Fostering student mobility within ASEAN

by strengthening

the ASEAN Quality Assurance System (QA)
and
the Qualifications Reference Framework (QF)
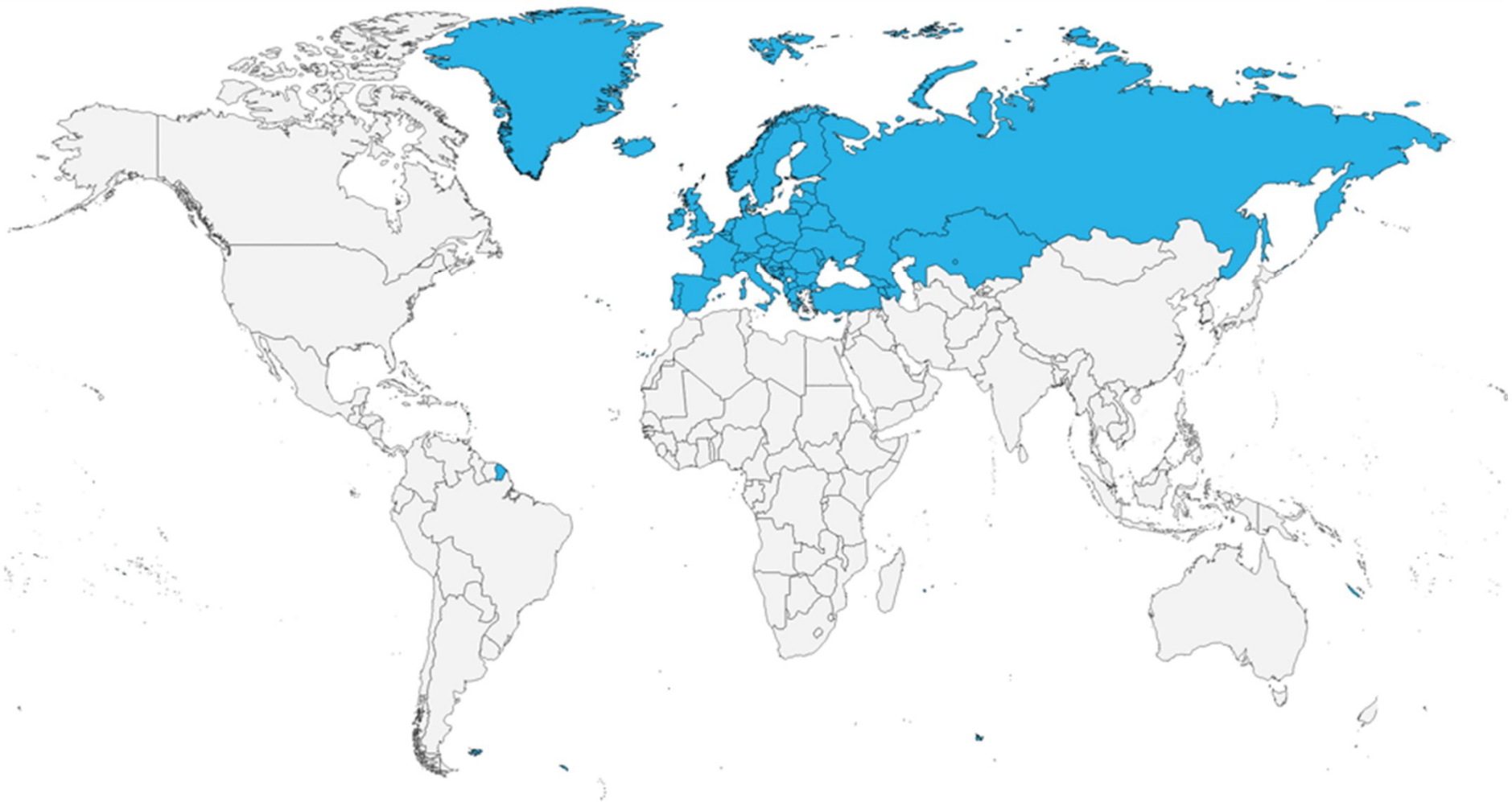
Dr. Irene Jansen, DAAD regional Office Jakarta

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aiec
2016 Melbourne

Bologna Process – European Higher Education Area (49 members – ready for collaboration with other regions)

