



Accreditation Committee of Cambodia

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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Accreditation Committee of Cambodia

Review Report 2005 – 2008

The Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC), the public and independent organization which is not being under the agencies in charge of education, was established by the Royal Degree in 2003 to ensure and promote academic quality for greater effectiveness and quality consistent with international standards and to determine the organization of structure, roles, functions, and duties for the administration of the accreditation process of higher education for all higher education institutions (HEIs) which offer degrees in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Activities and Achievements of the main works of ACC are mentioned in this report as the following:

I. Standard and Accreditation

This work has been divided into two steps. The first step is to setting up assessment tools (legal entrustments, standard, guidelines...) and the second is to conducting assessment process.

1. Assessment Tools

There are two categories of assessment for Accreditations, Foundation Year Assessment and Institutional Assessment. So two categories of assessment tools need to be set up, **assessment tools for Foundation Year accreditation and assessment tools for Institutional accreditation**. Foundation Year is the first year of bachelor degree.

A. Assessment Tools for Foundation Year Accreditation

Assessment for Foundation Year Accreditation based on applicable legal instruments as the following:

- a. Implementing credit system curriculum and credit transfer in HEIs approved in November 2004
- b. Criteria for issuing foundation year course certificate approved in March 2004
- c. Foundation Year Course Guideline for HEIs approved in November 2005 and revised in February 2007
- d. Foundation Year Course Guideline for assessors approved in November 2005 revised in February 2007
- e. Criteria for assessor recruitment approved in may 2005
- f. Code conduct for assessors approved in July 2007

B. Assessment Tools for Institutional Accreditation

Assessment for Institutional Accreditation based on Minimum Standards with 9 criteria, two guidelines (one for Assessor and another one for HEIs) and other instruments. The standard will be applied to public and private HEIs.

Minimum standards for accrediting HEIs have been developed through the following stages:

1. Taking Royal Krit, dated 31st March 2003, on the accreditation, Article 9 as the base tool for accreditation minimum standards development.
2. November 2003: Sent out survey instruments to 34 main HEIs to collect data for preparing minimum standards and defining indicators.

3. December 2004: Drafted minimum standards by ACC technical officers for the first time.
4. February 2005: Passed on to Dr. Amy Kirle Lezberg, technical adviser for US, for editing, monitoring and commenting.
5. March 2005: Revised drafted minimum standards for the 2nd time by ACC technical officers.
6. July 2005: Ms. Concepcion V. Pijano, Executive Director of PAASCU and Designated APQN President, checked, revised and recommended for the 1st time.
7. August 2005: Edited drafted minimum standards for the 3rd time by ACC technical officers.
8. August 2005: Ms. Concepcion V. Pijano, Executive Director of PAASCU and Designated APQN President, checked, revised and recommended for the 2nd time.
9. Edited drafted minimum standards for the 4th time by ACC technical officers.
10. November 2006: Sent out minimum standards to all HEIs for their comments. There were 12 HEIs, both public and private HEIs given feedback.
11. 04th – 07th July 2007: Consultative workshop on minimum standards with all HEIs and relevant organizations at Sihanouk ville, 1st time. There are 148 participants from HEIs, both public and private HEIs, parent ministries and stakeholders participate in consultative workshop.
12. 12th November 2007: Consultative workshop on minimum standards with all HEIs and relevant organizations at Phnom Penh hotel, 2st time. There are 29 participants from main HEIs, public and private HEIs and 50 participants from parent ministries and stakeholders participate in consultative workshop.
13. 21st November 2007: Consultative workshop on the finalization of minimum standards with all HEIs and relevant organizations at HIMAWARI hotel, Phnom Penh. There are 93 participants (Team Leaders) from HEIs, both public and private HEIs, parent ministries and stakeholders participate in consultative workshop.
14. 15th to 25th March, 2008 Concepcion V. Pijano, Executive Director of PAASCU and Designated APQN President, checked, revised and recommended for the 3rd time
15. March 2008: edited finally the drafted minimum standards for the 3rd time by ACC technical officers.
- 16. Minimum Standard submitted to ACC Board for approval. ACC Board meeting was held on 23rd December 2008 and Minimum Standard was approved.**

Other two guideline for assessors and for HEIs have been being drafted by acc technical officers.

2. Assessment Process

A. Foundation Year Assessment

Before starting up the assessment process, all HEIs had been trained in how to do a self Assessment and how to develop themselves to reach the criteria stated in our minimum standard Based on the approved assessment tools mentioned above the assessment process for foundation accreditation has been conducted in academic year 2005-2006. The results of the assessment are as below:

- In 2005-2006 58 HEIs, for the first time, were assessed and granted the Provisional Accreditation on their foundation year course.
- In 2006-2007 the results of assessment are: 33 HEIs received Full Accreditation, 31 HEIs received Provisional Accreditation and 2 HEIs received Non-Accreditation on their foundation year course.
- In 2007-2008, from March – June 2007, foundation year review has been conducted and completed for all Full Accreditation HEIs.
- In 2007-2008 the results of assessment are: 5 additional HEIs received Full Accreditation, 32 HEIs received Provisional Accreditation and 2 HEIs received Non-Accreditation on their foundation year course

Note: - Full accreditation means HEIs shall be qualified to run the foundation year course (FYC) and be entitled to issue foundation year certificates for its academically satisfied students for the period of **three** academic years.

