



Sustainable
Development
Goals

Bangkok Office
Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau
for Education



International Centre
for Higher Education Innovation
under the auspices of UNESCO
联合国教科文组织亚太地区教育创新中心

Regional Conference on Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Asia- Pacific

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***Quality Assurance in Cambodia
Shenzhen, People's Republic of China***₁

Contents

1. Quality Assurance System of Higher Education in Cambodia
2. Achievements
3. Challenges
4. Ways forwards

1. Quality Assurance System

A. ACC Background

- The establishment of the quality assurance system has reflected the implementation of the rectangular strategies and the government's policies in order to enhance the quality of higher education and to integrate Cambodia into the ASEAN, regional and global communities.
- ACC was founded in 2003, which was under the leadership of the Office of the Council of the Ministers.
- ACC was integrated into the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in 2013.

B. ACC Roles

ACC is the only public institution responsible for providing the accreditation to higher education institutions in Cambodia in order to enhance the quality of higher education through a standards-based approach.

C. National Standards

No.	Standard 2010 (264 indicators)	New standard (73 indicators)
1	Mission (13)	Vision, Mission and Goals (3)
2	Governing structure, Management and Planning (45)	Governance and Management (6)
3	Academic Program (27)	Academic staff (6)
4	Academic staff (57)	Academic Program (7)
5	Students and Student Services (36)	Student Service (13)
6	Learning Services (44)	Learning Resources (14)
7	Physical Plants (21)	Physical Resources (6)
8	Financial Plan and Management (14)	Financial Resources (7)
9	Dissemination of Information (7)	Internal Quality Assurance (6)

D. Assessment Procedure

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continuous quality improvement;- Focus on the output (student employability);- Diagnostic assessment;
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Standard-based approach;- Self-assessment reports and document analysis;- Site-visit and Exit meeting;- Rating scale (1-5);- Recommendations;- Consultation with assessed HEIs on Finding report before submitting to ACC committee;- Assessment status is publicized;- Grievance mechanism;
Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Accreditation is compulsory;- Both public and private HEIs;- Main and Branches are assessed separately;- Doctoral program accreditation;
Accreditation status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Full (5 years);- Provisional (3 Years);- Candidacy (2 years)

E. Cambodia National Qualification Framework (CNQF)

- In response to the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework which requires each member country to have the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)
- ACC, MoLVT (NTB) and MoEYS (DHE), coordinated by COM, have developed a draft of CNQF since December 2010.
- The draft was finalised and signed on 28 March, 2014;
- Its implementation has just started;

2. Achievements

2. 1. Achievements (2003-2013)

A. Legal Frameworks

- Decision on Assessment Criteria for the Foundation Year Program, 2004
- Decision on Credit System and Credit Transfer in higher education, 2004
- Decision on Assessor Recruitment Criteria, 2005
- Decision on the Official Implementation of the Minimum Standards, 2009
- Decision on Procedure and Process of Assessment for higher education institutions and Assessors, 2010
- Decision on Assessor Ethnical Codes of Conduct, 2010
- Accreditation guidelines, 2012

C. Assessment results

Foundation Year Program

The FYP assessment results

Cycle	Year	HEIs	Full	Provisional	Non-accreditation
First	2006-2007	33	0	31	2
Second	2009-2010	56	50	6	0
Third	2012-2013	55	50	5	0
	Total number of visits	144			

Institutional Accreditation

- In 2012, 5 institutions were granted accreditation.
 - ✓ provisional status: 4
 - ✓ candidate status: 1
- Assessment reports were sent to accredited HEIs and parent ministries.

2. 2. Achievements (From 2013)

A. Royal Decree Amendment

- Royal Decree on ACC Transfer to Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, dated October 24, 2013
- Royal Decree on Revision on some articles in the Royal Decree on Accreditation Process, dated December 19, 2014

B. Revision on the National Standards

- Consultative workshop on the National Standards for institutional accreditation with representatives from higher education institutions, Directorate General of Higher Education, Higher Education Department, Cambodia Higher Education Association, World Bank and UNESCO representatives and other relevant stakeholders;
- Decision on the official implementation of the National Standards, January 26, 2015;
- Dissemination workshop on the implementation of the National Standards for Institutional Accreditation.
- Pilot assessment of 49 HEIs in 2015 and 2016
- Another 5 assessments will be conducted in 2017

3. Challenges

- Budget plan for conducting assessment and accreditation in 2015 has been canceled;
- Qualitative-based and evidence-based assessment tools are new concept for both HEIs and assessors;
- There is a lack of trust on quality assurance system among implementers and relevant stakeholders;
- The assessment results have not been fully used in developing policies by ministries, development partners and other institutions;
- The culture of quality assurance has not yet been embedded in the Cambodian higher education context;
- The Implementation of NQF is limited.

4. Ways forwards

- Prepare ACC internal regulations;
- Continue to enhance capacity of assessors and ACC staff;
- Organize field trainings for higher education institutions on accreditation;
- Embed the culture of quality in the mindset among relevant stakeholders;
- Establish the data-base system for storing accreditation results and assessor profiles;
- Develop and revise the guidelines and procedures for institutional accreditation;
- Recruit and train newly selected assessors.

**Thank you very much for
your attention!**