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Overview

I. **The Role and Players of QA and QF in ASEAN**

II. **DAAD's Involvement in the ASEAN QA Project**

III. **DAAD's Involvement in the SHARE Project: Result Area 2a (Qualifications Frameworks) & 2b (Quality Assurance)**

IV. **AQRF and AQAF: Inception, Endorsement, Implementation, Issues and the Way Forward**

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Role and Players of QA and QF in the ASEAN region's HE Convergence Process

in a nutshell:

- **AANZFTA**: design of national **Qualification Frameworks** in all ASEAN countries

- **APQN**: support of **QA Agencies** in Asia and the Pacific

- **AQAN**: support of **QA Agencies** in ASEAN

- **AUN**: forming of networks for exchange and allowing for **recognition**

- **ASEAN QA**: **training** of **assessors**

- **RECOTVET**: cooperation on the **training** of **TVET personnel** in Southeast Asia

- **SEAMEO**: fostering of **mobility** (AIMS)

- **SHARE (consortium)**: Strengthening of regional cooperation, enhance **quality**, competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education institutions; supporting mutual **recognition** and student **mobility** among higher education institutions in ASEAN to strengthen people-to-people connectivity; creating impact at **policy**, institutional and individual levels

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ASEAN – QA Partners

ASEAN-QA Mission and Task

ASEAN-QA is a joint initiative which aims at developing and strengthening the capacity in the field of quality assurance (QA) in the ASEAN region through <u>dialogue and training events for professionals</u> based on regional standards.

The workshops of the ASEAN-QA is divided into two target groups: **Internal Quality** Assurance (IQA) and **External Quality** Assurance (EQA).

The peers addressed by the IQA Track are university leadership, university staff and the universities' QA-Officers.

The EQA workshop was designed for national accreditation agencies' staff and Ministry of Education representatives.

ASEAN-QA Alumni take ownership: **SQUARED (ASEAN-QA2):** http://www.uni-potsdam.de/nachrichten/detail-latest/article/2016-09-30-qualitaetsentwicklung-hoch-zwei-alumni-uebernehmen-das-feld.html

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Along Comes The SHARE Programme   *www.**share-asean**.eu/*

