



Action Plan on Building A Website for the Asian NIC-NARICs

● Background

Following Item IV of *ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration (Beijing Declaration)*—the networks of national information centres in the European and Asian regions are encouraged to work closely with regard to inter-regional cooperation and information exchanges on recognition matters;

and

echoing Item 17 of *Conclusions by the Chair of the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME4)*—the Ministers welcomed China's offer to set up a website including information on ANICs, in order to share information and facilitate joint research and collaboration on qualification recognition in the ASEM region. Moreover, cooperation between Asian and European recognition experts and between Asian NICs and ENIC-NARICs should be encouraged to improve communication between the ASEM regions,

the Working Group proposes to make “Building a Website for the Asia NIC-NARICs” as one of the Action Plans of the Working Group.

There are existing mechanisms in the European region, the ENIC-NARICs website (<http://www.enic-naric.net/>), which is a daily exchange platform for European NICs and NARICs, collecting information on education of member countries, and bodies responsible for recognizing educational qualifications. But there does not exist currently a similar platform in Asia.

Following the *Beijing Declaration* was drafted in September 2012 in Beijing and the 4th ASEMME meeting in May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, China started to design the website of Asian NIC-NARICs.

This document reports on the initial work to date and proposals on the content, the working mechanism and timelines for the development of the platform.

● Proposed Contents

Five primary aspects of contents proposed are proposed for the website, namely:

- Education Information,
- Joint Researches,
- Recognition Collaboration,
- Quality Assurance and
- Practical Information.

Education Information provides information including qualification recognition activities, up-to-dated information on education system, legal documents (such as education laws, regulations and conventions), competent authorities for qualification recognition, credential regulators, qualification framework, quality assurance and so on.

Joint Researches provides information including joint research achievements, such as publications and statistics, as well as research symposiums and forums.

Recognition Collaboration provides information including recognition cooperation agreements, recommendations, guidelines, in addition to comparison of national qualification frameworks.

Quality Assurance provides information including quality assurance system of member countries, ongoing QA news, comparative researches, assessment results of higher education institutions, QA activities (forums, annual meetings and so on).

Practical Information provides information including scholarships, programmes for international students, visa policies, and application services for qualification recognition and so on.

● **Mechanism**

- China, as the group leader, coordinates to set up a working group for collecting information, while the ASEM Asian member countries will automatically become the website members and other Asian countries will become the website members on a voluntary basis.
- Secretariat is set up in China (CDGDC), with responsibilities in developing, operating and maintaining the website, drafting terms of reference, and coordinating member countries.
- Member countries provide relevant information to the secretariat in accordance with information formats, and shall be responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of information provided.
- Information provided by the member countries need to be reviewed (only formats) before being posted online.

● **Proposed Schedule**

December 2013—the Working Group reviews the functions and structure of the website;

December 2013~April 2014—system development is completed, information of member countries starts to be collected, and report is ready to submit to the ASEM senior official meeting;

May 2014~April 2015—pilot website is online, and member countries continue to provide relevant information;

May 2015—report of the pilot website is ready to submit to the ASEMME5 through senior official meeting. If approved, the website is official online and connected with ENIC-NARICs.

Responsible countries: China (CDGDC) and Indonesia; participating countries: Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, and UK.



Chair of the Working Group on Implementing ASEM Recognition Declaration