



2016 ERI-Net Annual Meeting

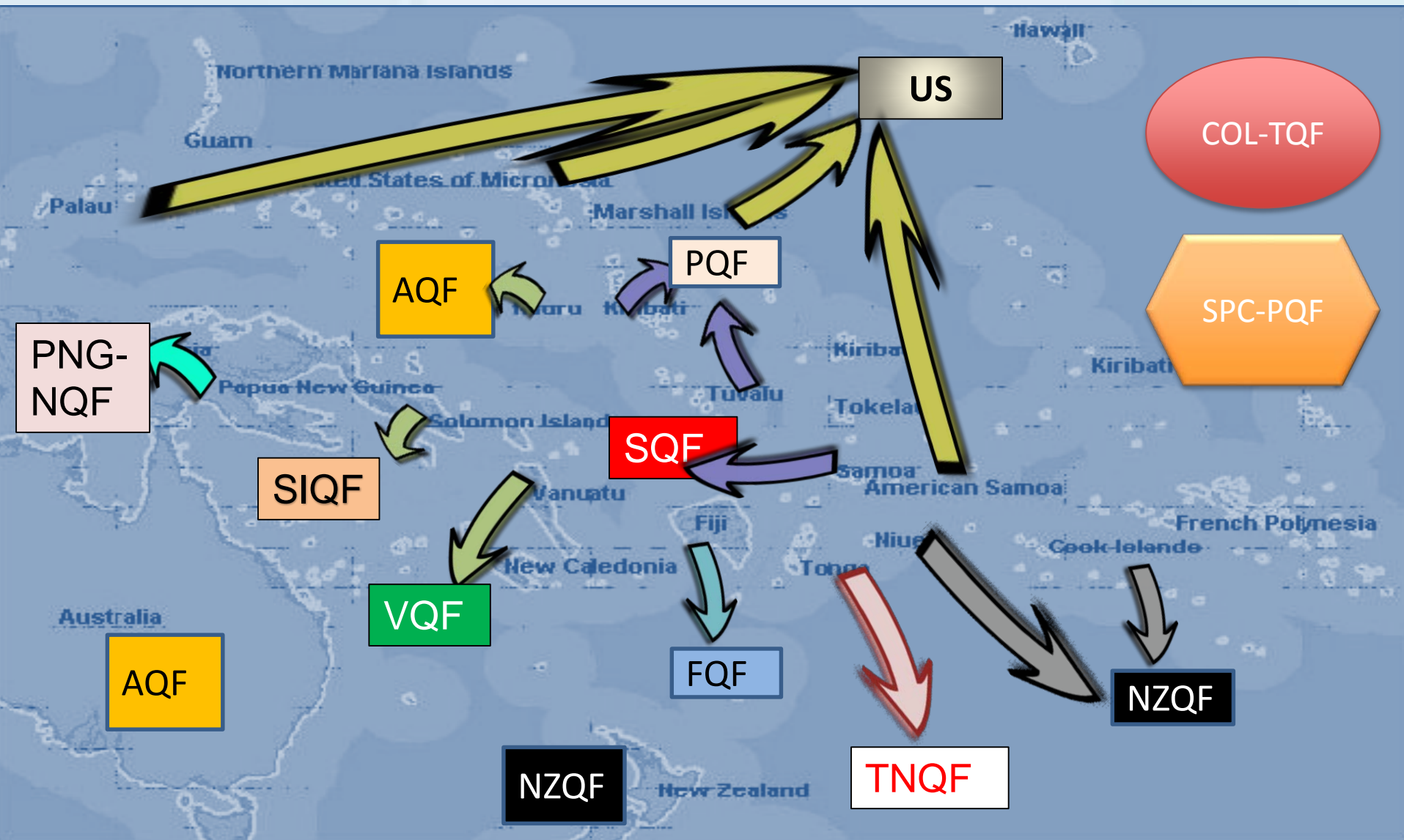
Education Strategies and Responses to Globalization and Regionalization

22-24 February, 2016 Tokyo, Japan

The Pacific Qualifications Framework
(PQF)



