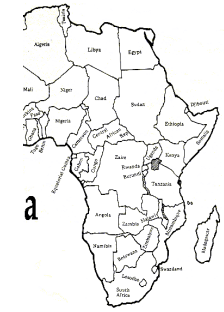




Harmonisation of Higher Education Systems Towards an EAC Common Higher Education Area

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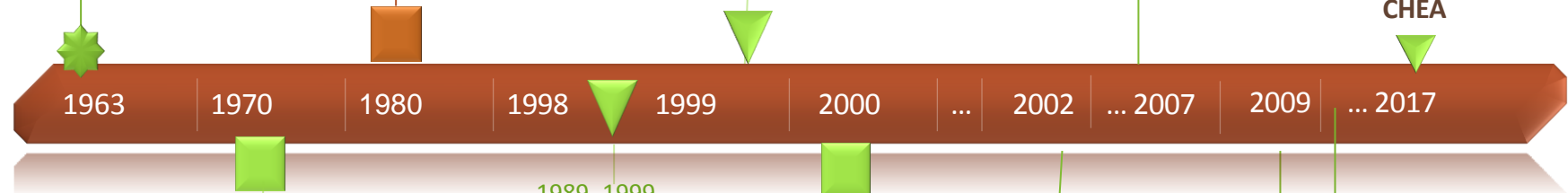
Transformation of IUC into
IUCEA, after Vice Chancellors
meeting in Nairobi

Treaty for the
Establishment of EAC

30-Nov-1999

Burundi & Rwanda
acceded on EAC treaty

EAC to be declared as
CHEA



1963

1970

1980

1998

1999

2000

...

2002

... 2007

2009

... 2017

1989 -1999

Commonwealth
Higher Education
Management
Services (CHEMS)

7 Jul

Into Force the EAC
(Kenya, Uganda, and
Tanzania)

IUCEA become a legal
body corporate of EAC

Enacted the IUCEA
Act.

Protocol for the Establishment
of the EAC Common Market

Inter-University Committee
(IUC)

