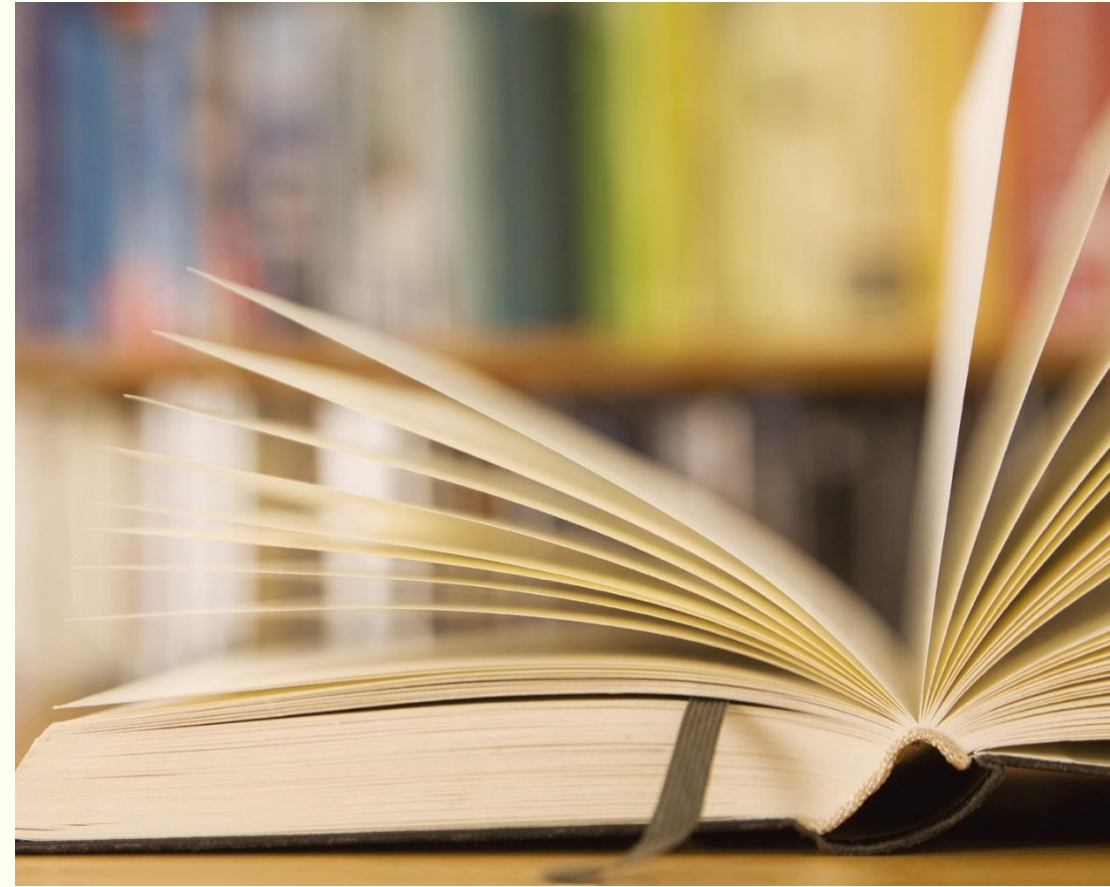


EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE  
MECHANISM IN THE CONTEXT  
OF ASEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE  
FRAMEWORK IN  
HIGHER EDUCATION





# 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 of 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

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- 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

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- 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

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

# Purposes of AQAN

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- 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