Overall Objective

To support ASEAN in regional harmonisation of higher education by sharing European expertise
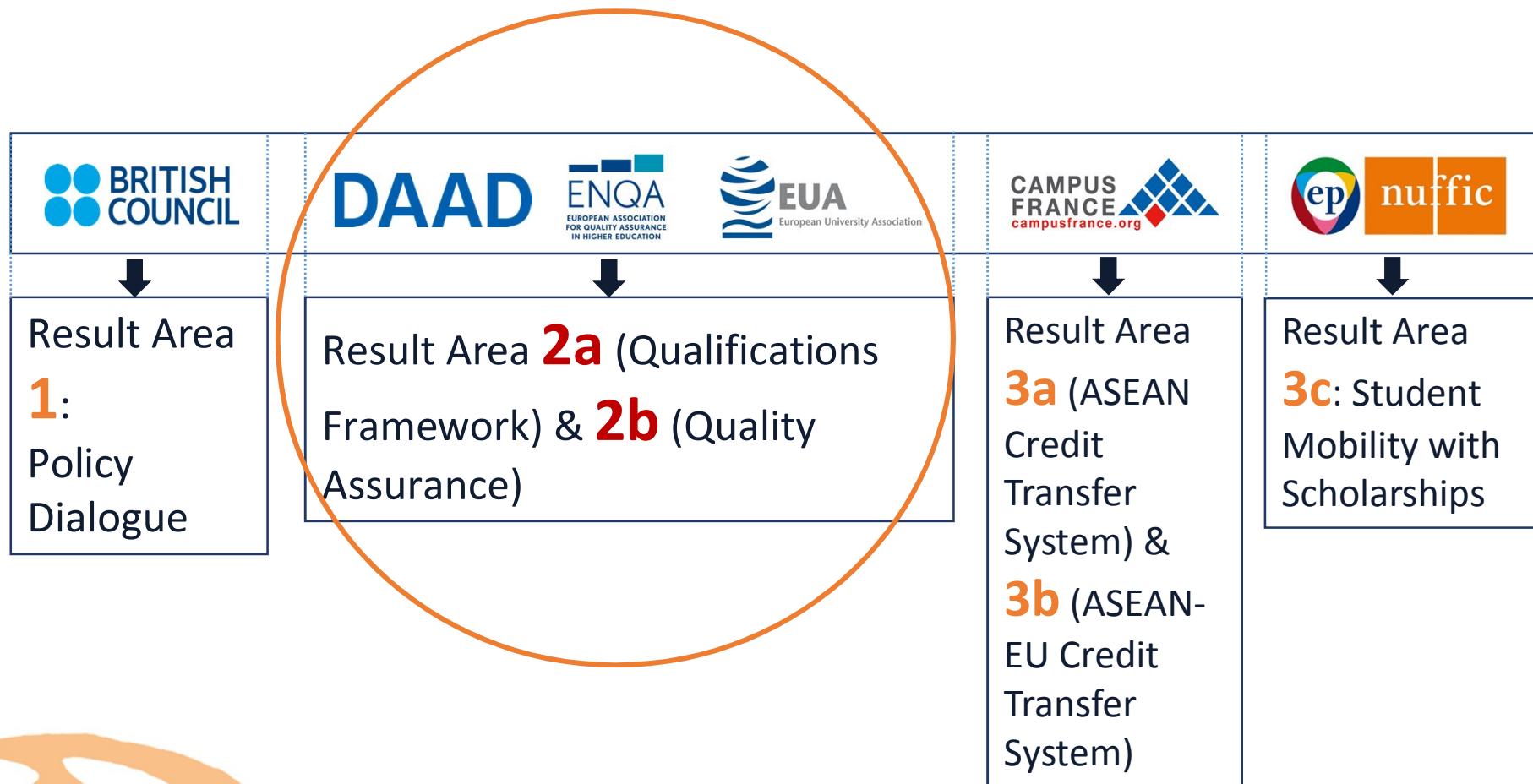
(2015 – 2018)

The SHARE Programme

The European Union Support to Higher Education in The ASEAN Region

BRITISH COUNCIL	DAAD · ENQA · EUA	CAMPUS FRANCE	ep nuffic
Result Area **1**: Policy Dialogue	Result Area **2a** (Qualifications Framework) & **2b** (Quality Assurance)	Result Area **3a** (ASEAN Credit Transfer System) & **3b** (ASEAN-EU Credit Transfer System)	Result Area **3c**: Student Mobility with Scholarships

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The Significance of Regional Frameworks: AQRF and AQAF

AQAF and AQRF are expected to be the framework when dealing with Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEAN+3 (China, Korea and Japan), ASEAN–Australia/New Zealand (ASEAN +2), East Asia Summit, APEC and other QF and QA dialogue partners in Europe and elsewhere.

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Joint Tasks / QA, QF

ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF):

- **Further develop the ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework (AQRF); support dissemination of the AQRF and alignment of NQFs**
- **Enhance knowledge of and capacity building on QF**

ASEAN Quality Assurance (AQAF):

- **Support development of Quality Assurance systems**
- **Further develop the Quality Assurance Framework; harmonise the national QA frameworks through expansion of ASEAN QA Framework in HE**
- **Further develop guidelines for reviews of Higher Education Institutions and External Quality Assurance Agencies**
- **Identify needs of and support capacity building at selected institutions (incl. assessors)**

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QA/QF Roadmap under SHARE

ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF):

2015: **Background studies on QF and degree structures** → Setting up **expert working group** →
study visit to Europe (QA & QF)

2016: **National workshops on NQF and alignment with AQRF** (total of 3 workshops)

2017: **National workshops on NQF and AQRF** (total of 5 workshops)

2018: **Training for Trainers**: Building a pool of trainers / EU SHARE experts; **Final Regional Conference** (QA &
QF)

ASEAN Quality Assurance (AQAF):

2015: **Background study on QA** → Setting up **expert working group** → **study visit** to Europe

2016: **Training packages for QA agencies and universities** to prepare assessment; Training for assessors;
Pilot assessment of QA agencies

2017: **Pilot assessment of QA agencies and universities**; **National dissemination workshops** on national
QA systems and alignment of national and regional standards

2018: **Pilot assessment of QA agencies and universities**; **Training for Trainers**: Building a pool of trainers /
EU SHARE experts; **Final Regional Conference**

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SHARE

The European Union Support to Higher Education in The ASEAN Region

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AQRF **Where are we?**

2015: AQRF was endorsed by AMS Ministers of Finance, Education and Labour and is now officially an ASEAN Framework for implementation. All ASEAN member states are developing national AQRF working groups.

ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework
and National Qualifications Frameworks

State of Play Report

October 2015

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www.share-asean.eu/

AQRF Endorsement and Implementation

ASEAN Member States National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Development

Country	Level of establishment	Stage
Brunei Darussalam	Inaugurated 2013, implemented	6
Cambodia	Inaugurated 2012, initial stages of implementation	5
Indonesia	Inaugurated 2012, initial stages of implementation	6
Lao PDR	Planned	3
Malaysia	Inaugurated 2007, fully implemented and at review stage	8
Myanmar	Planned	3
Philippines	Inaugurated 2012, initial stages of implementation	5
Singapore	Sector QF - Workforce Skills Qualifications system, Inaugurated 2003	7
Thailand	Inaugurated 2014, initial stages of implementation, 3 established sub frameworks (i.e. skills, professional, and higher education)	4
Vietnam	Planned	3

Source: Bateman & Coles (2015). EU SHARE ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework and National Qualifications Frameworks State of Play Report, p. 8.

Categories of NQF development:

1. No intent;

2. Desired but no progress made;

3. Background planning underway;

4. Initial development and design completed;

5. Some structures and processes agreed and documented;

6. Some structures and processes established and operational;

7. Structures and processes established for five years;

8. Review of structures and processes proposed or underway.

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AQRF Endorsement and Implementation:
Sample: Malaysian NRF Referencing to AQRF, IQF and NZQF

MALAYSIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK: QUALIFICATIONS AND LEVELS

MQF Levels	Sectors			Lifelong Learning
	Skills	Vocational and Technical	Higher Education	
8			Doctoral Degree	
7			Masters Degree	
			Postgraduate Certificate & Diploma	Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL)
6			Bachelors Degree	
			Graduate Certificate & Diploma	
5	Advanced Diploma	Advanced Diploma	Advanced Diploma	
4	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	
3	Skills Certificate 3		Certificate	
2	Skills Certificate 2	Vocational and Technical Certificate		
1	Skills Certificate 1			

Referencing of the Malaysian NQF to the ASEAN QRF, Irish NQF and New Zealand NQF

MQF	AQRF	IQF	NZQF
8	8	10	10
7	7	9	9
6	6	8	8
5	5	7	7
4	4	6	6
3	3	5	5
2	2	4	4
1	1	3	3
		2	2
		1	1

Source: Bateman & Coles (2015). EU SHARE ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework and National Qualifications Frameworks State of Play Report, p. 36.

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AQRF Endorsement and Implementation – Governance Related Post-Endorsement Issues I

Governance related implementation at a <u>Regional Level</u>

- Challenge of forging **consensus** over the selection of **ONE country representative to the AQRF Committee** by multiple agencies involved in the national qualifications framework

- Organization and orientation of the **AQRF Advisory Committee** for the referencing process

- **Timelines for referencing** start only in 2018; four countries expressed intention for formalization; no clear timelines for the other ASEAN Member States

- **Incorporation of the AQRF into a wider set of tools of recognition**
e.g. Mutual Recognition Agreements for accounting services, dental practitioners, engineering services, nursing services, surveying qualifications, architectural services, tourism services; UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Degrees in Higher education as amended in 2011

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AQRF Endorsement and Implementation – Governance Related Post-Endorsement Issues II

Governance related implementation at a National Level

- **Operationalization** of different levels and implementation of the **National Qualifications Framework**

- **Constitution** of a **National Referencing Committee** and **inter-agency preparedness** to meet the referencing requirements

Governance related implementation at Higher Education Institutions

- **Understanding** of NQF and AQRF and **alignment** of policies, programs (teaching and assessment) with NQF levels

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AQRF Endorsement and Implementation – Content Related Post-Endorsement Issues

Content related implementation across the Region

- **The role of AQRF** in the context of **lifelong learning and international relevance needs clarification**.