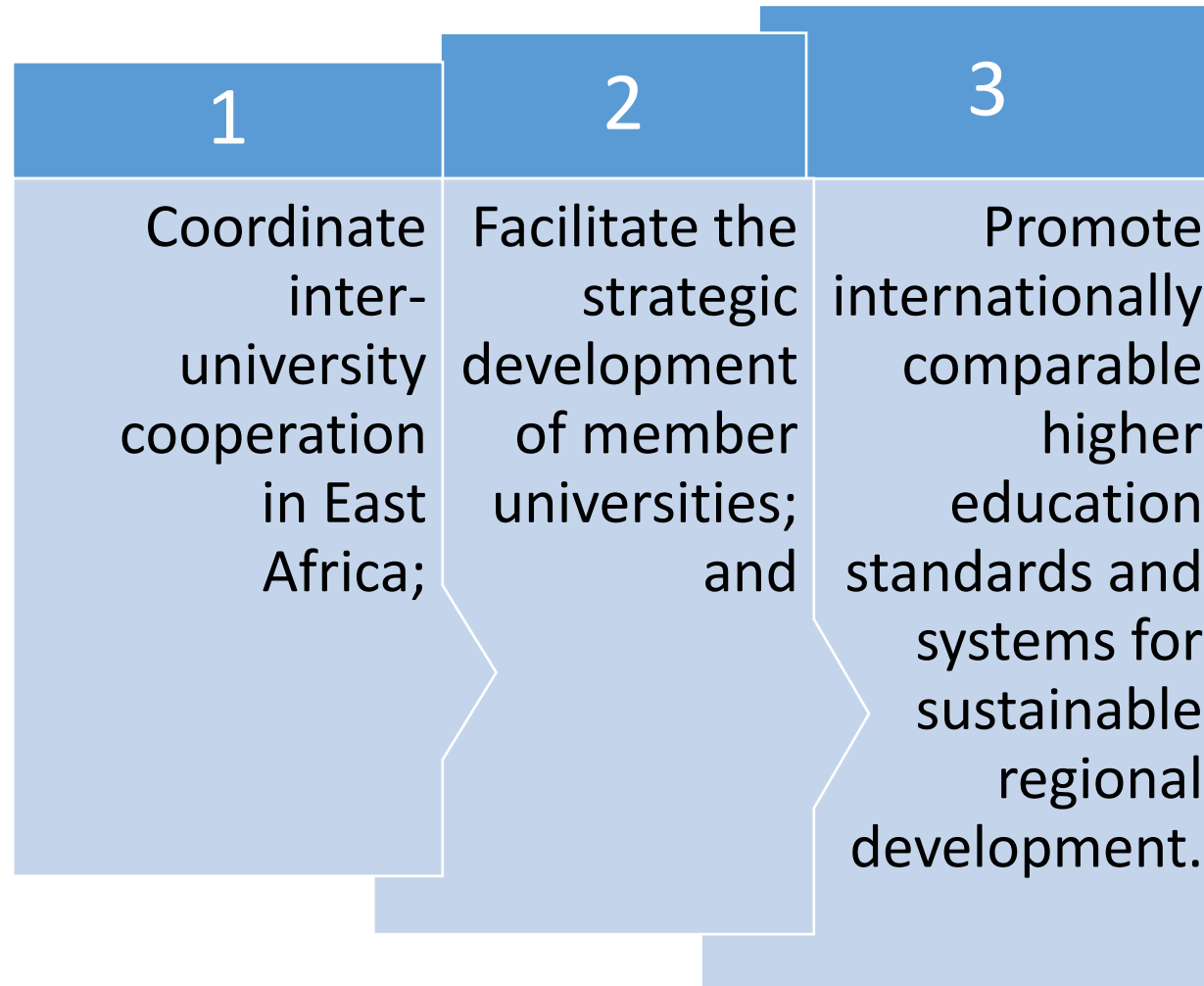
Objectives of IUCEA

Facilitate networking among universities in East Africa, and with universities outside the region;

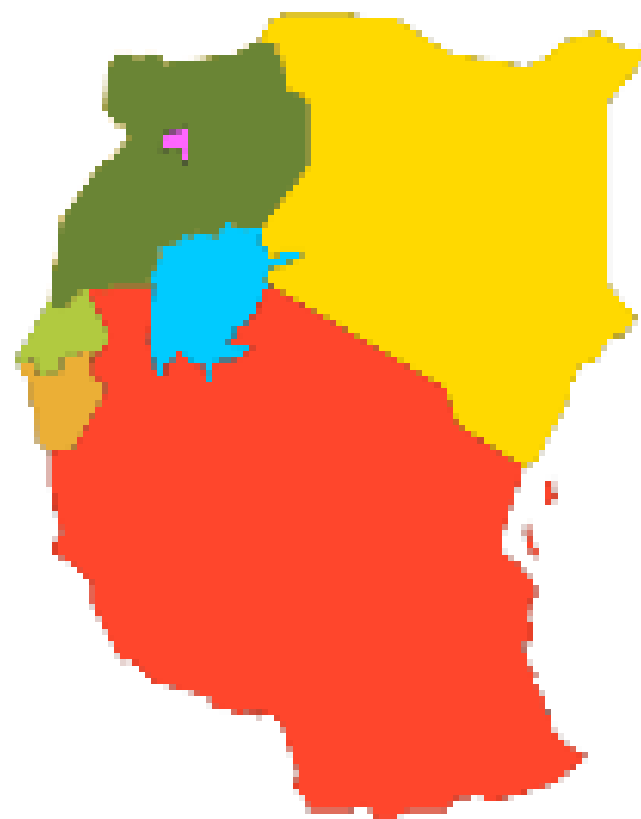
Provide a forum for discussion on a wide range of academic and other matters relating to higher education in East Africa; and

Facilitate maintenance of internationally comparable education standards in East Africa so as to promote the region's competitiveness in higher education.

INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA: ROLES



- IUCEA, office are Locate in Kampala
- Members;
 - 5 Commission / Councils of High Education in EAC
 - 115 Public/Private Universities in the Regional (EAC)
 - East Africa Business Council (EABC)
 - East Africa Development Bank (EADF)
- Staff more than 25 Staff
- Operates under 2 divisions;
 - Research and Outreach
 - Administrative and Finance.



DRIVE FOR HARMONIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN EAC

- The coming into force in July 2010 of the Protocol for the Establishment of the EAC Common Market prompted the need to harmonize higher education systems in the Community, among other, to enable the operationalization of Article 11 of the Protocol which entails facilitation of easy mobility of learners and labour across Partner State borders.
- Harmonization of higher education systems is also aimed at transforming the EAC region into a common higher education area by 2017.

WHAT HARMONIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN EAST AFRICA ENTAILS

Establishment of regional systems that would facilitate comparability of higher education systems in the East African Community Partner States, the system comprising the following regional frameworks:

- **Regional Quality Assurance framework/system consisting of:**
 - Standards, guidelines and procedures
 - Programme benchmarks
 - Principles and Guidelines constituting a policy framework
- **East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, encompassing the following parameters:**
 - Qualifications Descriptors
 - Qualifications Levels and Qualifications Types
 - Recognition of System

MILESTONES ACHIEVED

- Quality Assurance tools
 - Road to Quality, 5 volumes of handbook of QA in HE was developed
 - A Regional QA Policy Framework: Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in East Africa
 - Benchmarks for academic programmes developed
 - East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (EAQFHE)
 - Quality Assurance Guidelines for Special Needs are in the pipeline
- Capacity building in Members Universities
- Capacity building at Institution level
- Regional Quality Assurance Policy

