EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE MECHANISM IN THE CONTEXT OF ASEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION
Why ASEAN Higher Education Qualification Framework

- ASEAN community realisation
- ASEAN higher education common space
- ASEAN integration
Why External Quality Assurance Matters to ASEAN

- Democratisation of knowledge and increase in access
- The private revolution
- The diversity and unprecedented growth of higher education institutions
- Internationalisation or providers
What Have We Learnt from ASEAN Members

- Diversity in approach, methods and tools
- Active external and internal quality assurance systems
- Fledging but practical structure
- Disparity in terms of quality development standards
Key Trends

- External quality assurance in place but need to be strengthened
- Move to rank university voluntarily / extra accreditation (regarded as part of external mechanism)
- Significant trend to strengthen internal quality assurance process – self-recognition and self-accreditation
Key Quality Assurance Issues in the Region

- Ensuring external and internal quality assurance (QA) system work together productively
- Lack of resources for QA institutions
- Fragmented regulatory framework – several departments and ministries
- Policy restrictions
- Lack of leadership
Challenges Ahead

- The development of common quality assurance principles
- Capacity building in all areas of cooperation
- Promoting the benefit of quality assurance broadly
Purposes of AQAN

- To promote and share good practices of QA in higher education in the Southeast Asia region
- To collaborate on capacity building of QA in higher education in the region
- To share information on higher education and facilitate mutual recognition of qualifications throughout the region; and
- To develop a regional QA framework for Southeast Asia
Objectives of ASEAN QA for HE

- Promote regional harmonisation in higher education
- Facilitate regional recognition of qualifications
- Encourage national QA systems to benchmark against the Framework
- Serve as a common reference point for national QA
- Systems to align and harmonise their systems
1. External QA Bodies

Established EQA Bodies

- **Brunei**: BDNAC – 2000
- **Cambodia**: ACC – 2003
- **Indonesia**: NAAHE – 1994
- **Laos**: QACE – 2012
- **Malaysia**: MQA – 1997
- **Philippines**: PAASCU – 1957 + 4 other QA Bodies
- **Singapore**: CPE – 2000
- **Thailand**: ONESQA/OHEC – 2000
- **Vietnam**: GDETA – 2003
- **Myanmar**: developing
2. EQA – Standards and Practices

- Accreditation process
- Programme based or institution based
- QA standards and criteria
- Participation of stakeholders
- Professionalism and ethical conduct
- Training of reviewers
- Continuing quality improvement
3. Institutional Internal Quality System

- Institutional responsibility for quality
- Quality as a social responsibility
- Quality culture
- Internal QA systems and processes
- Generally reflects EQA’s standards
- Formal mechanisms for approval, periodic review and monitoring of programmes
- Effectiveness of QA system
4. Qualifications Framework

- Generic guides pertaining to the characteristics of a national qualifications framework
- Underpinned by National QA systems
- Information center
- Levels
- Learning outcomes
- Credits and student learning time

Status of Qualifications Framework

- Malaysia (MQA-2007)
- Thailand (TQF-2009)
- Indonesia QF (IQF-2012)
- Brunei NQF (BNQF-2012)
- Philippines QF (PQF 2013)
- Vietnam (work in progress)
- Cambodia (work in progress)
- Laos (work in progress)
- Singapore
- Myanmar
ASEAN - HARMONISATION

- A process that recognises diversity of higher education systems, cultures and traditions within the region while promoting common practices and guidelines
- A major challenge to ASEAN members
- A response to major reforms in education and training across the region
The way forward

- A continuing journey of collaboration and cooperation
- Working towards common agreements and consensus on the four sets of Principles
- Alignment and convergence of HE systems
- Building trust and confidence among EQA bodies
- Mutual recognition of accrediting decisions
- Endorsement from the ASEAN Ministers of Education
THANK YOU