

# **Progress Report on Working Group on Implementing ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration**

**20 Nov, 2017 Seoul, Korea**

## **Cause**

Referring to Paragraph 16 of the *Conclusions of the Chair* of the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting of the Ministers for Education held in May, 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, the Ministers “fully endorsed this Declaration (the Beijing Declaration) and welcomed China’s offer to coordinate a working group to explore concrete steps to implement the Declaration in close cooperation with existing structures, active in the recognition field”.

## **Members**

Asia (6): China (Secretariat), Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Korea

Europe (8): Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, the United Kingdom

International organization: (1): ASEAN University Network (AUN).

## **Meetings**

The Working Group has held five consecutive meetings in Kunming, China (2013), Riga, Latvia (2014), Hangzhou, China

(2015), Tallinn, Estonia (2016), and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2017). These meetings discussed the implementation progress of the three Action Plans, and reached consensus on the future plans for the Working Group upon fully exchanging opinions.

## **Progress**

### **1. Asian National Information Centres Coordinating Website ( ANICCW )**

The ANICC Website officially went online during the ASEMME5 in April, 2015. Currently 24 countries, 10 from the Asia-Pacific region and 14 from other regions of the world, have joined the ANICCW. 43168 visitors have visited the website since its open-up in April 2015, according to the real-time access counter on the homepage.

ANICCW aims “to share information and facilitate joint research and collaboration on qualification recognition in the ASEM region”, to facilitate mobility in Asia, and to promote establishment of NICs of ASEM member countries in Asia in order to achieve an ANIC network as soon as possible to realize balanced educational exchanges between Asia and Europe.

### **2. Cross-border Quality Assurance Network ( CBQAN )**

The Inaugural Meeting of CBQAN has been successfully held in Haikou, China, on 20-21, December 2016. Terms of Reference and the Consensus of CBQAN have been accepted in principle on the meeting, and future plans for the Student Portal,

and drafting of *Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-border Higher Education by CBQAN* were discussed. Currently 16 institutions from 13 countries have joined CBQAN. The Second Meeting of CBQAN will be convened in 2018, and will be hosted by the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

The establishment of CBQAN aims to build a platform for Asian and European countries to know, understand and learn from each other, to promote communication among organizations and projects, and to improve the quality and international recognition of cross-border education models, such as jointly running schools, distance education and the third-party education.

### ***3. Handbook of Guidelines, Principles and Good Practices on Recognition***

The first draft of the *Handbook* is almost finished and has been sent to member countries for feedback. Now the fundamental structure of the Handbook is established.

The *Handbook* aims at providing advice on regulation of qualification recognition for reference to Asian and European countries.

# **Progress Report on Expert Working Group on Interregional Credit Transfer Mechanisms and Learning Outcome Systems**

**20 Nov, 2017 Seoul, Korea**

## **Cause**

Referring to the *Conclusions by the Chair* of the Fourth and Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting of the Ministers for Education held respectively on 13-14 May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and 27-28 April 2015 in Riga, Latvia, Ministers “supported to establish an expert working group discussing interregional credit transfer mechanisms and learning outcome systems”.

## **Members**

Asia (5): China (Secretariat), Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand

Europe (7): Belgium( Flemish ), Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, the United Kingdom

International organization: (1): ASEAN University Network (AUN).

## **Meetings**

The First Meeting of the Expert Working Group was held in Beijing, March 2016.

## **Progress**

### **1. Research**

The Expert Working Group undertook collaborate research and drafted the *Report on Comparative Analysis of Policies and Practices of Credit Transfer and Learning Outcome in Countries in Asian And European Regions*. The Report includes comparative studies on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS), and UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS), and maps current situation of credit transfer and learning outcome recognition delivered by some countries including the United States, Canada , Australia, and Korea. It also states existing problems and challenges in credit transfer and learning outcome recognition between Asia and Europe.

### **2. International Forum**

The International Forum on Cross-border Education (2016) was held on 20-21 Dec, 2016 in Haikou, China.

Present at the forum were international participants from nearly 20 countries and regions, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Ireland, Romania, Thailand, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Australia,

New Zealand, Mongolia, and Hong Kong, as well as participants from 5 international organizations, including International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), the ENICs, ASEAN University Network (AUN) and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). Also, there were well over 400 Chinese participants, including staff from China's cross-border education management organizations, quality assurance, evaluation and recognition administrators from nearly 200 universities in China, university staff in charge of graduate development and international cooperation, experts and scholars.

The forum, with the theme of “Cross-border Education Quality Assurance in the Context of Globalization”, serves as an exchange platform for work in Asia-Europe qualification recognition, credit transfer and learning outcome recognition under the ASEMME framework, as well as work in development and implementation of national qualification frameworks. Eventually, the forum aims to facilitate international recognition of qualification, credit and learning outcome, and to guarantee and improve the quality of cross-border education.

### **3. ASEM Study/Courses Portal**

The Expert Working Group collaborates with CBQAN to promote ASEM Study/Courses Portal, a platform aimed at

facilitating cross-border student mobility, providing authoritative, and quality assured university programs and courses available for the students conveniently and efficiently to find and apply.

Currently the Expert Working Group is designing the overall plan for the Portal, and the processes and standards for selecting programs and courses.