- **Lack of understanding and appreciation** of learning outcomes-based qualifications and its implications for teaching and assessment in most ASEAN Member States **needs to be addressed**.

- **The interconnections** among learner centred education, mobility of qualifications, international standards, frameworks, and quality assurance processes **need to be articulated**.

- Beyond policies and information campaigns, **there is a need for** education systems of the ASEAN member states to make the **paradigm shift** to lifelong learning that underlies learning outcomes as a metric of National Qualifications Frameworks and the AQRF.

AQRF Implementation – The Way Forward

The Future of the ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework (AQRF)

- An AQRF Committee is to be established
- Final endorsement and commitment of AMS Economic Ministers for AQRF support and implementation
- Enhanced support for the establishment and strengthening of the AQRF Committee [by Australia and New Zealand from June 2016 to June 2018 as endorsed by the AANZFTA FJC at their 8th Meeting on 13-18 March 2016 in Melbourne, Australia; AQRF linked to other regional qualifications frameworks even before its official endorsement]
- 4 AMS have expressed their intention to reference in 2018—Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand; the four countries will breathe life into the AQRF by the sheer act of referencing

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AQAF Where are we?

2008: **Not endorsed yet**! Kuala Lumpur Declaration led to the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) being established, as well as a tripartite collaboration agreement between the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO-RIHED), AUN and AQAN.

SHARE

State of Affairs and Development Needs

Higher Education Quality Assurance in the ASEAN Region

February 2016

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The Relationship between QF and QA

Interdependency between QF to QA

A well-functioning QF system is necessarily underpinned by a robust QA system with QA standards related to 1) the functions of approving agencies 2) systems for the assessment of learning and issuing of qualifications and 3) regulation of the issuance of certificates

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AQAN's AQAF Development

The ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) has developed the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF), and the 'Four Quadrants' of the AQAF are related to:

1. **External Quality Assurance Agencies (EQAA)** and their activities,

2. **External Quality Assurance (EQA) Standards and Processes** (e.g. accreditation),

3. **National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs)**, and

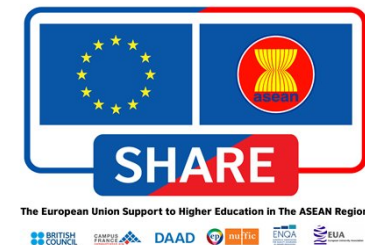4. **Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)** (e.g. quality management systems at university level).

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AQAF Development – The Way Forward under SHARE

Further development of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF)

- **AQAF Guidelines** for internal and external QA procedures are currently being developed as part of the **SHARE external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs) and higher education institutions (HEIs) Pilot Review Exercise** 2016/2017

- Selected EQAAs and HEIs will undergo **pilot review exercises** to map their QA processes to that of AQAF Guidelines

- PD 4:

TOWARDS A SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF QUALITY ASSURANCE IN ASEAN
THE FOURTH SHARE POLICY DIALOGUE
26-27 OCTOBER 2016, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN TINGGI

AQAN
ASEAN Quality Assurance Network

SHARE
The European Union Support to Higher Education in The ASEAN Region
BRITISH COUNCIL CAMPUS FRANCE DAAD nuffic ENQA EUA

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AQAF Development – The Way Forward I

Future development of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF) requires:

- **Political commitment, statements and goals** and **mandating and endorsing of monitoring and follow up mechanisms and instruments** (such as the AQAF) as well as the **clarification of roles of stakeholders**;

- More **autonomy for agencies and universities**;

- **Development of QA procedures** to include content and context-sensitive approaches;

- **National consolidation** between multiple standards of internal and external QA systems; and

- Consideration of national uniqueness and the voluntary nature of the AQAF, and the **balancing of diversity and harmonisation** between systems.

