



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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Item: EDNET 7.13

## **(HRD 04/2008) Mapping of Qualifications Frameworks Across APEC Economies**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: Australia



**31<sup>st</sup> Human Resources Development Working  
Group Meeting  
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Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

# Mapping of Qualifications Frameworks across APEC Economies

## Completed Project

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## Background

Joint Statement by Education Ministers,  
3rd AEMM, 2004

“economies need effective governance including transparent, accountable, regulatory, accreditation, and quality assurance systems”.

### Response

a survey of qualifications frameworks across APEC economies.

## Project Details

**Completed:** May 2009

**Proposing economy:** Australia

**Co-sponsors:** New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, Canada, Malaysia, Korea

**Funding:** Operational Fund

**Project Manager:** Monash University-ACER Centre for the Economics of Education and Training (CEET)

**Type of project:** Survey (11 responses)/analysis



## Key Objectives

1. Raise awareness of NQFs
2. Increase transparency and reliability of NQFs
3. Share knowledge of NQF development
4. Identify future areas of collaboration



## Project Method

- Research and analysis of publicly available information on NQFs, their uses and benefits, and international trends
- Conduct survey on qualifications frameworks
- Analyse data
- Produce report on findings and recommendations



## Project Focus

- Where and why of qualifications frameworks
- Benefits, areas for improvement, lessons learned
- Feasibility of an Asia-Pacific Qualifications Framework
- Recommendations for future areas of collaboration



## Project Findings

- Survey Questionnaire

Survey data from 11 economies

- With frameworks: *Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines and Thailand*
- Implementing frameworks: *Korea*
- Considering frameworks: *Brunei Darussalam, Japan and Indonesia*
- Other: *United States*



## Project Findings (continued)

- NQFs diverse in structure, coverage, purposes
- benefits of NQFs
  - match workers' skills to industry needs
  - facilitate lifelong learning
  - provide transparency for qualifications
  - support skills standards
  - assist quality assurance
  - aid international qualifications recognition
- NQFs not usually used for credit systems



## Project Findings (continued)

- International links
  - potential for international recognition of qualifications, mobility of labour and students
- Regional framework
  - surveyed economies support, with reservations : should be voluntary, not costly, modest in relationship with NQFs
  - economies to be able to choose to use, align their NQFs, compare and align qualifications.



## Project Findings (continued)

- Feasibility of a Regional Framework
  - must resolve economies' needs
  - should be voluntary to address diversity of economies
  - investment to be modest
  - consider options for using the EQF
    - establish a RF utilising core features of EQF; or
    - align NQFs with the EQF; or
    - build Asia- Pacific chapter to EQF



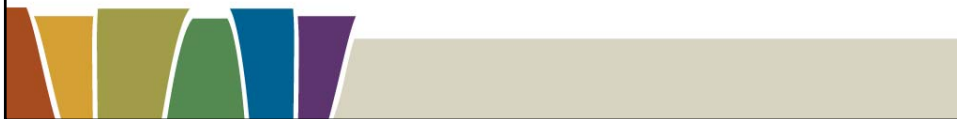
## Report Recommendations

1. Economies with NQFs to identify key lessons.
2. Ongoing dialogue among APEC economies, other Asia-Pacific countries.
3. Develop for comment a proposal for a minimalist/voluntary regional framework aligned to EQF.



## The way forward . . .

A New Project Proposal for an APEC Regional Seminar on Qualifications Frameworks to build on outcomes of the mapping project (August 2010)



## Distribution of Report

Available electronically from APEC Project Database, HRDWG wiki



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## Thank You

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