National Board of Education Chair: Professor Richard James, Melbourne University, Australia
10:45–11:00 a.m.	Tea Break
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<i>The Road Forward: Steps to Ratification and Implementation of the Regional Recognition Convention</i> Facilitator : Molly Lee, Margaret Proctor, Anna Glass
12:00–01:30 p.m.	Lunch
01:30–03:00 p.m.	<i>Workshop sessions on Country Challenges to Ratification and Implementation of the Regional Recognition Convention</i> Facilitator : Molly Lee, Margaret Proctor, Anna Glass
03:00–03:15 p.m.	Afternoon Tea
03:15–04:30 p.m.	<i>Panel discussion of Challenges to Ratification and Implementation and Measures and Actions to Overcome Them</i> Chair: Molly Lee, UNESCO Bangkok Panel: Dr. Carita Blomqvist, Finnish National Board of Education & Dr Zita Mohd Fahmi, Deputy CEO, Malaysian Qualification Authority & Margaret Proctor, Australia & Colin Tarr, New Zealand
04:30–04:45 p.m.	<i>Closing Remarks</i> Presenter: Dr. Molly Lee, UNESCO Bangkok