

The Fourth Working Group Meeting on Implementing ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration

Consensus

Tallinn, Estonia

April 14-15, 2016

Referring to Paragraph 16 of the Conclusions by the Chair of the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting of the Ministers for Education (ASEMME4) held on 13~14 May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Ministers welcomed China's offer to coordinate a working group to explore concrete steps to implement the Declaration on the Cooperation in Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in Asian and European Regions ("ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration").

The Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Implementing ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration was held on 14–15 April, 2016, in Tallinn, Estonia, hosted by Estonia ENIC/NARIC together with the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. 13 delegates from 8 countries in total (China, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Philippines, Romania and the United Kingdom) attended this meeting. Austria, Belgium (Fr.), Brunei Darussalam, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Portugal and Republic of Korea were unable to be present.

The meeting discussed the implementation progress and future activities of the three Action Plans, and reached the following agreements:

Action Plan I: Building the website of Asian NICs (ANICCW)

1. To make a proposal to the ASEMME6 to accelerate the establishment of the Asian Network of National Information Centres;
2. To explore ways to enhance connections between the Networks of Asian and European National Information Centres, through websites of ANICCW and ENIC-NARICs;
3. To encourage more ASEM member states to join the ANICCW;
4. To provide opportunity for member countries to publish web links of their recognised and quality assured HEIs on their country page.

Action Plan II: Drafting the Handbook of Guidelines, Principles and Good Practices on Recognition

1. As agreed, the function of the Handbook is a reference tool, providing practical and feasible mechanisms and criteria for qualification recognition practices to promote fair qualification recognition in ASEM region.
2. To conduct research into challenges and problems of implementing the existing international, regional and national qualification recognition manual or toolkit, in order to achieve the goal of bridging the gap between Asia and Europe on qualification recognition practices, by establishing a joint research team coordinated by China and supported by all the ASEM countries.

Action Plan III: Establishing Cross-border Quality Assurance Network (CBQAN)

The Working Group agreed to support CBQAN to carry out the following activities:

1. to undertake comparative studies on QA practices, in order to raise quality awareness of both providing and receiving countries;
2. to work out standards and criteria of course selection for the ASEM Course Portal;
3. to hold the first CBQAN meeting by the end of 2016;

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Implementing ASEM Recognition Declaration were reviewed and revised accordingly.

The Working Group agreed to have its fifth meeting in a country in Asia in early 2017. Malaysia expressed willingness to host the next meeting.

The Working Group expressed gratitude to the strong support from the Estonia ENIC/NARIC, and Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia for hosting the 4th meeting.

16 April, 2016 Tallinn