



PRESS RELEASE

ASEAN, EU hold seminar on Qualifications Framework and Recognition in the Digital Era

JAKARTA, 25 June 2019 – A Seminar on Qualifications Frameworks (QF) and Recognition in the Digital Era was held today in Jakarta, Indonesia to enhance understanding of the role of national and regional qualifications frameworks in ensuring the recognition of degrees, skills and competencies in higher education in the advent of digital era.

National and regional stakeholders, including members of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework Committee attended the seminar to explore the challenges that digitalisation poses to recognition. Together with international experts, participants discussed the various roles that frameworks have and explored how to foster this potential in the future.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nasir, the Minister of Research, Technology and Higher Education (MoRTHE) of Indonesia described the Indonesian Qualifications Framework (IQF) and its application for recognition across higher education institutions. At the national level, IQF acts as a neutral reference that will allow for the comparison of learning outcomes resulting from formal or non-formal education, as well as learning outcomes acquired through job experience. Qualifications frameworks also provide valuable inputs in the crafting of national standards and criteria facilitates the recognition of the skills and qualifications earned by learners.

Bala Kumar Palaniappan, Director for External Relations, highlighted the region's aspiration to facilitate the seamless movement of skilled labour within ASEAN through harmonisation and standardisation. Considering that ASEAN is home to about 7,000 higher education institutions, quality assurance and the fair recognition of degrees, which is critical in the establishment of a common ASEAN higher education space, will require a cornerstone of trust, which is facilitated by qualifications frameworks.

EU Ambassador to ASEAN Francisco Fontan said "SHARE is committed to build harmonisation of a higher education area within the ASEAN region. It aims at strengthening and disseminating the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) and the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF) with a focus on higher education. Within the frame of bi-regional dialogue and mutual exchange, the European partners share their experiences and good practice of the Bologna Process and build on the work already underway across the ASEAN region, especially on the achievements of the AQRF Committee and the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN).

The Regional Seminar is continuation from previous collaborative programs between MoRTHE and the EU SHARE on International Dialogue on ASEAN Quality Assurance & Qualifications Framework on February 2017. The aims of collaborative programs align with function and policy of Directorate of Learning and Students Affairs of MoRTHE, particularly Quality Assurance Directorate, so that it will accelerate policy development in terms of qualification framework and quality assurance for higher education in Indonesia

The Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education of Indonesia (MORTHE); ASEAN Secretariat; and the European Union Mission to ASEAN jointly organised the seminar.

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Background Information

About SHARE

ASEAN and EU have jointly designed SHARE to support the ASEAN Higher Education Area, to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance the quality and competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education institutions and students, and thereby contribute to an ASEAN Community beyond 2015. On this journey, SHARE provides ASEAN with relevant experience and expertise from the European Higher Education Area.

A consortium of British Council (lead), Campus France, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Nuffic, the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the European University Association (EUA) are working with ASEAN counterparts to implement SHARE from 2015 to 2019. There are three main components (so-called Result Areas) during the implementation of SHARE (1) Policy Dialogue, (2) Qualifications Frameworks (QFs) and Quality Assurance (QA), (3) Credit-Transfer and Mobility.

Result Area 2 aims at strengthening and disseminating the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) and the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF) with a focus on higher education. Within the frame of bi-regional dialogue and mutual exchange, the European partners share their experience and good practice of the Bologna Process and build on the work already underway across the ASEAN region, especially on the achievements of the AQRF Committee and the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN).

SHARE's work in the field of Qualifications Frameworks and Quality Assurance

SHARE's activities in Result Area 2 cover background research and policy advice, regional and national stakeholder dialogue and capacity development. In order to widen the body of available knowledge on the state of the art of ASEAN higher education, SHARE published a series of studies focusing on Qualifications Frameworks, Quality Assurance, Credit Transfer Systems and Degree Structures. These analyses investigate current regional developments and provide recommendations to policy makers at both, regional and national level. Furthermore, deriving from this research, outcome-based education has been identified as the unifying factor for the advancement of both quality assurance and qualifications frameworks including credit transfer systems and degree structures across ASEAN partner countries.

Results of the studies as well as contributions by two ASEAN-European Expert Working Groups shaped the conceptual design of SHARE's activities in Result Area 2 and helped to meet the demands of ASEAN beneficiaries. This fed into a series of national dissemination workshops aimed at raising awareness for the regional frameworks and implications at national level.

To date, eleven national dissemination workshops in eight ASEAN Member States (AMS) have been conducted successfully in close collaboration with the relevant national authorities. These workshops addressing experts, policy makers, university leadership as well as representatives from the labour market reached nearly 1,000 stakeholders and more than 500 institutions in the ASEAN region. In order to sustain the work at national level and to set the foundation for dissemination activities in the future, a regional 'Peer-Multiplier-Training' was conducted in June 2018 with the ambition to create a pool of SHARE higher education and quality assurance reform "champions".