The Pacific Overview





Pacific Education

- Varies by country:
 - The Northern Pacific Countries follow the US Education and qualifications System
 - Cook Islands and Niue follow the New Zealand education and qualifications system;
 - Nauru follow the Queensland State of Australia education system
 - Other Pacific countries follow their own education systems (inherited from UK, New Zealand and/or France)



Pacific Higher Education

- **Fiji:** 3 Universities + TVET Providers+ Theological Schools
- **PNG:** 6 Universities=15 other HE Institutions+250 TVET providers and Community Colleges
- **Samoa:** 1 University = TVET Providers
- **Solomon Islands:** 1 University + TVET providers
- **Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu:** TVET Providers



Socio-cultural Factors

- Most are small Island states
- Economies are small
- Education and training sectors are small



Political realities

- Pacific countries are independent democratic states
- Regional organisations complement national development
- Pacific Forum Leaders have endorsed the Pacific Framework for Regionalism



The Pacific Qualifications Framework

Genesis:

- 2001 Forum Education Ministers Meeting
- 2004: Heads of Education systems recommended to begin with a Register as prerequisite to a Framework
- However, having a Register without a Framework was just an inventory of varied qualifications and institutions
- So we started with a meta-framework for already developed national qualifications frameworks (Fiji, ...)



THE PACIFIC REGIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK - Template

Levels	New Zealand	Australia	Fiji	Tonga	Samoa	TQF ¹	PROF TEMPLATE
10	Doctorate	Doctorate	Doctorate	Doctorate	Doctorate	Doctorate	Doctorate
9	Masters	Masters	Masters	Masters	Masters	Masters	Masters
8	PG Diplomas	PG Diplomas	PG Diplomas	PG Diplomas	PG Diplomas	PG Diplomas	PG Diplomas
7	Bachelors	Bachelors	Bachelors	Bachelors	Bachelors	Bachelors	Bachelors
6	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma
5	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma
4	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates
3	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates
2	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates
1	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates

Note:

1. The sections shaded (in **GREEN**) are naturally benchmarked against international qualifications. There is a wave of global activities in addressing quality assurance measures for Bachelors' degrees and above. E.G. INQAAHE, APQN, CoL, Bologna process etc
2. Section in **YELLOW** will be the Template for the PROQF

¹ Transnational Qualifications Framework developed by the Commonwealth of Learning for its Virtual Universities of Small States



The Pacific Qualifications Framework



The Pacific Qualifications Framework

PQF Level	Qualification Titles	Credit Profile
10	Doctorate	360 – 480
9	Masters	120 – 240
8	Bachelor Honours	120 – 480
	Post Graduate Diplomas	60 – 120
	Post Graduate Certificate	120 – 240
7	Bachelor degree	360 – 480
	Graduate Certificate	60 – 120
	Graduate Diploma	120 – 240
6	Diploma; Associate Degree; Advanced Diploma	120 – 240
5	Diploma	120 – 240
4	Certificate	40 – 240
3	Certificate	40 – 240
2	Certificate	40 – 120
1	Certificate	40 – 120



Challenges

- The rate and Capacity of national agencies to accredit Institutions and Programmes in particular
- Stakeholder awareness, engagement and confidence
- Stakeholder know-how in the application of the PRQS for their purposes
- Relationships with other national and regional Frameworks



Challenges

- Domains of Level Descriptors are nationally determined
- Formulating learning outcomes and recognition of qualifications



Lessons Learnt

- Growing recognition of the PQF as an important instrument in regional capacity building and support of regional initiatives;
 - Development of regional qualifications
- The PQF & PQAF facilitate the development of regional qualifications given capacity limitations and constraints
- Importance of a robust regional quality assurance that complements national quality assurance;



The Future...?

- Confirm the role of the PQF/PRQS in supporting Labour Mobility schemes;
- Develop and populate a Regional Skills Register
- Explore quality assurance of certification of awards
- Further develop regional qualifications as needed



Fine-tuning

- Need to consider the formulation of Learning Outcomes against QF Level Descriptors;
- Capacity building on Programme accreditation and quality audit;
- Alignment of the PQF against other NQFs and RQFs
- Development of a Skills Register re-labour mobility



THANK YOU