



高等教育資格承認情報センター  
National Information Center  
for Academic Recognition Japan

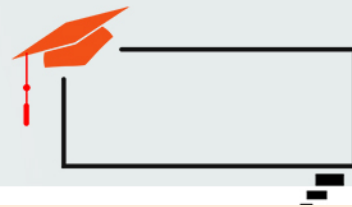
# The Tokyo Convention and APNNIC

## International Seminar on Foreign Credential and Digital Student Portability

March 12, 2020

National Institution for Academic Degrees and  
Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)  
Ayaka Noda, Ed.D.

# UNESCO Regional Conventions



**Purpose: To facilitate recognition of higher education qualifications through increased information and transparency.**

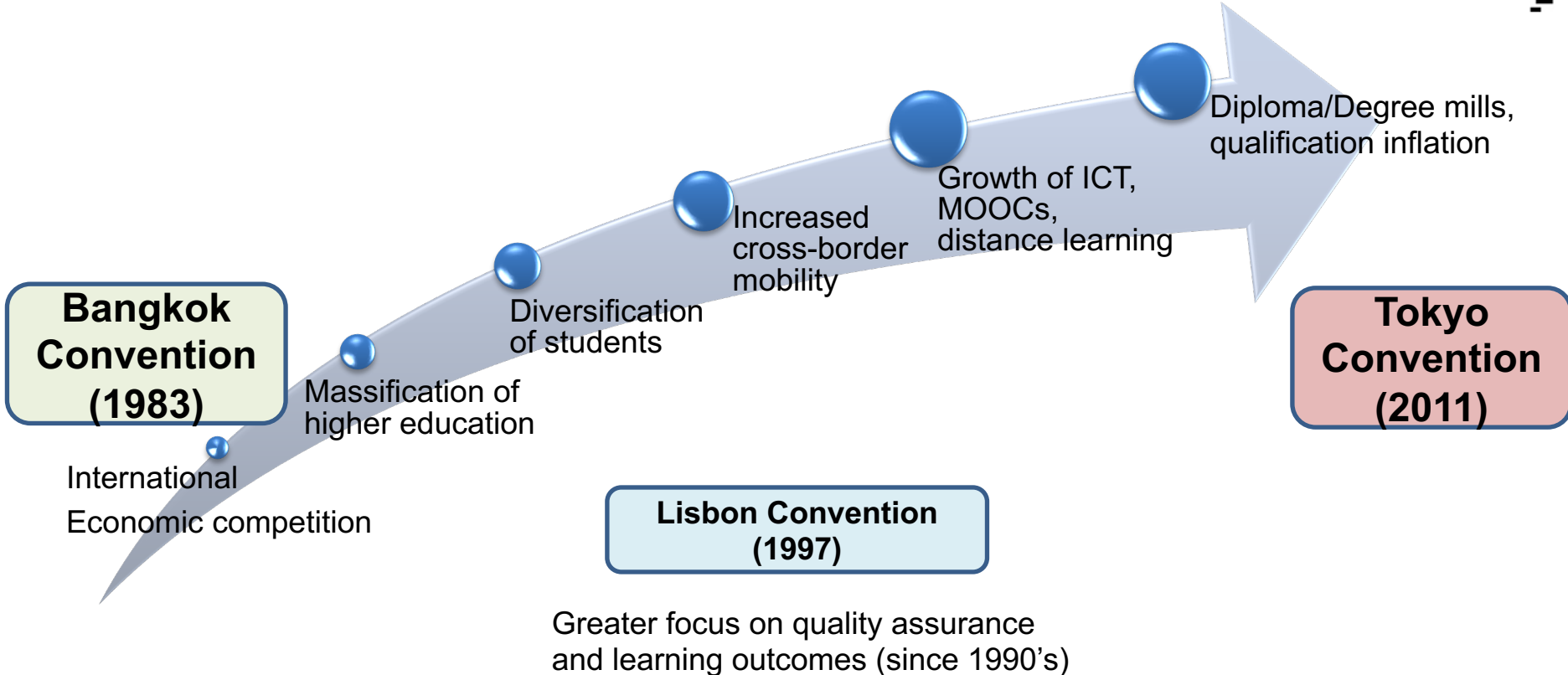
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: UNESCO, 1946-1947: Started discussion regarding recognition of qualifications in higher education  
1970's~: **Regional Conventions** for recognition of qualifications

