

**SHARE Regional Conference “Preparing for the Future: The Role of ASEAN (Higher) Education Frameworks in a Disruptive World”**

**Joint Student Statement on Qualifications Frameworks and Quality Assurance**

Bangkok, 31st October 2018

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. We, the student representatives from 10 ASEAN Member States and European Student Union, gathered on 29th, 30th and 31st October in Bangkok on the occasion of the SHARE Regional Conference on Qualifications Frameworks (QF) and Quality Assurance (QA) entitled “Preparing for the Future: The Role of ASEAN (Higher) Education Frameworks in a Disruptive World”. This statement is the result of extensive discussions with representatives from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as well as national, regional and international bodies, and labour market representatives during the event.

2. We recognise that Quality Assurance and Qualifications Frameworks play pivotal roles in improving the enhancement and harmonisation of education throughout the ASEAN region. Participating in this conference, combined with our mobility experiences, gave us more understanding about QA and QFs as well as the achievements and challenges of implementing them.

3. With this statement, we present a common vision towards strengthened regional and global cooperation in enhancing the quality and competitiveness and inclusiveness of higher education institutions to support us in transforming ASEAN higher education space to be more advanced and inclusive.

**II. ACHIEVEMENTS**

We, as student representatives from 10 ASEAN Member States and European Student Union, hereby declare that students, institutions, Member States, and the ASEAN region derive the following as achievements of quality higher education:

1. Increased employability in the ASEAN region in order to support ASEAN Economic Community Goals
2. Greater acceptance of intra-ASEAN student mobility by HEIs, students, employers and society as a whole
3. More valuable knowledge and experience gained by the students who experienced intra-ASEAN mobility programs

### **III. CHALLENGES**

Although the achievements of quality higher education within ASEAN are clear, there are still some challenges that students, institutions, and national and regional bodies face:

1. Lack of awareness of academic staff, students and stakeholders on QF and QA
2. Limited funds allocated for regional initiatives for HEIs in the ASEAN region
3. Manpower shortage in HEIs' International Relations Office (IRO) and QA
4. Lack of accessibility of students and HEIs in using the regional platform (SHARE Platform)
5. Insufficient information on course descriptions and learning outcomes by HEIs
6. Substantial gap between HEIs' resources and assessment methods
7. Lack of student perspectives in assessing the HEIs, curriculum design, decision making, HEIs governance and QA

### **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

As young people who have personally experienced the achievements and challenges of quality higher education, we respectfully ask the relevant stakeholders to consider the following recommendations:

#### Regional actors

1. ASEAN Secretariat to take a leading role in synergising and merging AUN, SEAMEO RIHED, and SHARE credit transfer systems into a unified ASEAN CTS program
2. SHARE to foster further collaboration between students, academic staff and IROs, for example in setting up messaging function on the SHARE platform to facilitate communication between students and host universities

### ASEAN Member states

3. Policymakers and HEIs to invest in capacity-building training and seminars, in order to enable meaningful student participation in curriculum design, institutional governance and quality assurance
4. ASEAN Member States to accelerate the establishment of independent and autonomous NQA agencies
5. ASEAN Member States to accelerate the development and alignment processes of national frameworks with ASEAN frameworks

### Higher Education Institutions

6. HEIs to improve the recognition procedures with regards to the transfer of credits obtained from host universities in the framework of the SHARE programme
7. HEIs to make results of all internal/external QA reviews accessible to the relevant stakeholders
8. HEIs to make students equal partners throughout all internal and external Quality Assurance processes in HE as well as QA agency governance
9. HEIs to support the establishment of self-governed student expert pools on Quality Assurance in order to foster a sustainable quality culture and knowledge transfer within the student body
10. HEIs to ensure that students and academic staff are proficient in English to facilitate excellent international students learning experiences
11. HEIs to develop understandable and comprehensive learning outcomes and make basic university information more accessible

### Students

12. Students from across ASEAN Member States to support student organisations at the ASEAN level, such as SHARE Alumni Association and ASEAN Student Union

## **V. CONCLUSION**

The realisation of this joint statement will be accomplished through enhanced cooperation among students and relevant stakeholders. This Joint Statement will be submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat and member states.

**Adopted** in Bangkok this 31st October 2018

**Acknowledged by:**

The student participants of the SHARE Regional Conference on QA and QFs