

Issue 23

January 2023

3 weeks to go! Last chance to book for our London conference on 20 February



There are now just 3 weeks to go until our re-arranged face-to-face UKENIC22 conference, taking place at the QEII Centre, Westminster, London, on Monday 20 February 2023.

Well over 400 people have registered for the event, with this number rising daily. There's still time to book your space, using the [booking form here](#), until midnight on 15 February.

The overarching theme for UKENIC22 is 'Shifting Balance, Changing Models'. You can view/download the [full conference programme here](#) [PDF].

Our keynote speaker is unchanged and will be Edward Paice, Director of [Africa Research Institute](#) and author of the acclaimed *Youthquake: Why African Demography Should Matter to the World*, a study of Africa's youth and growth, and what this means not only for the future of the continent, but for the rest of the world.

We are pleased to host this face-to-face conference in partnership with [Skills for English](#).

The event will be presented in association with [OxfordAQA](#), the [Oxford Test of English](#) and [TOEFL](#).

It will also be supported by [ApplyBoard](#), [Cambridge University Press and Assessment](#), [Dialexy](#), [Gecko](#), [Language Cert](#), [OMPT](#), [Qualification Check](#), and [The West African Examinations Council](#).

We are delighted to welcome [Password English Testing Ltd](#) as a new and additional sponsor for this event. [READ MORE](#)

MQA takes part in tailored training and shadowing week at our HQ

Renewal of co-operation agreement with Malaysian Qualifications Agency



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) to foster cooperation between the UK and Malaysia education sectors.

Renewing and updating an agreement signed in 2017, the MoU will provide opportunities for our two organisations to collaborate still more closely across a range of topics, including TNE and TVET, and within the context of the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education.

The agreement was signed in an online ceremony on 6 January by Paul Norris, Head of UK ENIC, and Professor Dato Mohammad Shatar Sabran, MQA CEO [pictured above centre], who will be joining our UKENIC22 conference in London on Monday 20 February. Prof Ir Khairul Salleh Mohamed Sahari, MQA Deputy CEO, will also be at our conference.

In the spirit of the MoU, two members of MQA staff this month travelled to the UK [READ MORE](#)

Paul Norris speaks at international forum on recognition in Azerbaijan



An International Forum on the Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications and Prior Learning took place in Azerbaijan in December. It was hosted in Baku by the country's Education Quality Assurance



Two members of staff from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) travelled to the UK earlier this month for a successful week-long training and shadowing programme, in which we shared our experience and expertise in operating and running a qualification recognition function and a busy recognition centre.

The programme was designed and delivered tailored to meet the needs of the MQA, in the spirit of our renewed Memorandum of Understanding with them [*see separate story*].

We are pleased to share our knowledge and experience in this way, for the benefit of recognition agencies, qualifications authorities, and skills and education ministries worldwide. Pre-COVID, we hosted a number of international recognition and ministry teams at our UK HQ for these 'development weeks', but pandemic travel restrictions halted these. The visit of the MQA marks a resumption of these activities, as international travel reopens.

By visiting us and spending time with us at our Cheltenham centre, recognition agency and ministry teams can work alongside our own expert staff, gaining insight into the detail and practicalities of how applications, enquiries, and processes are handled and managed. They can see our computer systems and enquiry systems in situ for themselves, speak to our staff and managers, ask questions, and exchange ideas. Knowledge gained can then be applied to the visiting team's own situation on return home.

If development activity of this kind might be of interest to you, you can open a discussion by emailing leanne.hunnings@ecctis.com. [READ MORE](#)

Member feedback leads to database improvements



Since asking members to feed back their thoughts via the summer 2022 member survey, we have been busy working on making some of these ideas for improvement and development a reality.

We have specifically addressed the helpful comments we received around website navigation, and have made changes aimed at improving the overall user experience. These include:

- An improved search function at the top of each page within the database – you can

Agency, the TKTA, and was opened by Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister for Education.

Head of UK ENIC, Paul Norris, attended as a representative of the ENIC Bureau. He presented to the conference on key topics in the global recognition of qualifications, before chairing a panel with European colleagues, exploring current issues including:

- changing approaches to recognition post-COVID
- fraud prevention; and
- how to apply substantial differences to the evaluation process.

Paul Norris said: 'It was a pleasure to take part in what was the TKTA's first conference on the evaluation of international qualifications. The event provided a valuable chance to discuss the challenges associated with ensuring mobility of those holding international qualifications and other prior learning.'

[READ MORE](#)

West Africa digital certificate webinar: recording now available

Going Digital, The WAEC Approach to transforming Africa's Academic & Employment Mobility.



More than 800 people attended a free webinar hosted by UK ENIC in mid-January to demonstrate and explain the new West African Examination Council (WAEC) digital verification service.

The event focused on understanding the main drivers behind developing the digital certificate platform, a consideration into international student mobility for West Africa, a demonstration of the platform, and a Q&A with Patrick Arghan, the Head of National Office, WAEC Nigeria, and Alison Lowton, Research Manager, UK ENIC.

You can register to receive a recording of the 65-minute webinar [in full here](#).

A range of other issues were discussed during the event, including: [READ MORE](#)

UK ENIC's successful training visit to Canada



UK ENIC trainers travelled to Toronto and Vancouver towards the end of 2022, meeting with some of our Canadian members to train face-to-face for the first time since the pandemic.

- search by Institution, Qualification, or text reference from anywhere within the database
- International Grade Comparisons can now be accessed directly from the 'Grading System' sections of the International Comparisons database
 - Improved access to the appendices, making it easier to locate the information you need
 - A new [user guide page](#) *[login required]* providing members with information about how to fully utilise UK ENIC membership, including four brief videos and two PDF user guides. [READ MORE](#)

Calling credential evaluation professionals



Credential evaluation professionals may be aware of the work of The Association of International Credential Evaluation Professionals (TAICEP), which focuses on the development of standards, guidance and projects to enhance the work of the credential evaluator.

Volunteers make up the majority of those working on its board and within its committees, all from the field of international education, recognition and qualification assessment.

UK ENIC is proud of its long-standing association with the organisation and Chris Lyons, Head of External Engagement at UK ENIC, has taken up the role of Chair of the TAICEP Standards & Quality Committee in 2023.

Over the past year the committee has developed: [READ MORE](#)

Delegates from across Canada attended sessions, hosted by Tim Buttress, UK ENIC Head of Stakeholder Management and Susie Millen, Membership Operations Manager.

A range of content was covered, including issues relating to key countries of interest such as Nigeria, Ghana, India, Pakistan, and the UK education system. There were also methodology and process-based sessions including '*Evaluating international qualifications*', '*International admissions*' and '*Using the databases*'.

The trainers also provided bespoke sessions to a number of institutions. [READ MORE](#)

New blog gives detail on updated guidance about post K-12 Philippines Bachelor degrees



A [new article](#) has been published on our blog giving further detail on an update to our comparability advice around Bachelor degrees from the Philippines awarded from 2022 onwards.

Our December newsletter explained that UK ENIC now considers these Bachelor degrees comparable to a UK Bachelor degree. The new blog explores recent educational reform in the Philippines, including the introduction of the new 'K-12' curriculum.

It goes on to describe the UK ENIC review process, and reflects on how UK universities might consider the suitability of graduates [READ MORE](#)

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