PROGRAMME BENCHMARKS – DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Initially undertaken in 2007 – 2009 at the pilot level for Agriculture, Engineering, Human Medicine and Natural Sciences
- Full scale process started in 2011 and is being undertaken by teams of regional experts that include:
 - Academicians experts in the relevant field
 - Representatives of employers
- East African Business Council
- Representatives of Professional Bodies
- National commissions/councils for higher education
- Other stakeholders

REGIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY

The policy framework has already been developed under the title “Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in East Africa”

PURPOSE

- It is a common frame of reference for guiding higher education institutions and national commissions/councils for higher education in operationalizing the regional quality assurance system, and in developing and practicing a common quality assurance culture in line with the regional aspirations for harmonization of higher education systems, and international developments in quality assurance

EAST AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION – PURPOSE

- Facilitates mutual recognition of education and training systems and academic qualifications attained in the EAC Partner States as well as outside the EAC region, hence promoting mobility of labour across borders in EAC and outside EAC
- Provides mechanisms for harmonization of education and training systems in EAC, thereby transforming EAC into a common higher education area
- The EAQFHE is a generic instrument for the region onto which the Partner States' national qualifications frameworks will be anchored for the purpose of harmonization and synchronization of education and training systems, and the qualifications attained in the Community.
- The framework is not a replacement of the national qualifications framework or similar instruments of the Partner States, nor is it a prescription for each Partner State to make her national qualifications framework exactly the same as the EAQFHE.

It is an instrument to guide the Partner States' qualifications framework for alignment with the regional framework, so that the regional education and training systems and the qualifications attained are appropriately harmonized

WHAT IS A QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK?

- An instrument for the development and classification of qualifications according to a set of criteria for levels of learning and skills achieved by a learner, regardless of a mode of learning.
- Aims at integrating education and training into a unified structure of recognized qualifications
- Ensure effective comparability of qualifications and credit across the national or regional education training systems and facilitate the recognition of those qualifications within and outside the country's or regional's borders

EAST AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION: DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- The process was consultative and participatory, involving different categories of higher education stakeholders from all the EAC Partner States as follows:
 - Experts from government ministries responsible for Higher Education, East African Community Affairs, and Labour
 - Examinations Bodies
 - Technical and vocational education regulatory bodies
 - Academic institutions
 - National commissions/councils for higher education
 - Experts from professional associations
 - Employers' associations
 - Private sector organizations

EAST AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION: STRUCTURE AND LEVELS

LEVEL	QUALIFICATIONS
8	Doctorate Degrees
7	Masters Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates
6	Bachelors Degrees
5	Diplomas
4	Certificates
3	
2	
1	

}

Basic Education

EAQFHE minimum CREDITS FOR GRADUATION

Qualifications Type	Minimum Credits Required for Graduation	EAQFHE Level	Qualification Types
Doctorate Degree	540	8	Postgraduate
Master’s Degree	180	7	
Postgraduate Diploma	120		
Post graduate Certificate	60		
Bachelor degree	360	6	Undergraduate
Advanced Diploma	300		
Graduate Diploma	240		
Graduate Certificate	120		
Diploma	240	5	Upper Secondary and Post-Secondary Education and Training
Certificate	120	4	
		3	Lower Secondary School
		2	Upper Primary
		1	Lower Primary

INSTRUMENTS TO BE DEVELOPED FOR OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE EAQFHE

- Regional Higher Education Policy and Strategy
- Guidelines on Determination/Calculation of Credits
- Regional Qualifications Register and Policy
- Qualifications Issuance Policy
- Policy on Addition and Removal of a Qualification to/from the Register
- Guidelines for Alignment of EAQFHE with Qualifications Framework(s) elsewhere

EAST AFRICAN QUALITY ASSURANCE NETWORK

- Established in 2011 to provide:
 - A forum for networking and experience sharing of Quality Assurance practitioners
 - Capacity building and life-long learning on Quality Assurance and new trends in Teaching-Learning, change management in higher education, etc.
 - The East African Quality Assurance Network serves as a Technical Entity of IUCEA

MONITORING/TRACKING



At Regional Level

- Regular meetings of Heads of Commissions/Councils for Higher Education
- Quarterly reports to the IUCEA Quality Assurance Committee
- Quarterly reports to the IUCEA Executive Committee
- Periodic reports to the Sectoral Council of ministers responsible for Education, and to the Council of Ministers
- Annual Stakeholders' Forums (Academia-Public-Private Partnership Forum)
- Reports from Higher Education institutions at the Annual Forum of the East African Quality Assurance Network

