Why do we need the 2011 Tokyo Convention now more than ever?

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Overview

I. Background

II. Overview of 2011 Tokyo Convention

III. Result of pre-survey

IV. Role of UNESCO

Pre-workshop Survey and Overview: Why do we need the 2011 Tokyo Convention now more than ever?
I. Background

Regional capacity building workshop in ratification and implementation of the 2011 Tokyo Convention, 1-2 June, 2017, Beijing, China
I. Background

The first Asia-Pacific Recognition Convention

- “Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific” was adopted in 1983 in Bangkok, Thailand
- 21 of the 48 UNESCO Member states has ratified

Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Holy See, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan
I. Background

Changes...

- Exponential growth of private and public providers
- Increased cross-border mobility
- Growth of ICT and qualifications earned through open and distance learning (ODL)
- A greater focus on quality assurance, learning outcomes

There were 4.1 m globally mobile students in the world in 2013 compared to 2m in year 1999

Between 1999 & 2013, Asia-Pacific’s global share of inbound mobile students grew by 164%
I. Background

Response: 2011 Tokyo convention

“Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education”
II. Overview of 2011 Tokyo Convention

Main Elements of 2011 Tokyo Convention (Excerpt)

- Article III: Make appropriate arrangements to **assess an application for recognition of qualifications**

  Transparent, coherent, and reliable procedures
II. Overview of 2011 Tokyo Convention

Main Elements of 2011 Tokyo Convention (Excerpt)

- Article IV, Article V and Article VI: At least assess, or recognise qualifications issued by other Parties that give access to or were obtained in higher education unless a “substantial difference” can be shown;

Article V.1
Each Party shall recognise, where appropriate, or at least assess partial studies completed within the framework of a higher education programme in another Party. This recognition shall consist of

Article IV.7
Qualifications obtained through non-traditional modes which allow access to higher education in one Party shall be assessed in a fair manner in other Parties.
II. Overview of 2011 Tokyo Convention

Main Elements of 2011 Tokyo Convention (Excerpt)

- Article VIII: Provide relevant information on their national higher education system and qualifications, as well as take adequate measures to develop and maintain a national information centre (NIC); **Promote information sharing and networking**

- Article VII: Make all reasonable efforts to develop procedures, including recognition of prior learning, to assess fairly and expeditiously whether **refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation** fulfil the requirements for access to higher education or for recognition of qualifications for employment activities; **Equity**
II. Overview of 2011 Tokyo Convention

Therefore,

Transparent, coherent, reliable procedure & information sharing (even partial & non-traditional studies) + equity

- Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education

- Cross-border mobility of Students
### II. Overview of 2011 Tokyo Convention

**Benefits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Member States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navigate diverse education systems – learn more!</td>
<td>Qualified students and labour and improved economic productivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve cultural competence</td>
<td>Fostering collaboration &amp; Creating sustainable peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees, displaced person integrate in communities</td>
<td>Reducing public expenditure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. Overview of 2011 Tokyo Convention

Current Status

Ratification of Member States

- As of June 2017, three Member States – Australia, China, and New Zealand – have ratified the 2011 Tokyo Convention
- Five Members States are needed for the Convention to enter into force.

What is Ratification?

- The commitment of a Member State to be bound by the aims and provisions of a Convention and to incorporate them into national legislation.
IV. Result of Pre-survey

Do you feel prepared to support ratification and/or implementation of the 2011 Tokyo Convention?

Answered: 9  Skipped: 20

- Not prepared: 22.22%
- Somewhat prepared: 33.33%
- Well prepared: 33.33%
- Other (please specify): 11.11%
Q: Obstacles and needs for ratifying and implementing the 2011 Tokyo Convention

✓ **Budget constraint** and provide the information

✓ **Convincing and seeking approval** from the policy makers:
   - It would be most helpful if UNESCO could discuss with and convince our executives/policy makers to realize the importance and advantage of ratifying the Convention.

✓ **Active communication** is required to make progress of ratification.

✓ **There are no reasonable obstacles and needs** not to ratify 2011 Tokyo Convention.
IV. Result of Pre-survey

Has a National Information Centre (NIC) been established and are its responsibilities regulated at national level?

- Yes: 8 (33%)
- No: 16 (67%)

Answered: 24

Does the NIC have a website?

- Yes: 5
- No: 3
IV. Result of Pre-survey

Results from 14 Session of Regional Committee (2016)

We have institutions similar to NIC..
...Is it NIC?
### Result of Pre-survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of the activities, tasks and responsibility of the NIC</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview of higher education (brief overview of the system or link)</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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<td>List of recognized higher education institutions (public and private)</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIC name, full address, phone number, email address and contact person</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>List of national education bodies responsible for higher education</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation of quality assurance in higher education</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procedures and criteria for the assessment of foreign qualifications</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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87.5% (7) respondents mentioned that their country has an NIC, and they were asked what type of information does it include. The breakdown of responses is as follows:

- **Description of the activities, tasks and responsibility of the NIC**: 87.5% (7)
- **Overview of higher education (brief overview of the system or link)**: 75.0% (6)
- **List of recognized higher education institutions (public and private)**: 75.0% (6)
- **NIC name, full address, phone number, email address and contact person**: 62.5% (5)
- **List of national education bodies responsible for higher education**: 62.5% (5)
- **Explanation of quality assurance in higher education**: 62.5% (5)
- **Procedures and criteria for the assessment of foreign qualifications**: 62.5% (5)

Answered: 8  Skipped: 21
IV. Result of Pre-survey

Q: Do you have specific questions or concerns with regards to the technical procedures for ratification that should be addressed during the workshop?

- We are keen to support capacity building to help other countries progress ratification.
- We have questions regarding the technical procedures for ratification of the 2011 Tokyo Convention. Questions about unification of recognition of qualification in higher education in Asia-Pacific with the European qualifications frameworks.
- Active communication is required to make progress of ratification
VI. Role of UNESCO

- Raise Awareness
- Monitor
- Implement
- Provide
- Share

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Thank you!

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