- Provisional accreditation means HEIs shall be qualified to run the FYC and be entitled to issue foundation year certificates for its academically satisfied students for the period of **one** academic year.

- None accreditation means HEIs shall not be qualified to run the FYC and not be entitled to issue foundation year certificates.

- Accredited HEIs are obliged to issue foundation year certificates for its academically satisfied students in order to continue their study in the second year of bachelor degree.

B. Institutional Assessment

Assessment for Institutional Accreditation has not been conducted yet, pending the approval of the Minimum Standards and the two guidelines (for assessors and for HEIs).

The assessment is expected to start testing next year.

II. External Assessor Recruitment

1- Based on criteria and procedures defined 40 external assessors were selected and trained in the training workshop for external assessors supported by APQN 18-19 September 2005 on the topic as below:

- Understood their role as external reviewers within the quality assurance framework defined by Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC).
- fine-tuned the skills required to carry out external review objectively.
- recorded their inferences and assessment supported by evidence,
- conducted interactions in the institution in a responsible and productive way,
- wrote a clear report adhering to the quality assurance framework of ACC.

Additional training on Foundation Year Course Assessment was organized on 28th December 2005 by ACC secretariat.

2- In the second batch 23 external assessors were recruited and trained in workshop supported by the World Bank from 07-10 April 2008 on similar topics mentioned above.

3- In the third batch 52 external assessors were recruited and trained in workshop supported by the World Bank from 07-10 October 2008 on similar topics.

+ To be an external assessor, applicant must fulfill the requirements as below:

- At least master Degree
- At least 5 years experience on higher education.
- All applicants from all institutions are encouraged.

+ External assessors have two years mandate. Assessors, who finished their mandate, can also apply to be assessors again. So far, ACC has had 103 external assessors.

III. Staff Development

Accreditation is new concept for Cambodia. So ACC sent its staff to attend workshop and training course in various countries as the following:

- Sent a group of 4 ACC senior officers to participate in an international workshop on Global Trend and Perspective on Quality Assurance of Engineering Education in Tokyo, Japan (15-16 December, 2006)
- Sent an ACC staff to participate APQN workshop in Vietnam (12-13 March, 2007).
- Sent an ACC staff to participate the workshop on the world of Educational Quality in Chicago, USA (11-13 April 2007).
- Sent an ACC staff to participate APQN workshop in Bangladesh (30-31 May, 2007).
- Sent 2 ACC leaders to participate in the conference in Moscow Russia on Technology supported learning and Training (30 September – 3 October 2007).
- Sent 2 ACC staff to participate in the workshop in Australia on higher education quality (28-30 November 2007)
- Sent 4 ACC staff to participate in the workshop in the Philippines external assessor training (28-30 November 2007)
- Sent 2 ACC staff to participate in the workshop in Australia on Improving higher education in Uncertain times (28-30 November 2007).

- Sent 2 ACC senior staff to participate in the AUQA's auditor training workshop in Australia (03-04 December 2007)
- Sent 2 ACC staff to participate in the workshop on strategic choices for higher education reform in Malaysia (03-05 December 2007)
- Sent an ACC staff to participate in the workshop in Laos (11-13 December 2007)
- Sent 5 ACC staff to participate in CHEA's 2008 annual conference in Washington D.C. (28-30 January 2008)
- Sent 4 ACC staff to participate the workshop in Japan (19-22 February, 2008).
- Sent technical staff to conduct trainings on credit-based curriculum development and credit transfer policy, foundation year program development and assessment and other ACC legislations to new HEIs in Phnom Penh and some provinces (21/01/2008-07/02/2008)
- Sent 6 ACC senior officers to train in English language at ACE in Phnom Penh.
- Sent 4 ACC senior officers to train in Web site development at IIC in Phnom Penh.
- Sent 3 ACC senior officers to train in English language at ACE in the third term in Phnom Penh.

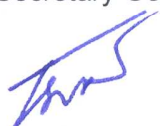
III. Future Plan

- 1- Quality Assurance and accreditation
 - Establish framework and guidelines for accreditation
 - Translation of resource materials on QA and accreditation
- 2- Assessor training
 - Training on Assessment and research methods
- 3- Training for HE Institutions
 - Open forum on quality assurance and accreditation in Cambodia
- 4- Site visits, monitoring and review to ensure quality improvement and accreditation
 - In provinces (Assessments):
 - FY assessment
 - Institutional Accreditation
 - Monitoring and Review:
 - In Phnom Penh (Assessments):
 - FY assessment
 - Institutional Accreditation
 - Monitoring and Review:
- 5- Research and analysis
 - Conduct empirical studies related to QA and accreditation
 - Research TA
 - Organize a workshop on research findings
- 6- Development of Qualification Framework
 - Qualification Framework TA
 - Consultative workshop
 - Finalization workshop
 - Publication and dissemination

As supported by Cambodian Government and the Chairman of ACC, all tasks planed in each year had been done successfully and effectively.

Phnom Penh, *06* July, 2009

Approved by
Secretary General



H.E. Dr. Tech Samnang

Prepared by



Hean Bunnith