



ASEM DIALOGUE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE AND RECOGNITION
25-26 AUGUST 2014
SUNWAY PUTRA HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

The ASEM Dialogue on Quality Assurance and Recognition hosted by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Malaysia and ASEM Education Secretariat at the Sunway Putra Hotel, Kuala Lumpur from 25-26 August 2014. This Dialogue had successfully attracted the interest of many participants who directly and indirectly involved in the field of quality assurance in higher education. The Dialogue received an outstanding response where 75 participants from 11 Europe countries, 14 Asian countries and 12 international organizations involving ASEM experts and representatives from quality assurance agencies, recognition organisations, higher education institutions, governments and other related stakeholders attended the Dialogue.

The Dialogue was interactively conducted based on three major themes:

- 1) Regional Quality Assurance Framework and Regional Qualifications Framework – Commonalities and Differences;
- 2) Cross Border Higher Education; and
- 3) Strengthening Partnership and Cooperation in Implementing Initiatives towards Facilitating Recognition.

Encompassing both local and international presenters, the Dialogue was able to deliberate on a broader aspect of issues relating to quality assurance and recognition. For the theme on Regional Quality Assurance Framework and Regional Qualifications Framework – Commonalities and Differences, topics on interregional recognition of quality assurance agencies and the

complexities, demands and impacts on qualifications framework were discussed. The presenters involved were Mr. Josep Grifoll from the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), Professor Zita Mohd Fahmi from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) representing ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN), Mr. Jens Bjornavold from the European Center for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) and Ms. Teresita R. Manzala from the Professional Regulation Commission, Philippines representing the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQR) Task Force.

For the theme on Cross Border Higher Education, the session was utilised with presentations on the evolution of transnational education, new approaches on regulating the quality of cross-border education and the cross border quality assurance network in higher education. The speakers involved in the session are Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rozilini M. Fernandez-Chung of HELP University, Malaysia, Mr. Anthony McClaran of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), United Kingdom and Dr. Lin Mengquan of the China Academic Degrees & Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC).

The theme on Strengthening Partnership and Cooperation in Implementing Initiatives towards Facilitating Recognition involved discussions on bridging declaration, interregional credit transfer, comparability exercise and recognition of transnational qualifications. Presentations were delivered by Mr. Wang Lisheng of China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC), China, Dr. Taiji Hotta of Hiroshima University, Japan, Professor Zita Mohd Fahmi of the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and Mr. Che Weimin of Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE).

The two-day event witnessed an in-depth sharing of ideas and feedback on current policies and ongoing initiatives in relation to quality assurance and

qualifications systems, recognition, and cross border higher education among ASEM members. The interactive sessions have promoted better understanding on establishing a parallel quality, standards and outcomes in order to address the fast changing global movements as well as to look into the possibility of mutual recognition on the quality assurance and qualifications systems between regions. The participants look forward to more dialogues between ASEM member countries in the future to enhance the existing collaborations as well as to increase the level of awareness, appreciation and common understanding of issues related to quality assurance and recognition.