



ASEAN QUALIFICATIONS REFERENCE FRAMEWORK

Developing an ASEAN Common Reference Framework

Facilitating increased cross-border flows of services among the Parties is one of the objectives of ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA). However, many ASEAN countries are experiencing the challenges of rapid development, structural reform, and high levels of labour mobility. Assisting Parties to adapt regulations and to reduce barriers to trade in services – including through flexible and responsive education and training systems with efficient skills recognition processes– would be crucial in meeting these challenges.

National qualifications frameworks (NQFs) are an important tool supporting the efficient and effective recognition of skills and qualifications within and between countries. The absence of comparable NQFs impairs efficient and effective qualifications recognition and quality assurance of education services which in turn limits trade and investment in services, including education services and temporary movement of natural persons.

Towards this end, the FTA Joint Committee endorsed the project on *Education and Training Governance: Capacity Building for National Qualifications Frameworks* for ASEAN. The project aims to harmonise regulatory arrangements between participating countries, which underpin the recognition of qualifications and quality of assurance of education provision through the development of mutually comparable NQFs based on a common reference framework (CRF) for ASEAN. To undertake the design and management of a CRF to support the development of mutually comparable NQFs, the Joint Committee in May 2012 also endorsed the creation of a multi-sectoral *ASEAN Task Force on NQF* who shall comprise representatives from the AANZFTA Committee on Trade in Services, education, labor/manpower, qualifications and other relevant agencies.

The deliberations of the ASEAN Task Force on NQF during its first meeting (from 31 October to 1 November 2012), lead by the Chair Madam Manzala from the Phillipines, was successfully promoted the significant importance to develop ASEAN common reference framework. This meeting also pointed a position of Vice Chair held by Indonesian delegation (Ms. Megawati Santoso).



AQR Task Force on its first meeting (from 31 October to 1 November 2012)

The draft of AQRF has finally being endorsed by Ministries of Economics, Ministries of Education, as well as Ministries of Labour and Trades form the 10 member states.



The Seventh Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (TF-AQRF) was held from 7 to 8 October 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was chaired by Prof. Maria Cynthia Rose B. Bautista, Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education of Philippines, and co-chaired by Ms. Megawati Santoso, Head of Indonesia Qualification Framework Team, Directorate General of Learning and Students Affairs, Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education. The meetings agreed on steps for AQRF implementation.



AQRF Task Force on its 7th meeting from 7 to 8 October 2015

Further information regarding AQRF can be extracted from these three following documents.