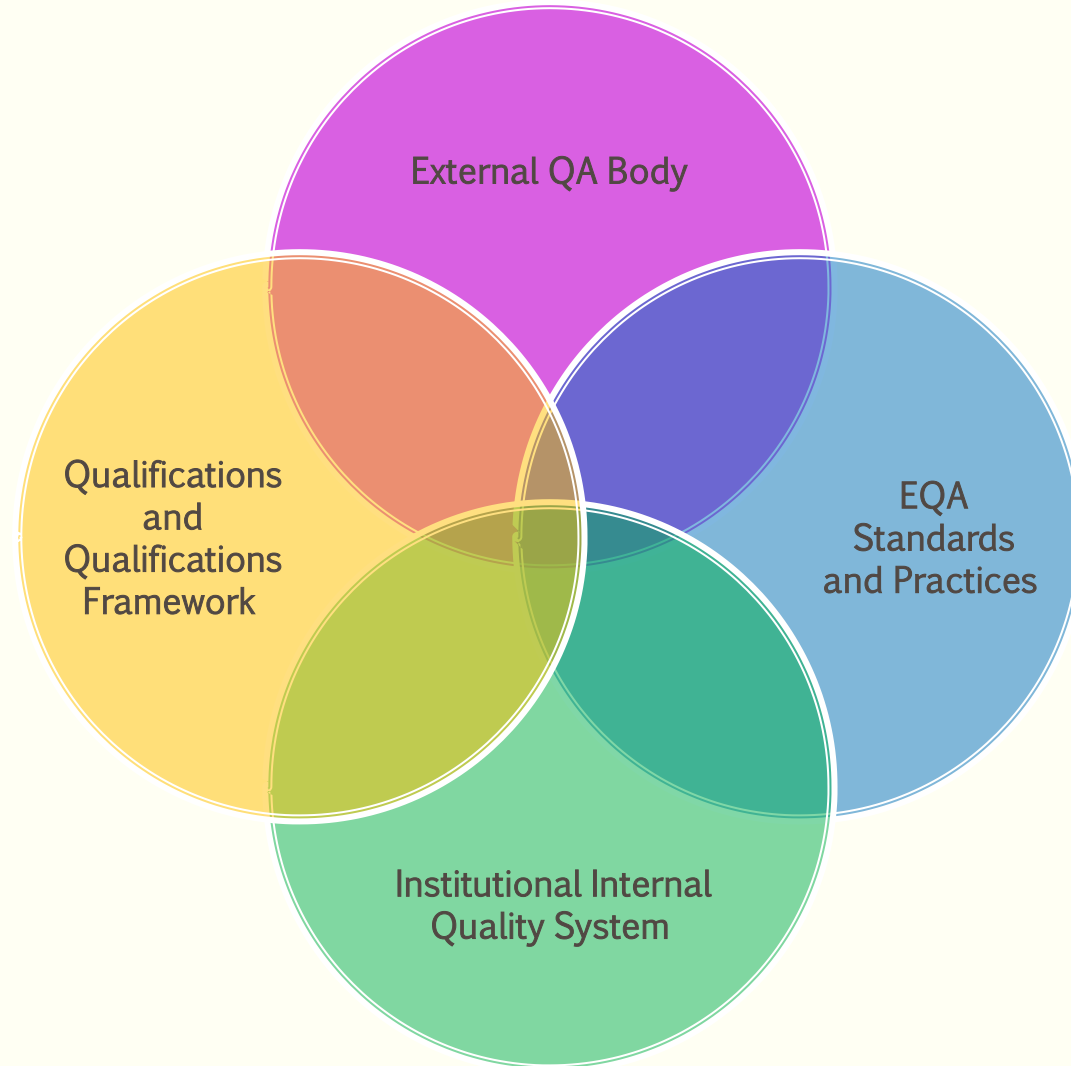


# Objectives of ASEAN QA for HE

- 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

# ASEAN Framework for Higher Education

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# 1. External QA Bodies

- Establishment-legal authority
- Functions
- Policies
- Resources
- Independence
- Information center

## 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

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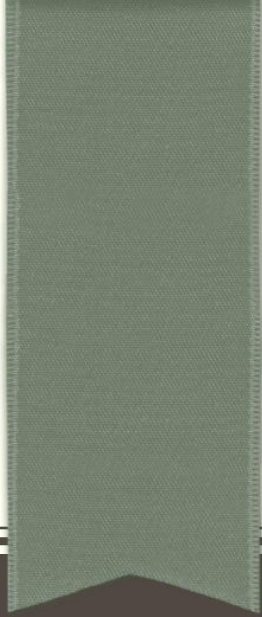
- A process that recognises diversity of higher education systems, cultures and traditions within the region while promoting common practices and guidelines
- A major challenge to ASEAN members
- A response to major reforms in education and training across the region

# The way forward

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- 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