



Terms of Reference

Working Group on Implementing ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration

A. Background

In December 2011, according to the Conclusions by the Chair of the 3rd ASEMME, Austria held the “First Working Group Meeting on Drafting the Convention on the Recognition of Qualification in Higher Education in the Asian and European Regions” in Vienne, which initiated the work of recognition of qualification in higher education in Asian and European regions.

In September 2012, supported by the Ministry of Education of China, China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre (CDGDC) held “the Second Working Group Meeting on Drafting the Convention on the Recognition of Qualification in Higher Education in the Asian and European Regions”, known as the “Beijing Declaration”

In May, 2013, ASEMME4 was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Ministers welcomed China’s offer to coordinate a working group to explore concrete steps to implement the *ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration* (hereinafter referred to as *Beijing Declaration*).

B. Mandate of the Working Group

To strengthen and facilitate dialogue, coordination, collaboration and promotion of qualification recognition in higher education among the ASEM member countries, with emphasis on working out concrete and practical activities and long-term mechanism in accordance with the Beijing Declaration, in order to foster a strategic cooperation in qualification recognition, credit transfer, comparative researches on national qualification frameworks and harmonization of academic standards.

C. Members and Mechanism

1. Members

- The working group shall be established under the Asia-Europe Meeting of

Ministers for Education;

- Members shall fulfil obligations in accordance with the mission of the working group;
- Asian and European members shall be balanced;
- Each member countries can only appoint one representative as one member of the working group.

2. Mechanism

- The working group shall meet at least once a year;
- The country for hosting the working group meeting shall be rotated in ASEM member countries;
- The hosting country shall be determined on a voluntary basis and approved by the previous meeting;
- Member countries shall be in principle responsible for expenses of attending the working group meeting, while the hosting country shall provide accommodation, necessary administrative supports, the arrangement of facilities, documentation and hospitality.
- The Working Group is expected to provide a progress update and recommendations to the annual Senior Officials meetings and the next ASEMME meeting in Latvia in 2015.

D. Activities

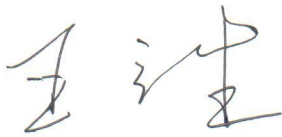
The working group shall, in line with the Beijing Declaration, work out action plans that will contribute to the promotion of qualification recognition and to facilitate dialogue in this regard; more specifically, the Working Group should:

- identify the major obstacles and challenges in qualification recognition among the ASEM member counties;
- propose and support policy implementation and action plans to promote qualification recognition among the ASEM member counties;
- share information of current and developing good practices on qualification recognition;

- promote cooperation and capacity building of qualification recognition bodies among the ASEM member countries;
- facilitate cooperation and exchanges, as well as to expand networking of qualification recognition bodies among the ASEM member countries and with those of other regions.

E. Other matters

The Terms of Reference should be reviewed regularly and amended accordingly if/when consensus is reached by the Working Group.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized Chinese characters, likely representing the Chair of the Working Group.

Chair of the Working Group on Implementing ASEM Recognition Declaration