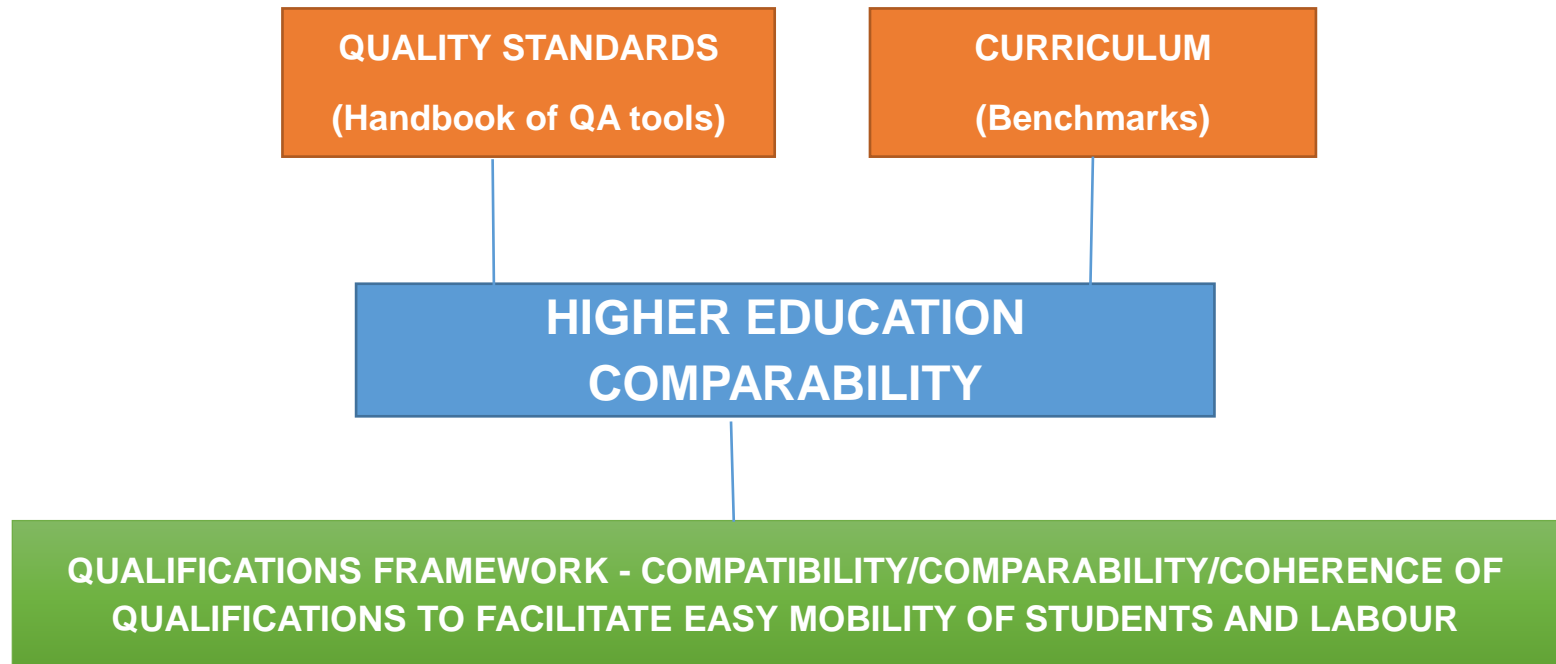
At National Level

- Regular meetings of Commissions/Councils for Higher Education
- Regular visitations to Higher Education Institutions
- Accreditation/Registrations of institutions and programmes based on outcome from quality assurance processes

IMPACT OF THE PROCESS OF HARMONIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Mutual recognition of academic/professional qualifications facilitated simplifying mobility of labour and students
- Contributing towards transforming EAC into a **Common Higher Education Area**
- Regional quality assurance framework contributing to quality improvement of the graduates for the regional labour market
- Regional quality assurance framework promoting transparency in the academic world in the Community

**inter-relationship between the drivers of harmonization of higher education systems for EAC
to operate as a common higher education area**



IUCEA view in regarding PAQAF?

- IUCEA has participated in meetings that debated on it and is very supportive of the initiative as it will easy free movement of labor and students

CONCLUSION

- The success in harmonization of higher education in East Africa is due to:
 - Involvement of key stakeholders through consultative and participatory processes
 - Conducive political support by all the five EAC Partner States and the EAC Secretariat
 - Ownership and sustainability of the process by IUCEA, National Commissions/Councils for Higher Education, and Higher Education Institutions
- Regional and International support from various organizations, particularly DAAD, HRK, Sida, UNESCO, East African Business Council, Private sector organizations, etc.

Thank you for your
Kind attention