



Scholarly Excellence in the Age of Compliance

THE-ICE Plenary Panel Session

National versus global accreditation – the challenges, the dilemmas and the future

Pauline Tang
CEO, THE-ICE
14 November 2017

Evolution of THE-ICE

2004 -2008:

- One of five (5) Australian federal government funded International Centres of Excellence (ICE)
- Tasked to promote Australian higher education prowess in the global arena



Core focus

- Umbrella network for Australian quality institutions specialising in hospitality, tourism, events, leisure and culinary arts (TH&E) education, training and research
- Creation and development of THE-ICE Standards of Excellence
 - Assessment of the quality assurance (QA) of education offerings in specialised fields of TH&E
 - Evaluation of the capacity and capability of institution in supporting, sustaining and enhancing those offerings

2008 - present:

- Australia-based not-for-profit international QA agency (THE-ICE)
- Open door to international higher education providers
- Ongoing review of THE-ICE Standards of Excellence for relevance and alignment with global benchmarks
- Assessment of the quality assurance of education offerings in specialised fields of hospitality, tourism, events, leisure and culinary arts (TH&E) of international institutions
- Evaluation of the capacity and capability of such international institution in supporting, sustaining and enhancing those offerings

Serve and support a network of Quality TH&E providers in 15 countries, committed in nurturing

- A generation of graduates, robust workforce and future leaders for the competitive TH&E global market
- Develop core and soft skills of employment-ready graduates with appropriate attributes:
 - Competent
 - Ethical
 - Environmentally-conscious
 - Culturally-sensitive



THE-ICE Strategic Initiatives

Provide value-added propositions for global members:

I. Engagement in global QA network

- Keep up-to-date on current and future QA global trends
- Knowledge-sharing, exchange ideas on good practice
- Develop a network of reputable QA peers
- Enhance brand creditability and brand visibility



Current & Active Strategic Partners



II. Develop strategic partnership with international peer QA agencies

- For mutual recognition of assessment standards, in particular, with in-country legislative authorities
- Streamline accreditation or re-accreditation process
- Minimise accreditation-fatigue for current and/or future member institutions

III. Provide professional opinions to legislative authorities for in-country recognition of qualifications on behalf of Member Institutions

- E.g., Namibia Qualifications Authority – appeal for recognition of Swiss qualification



THE-ICE Experience – Challenges & Dilemmas

Mutual Recognition Stage

- Appreciate that the different accreditation regimes could / would be diversified and differentiated
- Maintain objectivity when conducting cross mapping of QA Standards
- Be prepared to
 - be flexible
 - accommodate
 - compromise

MoU - Mutual Recognition

MoA – Collaborative
Partnership

Joint Assessment Projects



 International Centre
of Excellence in
Tourism and Hospitality
Education (THE-ICE)

**Global
Partnership**



Development of Operational Logistics Stage

- ☼ Which standards to lead the joint assessment
- ☼ How to assemble appropriately qualified experts in the assessment panel
- ☼ How assessment & site audits are to be conducted
- ☼ How reports are to be compiled

The Future

- ☀ Mutual recognition of accreditation regimes is of growing relevance and importance
- ☀ Strategic role for THE-ICE to seek such from legislative QA agencies, especially in regions where THE-ICE members are located
- ☀ Establish joint accreditation opportunities where applicable and/or possible, to reduce accreditation/re-accreditation burden

For more information

Ms Pauline Tang

CEO

THE-ICE

E: accreditation@the-ice.org

www.the-ice.org