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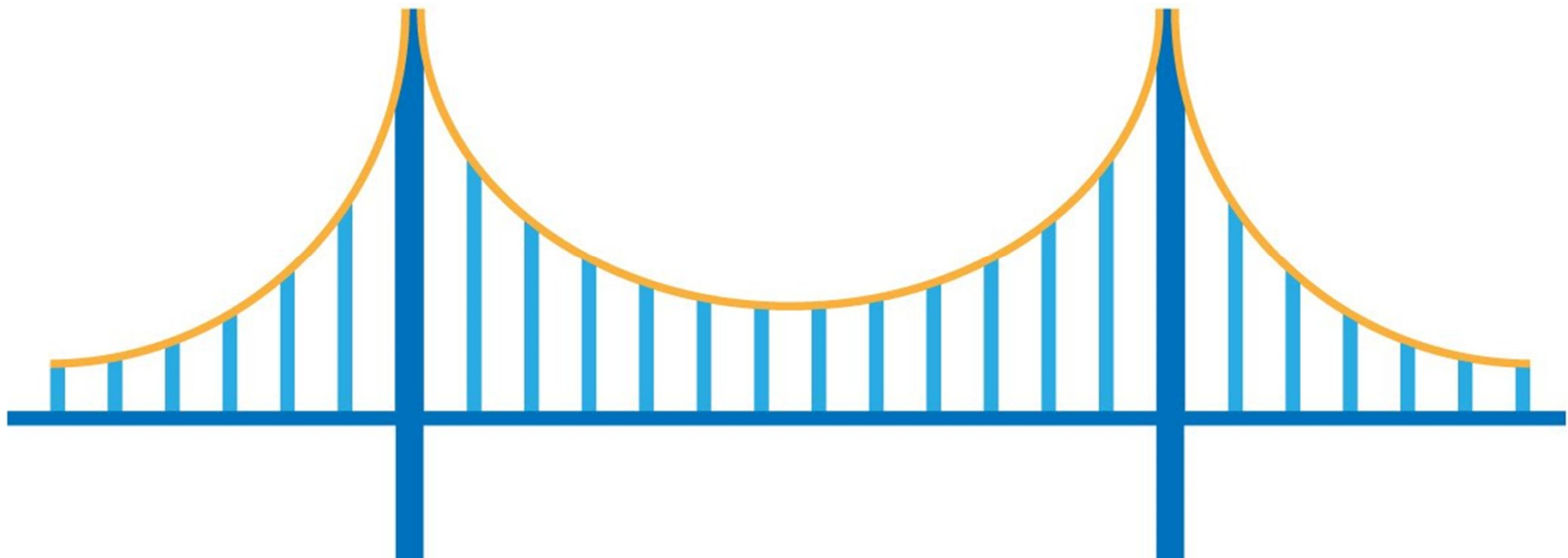
AQAF Development – The Way Forward II

The way forward for the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF)

Putting the AQAF on the political agenda to start a formal political endorsement process is still on-going.

A binding legal basis would be extremely helpful for implementing the AQAF principles at the HEI and QA agency levels.

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AQRF, AQAF and Recognition: Necessary but Insufficient

While AQRF and AQAF do **not guarantee** automatic mobility and recognition of qualifications across the region, they provide a **necessary** common set of core principles, values and practices to foster confidence and to build a zone of trust, enhance comparability and foster mobility.

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Thank You For Your Kind Attention!

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AQRF History from Inception to Endorsement

ASEAN QF Development

- **2007: ASEAN Charter** established a vision for a **single ASEAN Community**

- **2007: ASEAN Economic Blueprint** signed by ASEAN Member States (AMS) calling for cooperation on the **recognition of professional qualifications through harmonisation and standardisation** in preparation for the ASEAN Economic Community 2015

- **2012: Multi-sector task force established** to develop the **ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF)**

- **2015: AQRF endorsed** by AMS Ministers of Finance, Education and Labour and is now **officially an ASEAN Framework for implementation**. All ASEAN member states are developing national AQRF working groups

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History of ASEAN QA Development – Inception

ASEAN QA Development

- **2000: Bangkok Accord** on **ASEAN University Network (AUN) QA**
- **2007: ASEAN Charter** established a vision for a **single ASEAN Community**
- **2008: SEAMEO Council Meeting** agreed on "The Structured Framework for Regional Integration in Higher Education in Southeast Asia: the Road Towards a Common Space" on **quality assurance**, **credit system** and **student mobility** capacity building and promotion
- **2008: Kuala Lumpur Declaration** led to the **ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)** being established, as well as a **tripartite collaboration agreement** between the **Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO-RIHED), AUN** and **AQAN**

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