



Progress on Skills and Qualification Recognition

TAWG Chair: Sri Lanka

4th Senior Officials' Meeting of the Colombo Process

Galle Face Hotel, 24 August 2016



Contents

- Thematic Recommendations from the 3rd Senior Officials' Meeting
- Progress towards the recommendations
- Activation of Thematic Area Working Group on Skills and Qualification Recognition
- Regional level initiatives
- National level initiatives
- Ways forward



Thematic Recommendations from the 3rd CP SOM

- a) Reiterated that better and increased recognition of the skills and qualifications of workers from CP countries provide a path to enhancing their employability in overseas labour markets, increasing economic outcomes and reducing vulnerability through decent work terms and conditions, and **recognised the importance of developing frameworks for skills training and recognition aligned with destination countries**, in particular paying due regard to the ILO Regional Competency Standards.
- b) Welcomed the Pilot Project on Skill Development, Documentation and Recognition adopted by the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) which focuses on selected occupations in the UAE and Kuwait, reiterated the support of the CP for this pilot initiative through supporting the occupational certification of Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan construction workers and Filipino workers in other sectors going to these countries. Recommended the **wider replication of the pilot initiative in other CP countries**, and recognized that the ADD could be a platform for further collaboration and mutual recognition of qualification frameworks.



Progress towards the recommendations

- Activation of the Thematic Area Working Group (TAWG) on “Skills and Qualification Recognition” including **the identification of goals and key tasks of the TAWG**
- Continued support for the ADD adopted “Pilot Project on Skill Development, Documentation and Recognition” as **an inter-regional initiative**
- **National level initiatives** to strengthen strategies and policy frameworks and improve existing initiatives and practices.



Activation of TAWG on Skills and Qualification Recognition

- The TAWG was inaugurated through convening the First Meeting on 31 May 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- **TAWG Members:** Sri Lanka (Chair), Afghanistan, China, India, Indonesia and Pakistan
- Objectives of the First Meeting: i) **set goals and key tasks** of the TAWG, guided by the thematic recommendations of the 3rd SOM; ii) **stock take the CPMS' initiatives** to advance collaborative actions among CPMS and with CODs
- Tangible outcomes: i) Consolidated Goals, Key Tasks and Milestones document; ii) Meeting Minutes that document the national initiatives on Skills and Qualification Recognition in TAWG members and other CP Member States.



TAWG Goals and Key Tasks agreed by the CP participants

Goals	Key Tasks
1. Sending more skilled workers from CPMS to CODs	Exploring new labour markets where skilled workers are in demand through mapping exercise.
2. Promoting mutual recognition of skills and qualification frameworks within CPMS and between CPMS and CODs	Promoting mutual recognition of skills and qualification frameworks among CPMS in reference to international good practices (especially ILO Regional Model Competency Standard).
3. Promoting higher wages for workers with higher skills from CPMS	Exploring possibility of promoting higher wages for skilled workers through: i) reviewing wage structures of CPMS and CODs; ii) exchanging good practices and lessons learned from bilateral/ multilateral agreements/ negotiations



Inter-regional initiative: ADD Pilot Project on Skills Development, Documentation and Recognition

- Adopted at the 3rd Ministerial Consultation of the ADD.
- Target countries: UAE and Kuwait (CODs); India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (COOs).
- **Key activities** include: i) pilot workers from COOs to be trained, tested and deployed to the CODs; ii) workers to be tested against the standard level of competency to be developed by UAE and certified for upgraded skills; iii) CODs to work with COOs to align occupational standards in four selected occupations of the construction sector.
- **Milestones** for the wider replication of this initiative in other CP countries were discussed during the TAWG meeting.



National level initiatives

Country	Initiatives / Projects
Bangladesh	Commenced "Enhanced skills development and qualification recognition of labour migrants from Bangladesh" in 2016.
Indonesia	Adopted key strategies including development of a national qualifications framework, development of national competency standards, competency based trainings.
Pakistan	As the participating country of the ADD Pilot Project, 4 of its training centers have been accredited by the National Qualification Authority of UAE.
Sri Lanka	Commenced "Enhanced recognition of skills and reduced vulnerability of Sri Lankan construction workers in selected GCC countries", which complements the ADD Pilot Project.



Ways forward

TAWG

- Develop and adopt the Terms of Reference specific to the TAWG on Skills and Qualification Recognition
- Discuss strategies to operationalize the agreed key tasks

Regional and national initiatives

- Continue sharing new initiatives, good practices and lessons learned from regional and national initiatives among the Member States
- Continue engagement with CODs and explore opportunities for further collaboration.