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

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Australia
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*

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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

Thank You

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