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

Quality Assurance of Diverse Modes of Learning in Samoa

June 16, 2017
Shenzen People’s Republic of China
Overview

• Background
• Quality Assurance System
• Modes of Learning
• Enhancing Quality and Relevancy
• Issues & Challenges
• Strengthening Partnerships
• Values & Benefits of a Quality & Relevant PSET
SQA Established by SQA Act 2006 & Continued under the SQA Act 2010
SQA’s legislated functions

Can be overall summarized as to:

• provide policy advice;
• coordinate and regulate qualifications and quality standards;
  • promote links and learning pathways, and;
• quality assure PSET in Samoa
Vision

“Relevant and quality assured Post School Education and Training (PSET) is inclusive and accessible for all learners in Samoa. (PSET Strategic Plan 2017/2020)
SQA Target Groups

- Post School Education and Training (PSET) is....
- All forms of education and training activities that occur outside the school system utilizing any structured mode of delivery. [SQA:2009]

Target Groups

- PSET Providers
  - Formal & Non Formal
- Government Ministries & Corporations
- Non Government Organizations
- Professional Associations
OVERALL CONCEPT OF THE SAMOA PSET QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

SQA defines the characteristics of degrees and related qualifications

SQA defines the characteristics of diplomas and related qualifications

SQA defines the characteristics of certificates and related qualifications

THE SAMOA QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>QUALIFICATION</th>
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<td>X</td>
<td>DOCTORATE</td>
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<td>IX</td>
<td>MASTERS</td>
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<td>VIII</td>
<td>POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS, POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATES, BACHELOR WITH HONOURS</td>
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<td>VII</td>
<td>BACHELORS, GRADUATE DIPLOMAS</td>
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Quality Assurance Processes
- PSET Provider Registration
- Programme Accreditation
  - Qualification Registration on SQF
- Quality Audit

Learners are certified when they meet the outcome standards of the qualification either through a programme delivered at an accredited provider or through a recognised process that recognises prior learning

International recognition

Qualifications Register
# Quality Standard

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<th>Element</th>
<th>Audit Standards for PSET Providers</th>
<th>Criteria for Provider Registration</th>
<th>Criteria for Programme Accreditation</th>
<th>Criteria for Recognition of Non-Formal Learning</th>
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<td>2. Programme development and review</td>
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<td>4. Financial resources</td>
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<td>7. Physical and learning resources</td>
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<td>8. Assessment and moderation</td>
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<td>9. Reporting learner achievement</td>
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<td>10. Research</td>
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Basic Principles

A. Quality in education and training is best assured by those primarily responsible for providing the education and training

B. The effectiveness of internal quality assurance processes needs to be externally evaluated to provide assurance to students and stakeholders

C. Focus on continuous improvement
Quality Assurance Processes

- Registration as Provider of PSET
- Accreditation of Programmes Panel
- Qualifications Registration
- Quality Audit of Providers
- Recognition of NFL
Modes of Delivery

- Face to Face Learning (Classroom Teaching)
- Non Formal Learning
- On the Job Learning
- Apprenticeship
- ODL – with the two universities (1 regional university and 1 private university)
- National University of Samoa – number of courses

Then there are students enrolled in online programmes with universities and providers internationally online, through scholarships etc.
Activities to enhance QUALITY PSET through the Delivery Modes...
• Quality Assurance System
  - Providers Registration
  - Programme Accreditation
  - Quality Audit
  - Recognition of Non Formal Learning

• Continuous Improvement Approach
• Samoa Qualifications Framework (SQF)
• International Recognition of Qualifications
  • Internal and External Review of SQA
  • Development of National Competency Standards (NCSs) & Samoa Qualifications (SQs)
  • Establishment and Implementation of TVET Trainers Professional Standards
  • Staff Professional Development Programmes
Activities to enhance RELEVANCE in PSET...
• Development of National Competency Standards (NCSs) & Samoa Qualifications (SQs) in SDS priority areas
• Establishment of Sector Advisory Groups
• Industry Members as Panel Members
• Development of Qualifications and Standards in Traditional Knowledge and Skills
• Professional Standards for TVET Trainers
• National Moderation system established

TVET Graduates Tracer Studies
  • Employers Survey
  • National Competency Standards in Generic Skills
  • Periodic Reviews of Qualifications to maintain relevance and currency
  • Recognition of NFL Activities
Issues & Challenges with the Modes of Delivery
• Communication & Information Sharing
• Curriculum/Programme Development
• Resources (time, human, finance, physical etc...)
• Record keeping of providers
• Culture of ‘Quality’
• Commitment – buy-in
• Territorialism
Strengthening Partnerships...
Strengthening Partnerships...

- MoA with PSET providers
- Sector Advisory Groups
- Professional Bodies
- Businesses and Private Sector
- Quality Assurance Panels
- Collection of valid information
- Sharing of information
  - Work with PSET providers to be responsive to the needs of our country
  - Linkage of skills needs of employers & training needs of PSET
Registered Providers
Accredited programmes
Recognition
Relevancy & Increased Access
Data – informed decisions
Fa’afetai tele lava.....