6 regions :

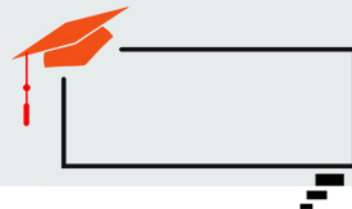
Latin America and the Caribbean (1974), Mediterranean (1976),  
The Arab States (1978), Europe (1979; 1997),  
Africa (1981;2014), **Asia-Pacific (1983; 2011)**

2019 : **Global Convention**

# Changes in Higher Education



# 2011 Tokyo Convention



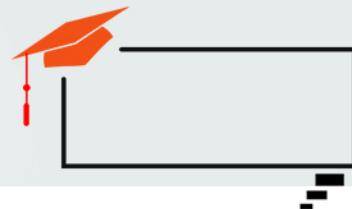
The Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education  
高等教育の資格の承認に関するアジア太平洋地域規約(東京規約)

**Purpose: To facilitate international mobility of students and academics in higher education in the Asia-Pacific region**

8 States Parties:  
Australia, China, New Zealand, Japan,  
Republic of Korea, Holy see, Mongolia, and Turkey

- December 2017: Japan ratified the convention.
- February 2018 : The convention entered into force.

# 2011 Tokyo Convention



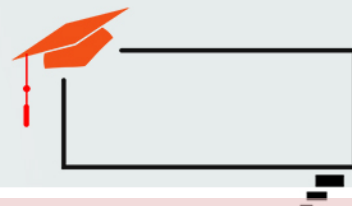
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- **Relevant, accurate and up-to-date information** to facilitate the recognition of qualifications in higher education (Article VIII. 2)
- Procedures and criteria used in the assessment and recognition of qualifications are **transparent, coherent, reliable, fair and non-discriminatory** (Article III. 2)
- The responsibility to demonstrate that an application does not fulfil the relevant requirements lies with the **Competent Recognition Authority** (権限ある承認当局) (Article III.3)



In Japan: MEXT, other ministries, and higher education institutions

# Greater Focus on Learning Outcomes



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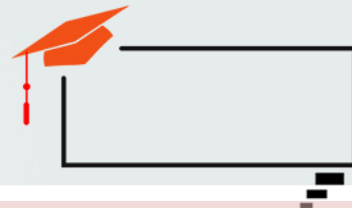
- Assessment of an application for **recognition of qualifications with the main focus on knowledge and skills achieved** (Article III.1).
- Recognition decision is mainly **based on the knowledge and skills**
- Recognise the qualifications in higher education conferred in another Party, **unless a Substantial Difference can be shown** (Article VI.1)

**Inputs** (period of study, study hours, credit hours, subject list. etc..)



**Outcomes** (what knowledge and skills learners are expected to acquire)

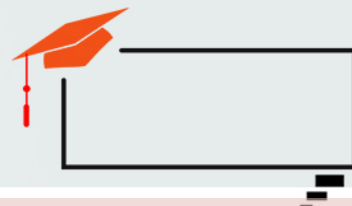
# The Recognition of Non-traditional Learning



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- Make all reasonable efforts to develop procedures for recognition of qualifications obtained through:
  - ✓ **Non-tradition modes** (Article IV. 7)
  - ✓ **Partial studies** (Article V)
  - ✓ **Prior learning** (Article VII)

# National Information Center (NIC)



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- **Take adequate measures for the development and maintenance** of a **national information centre** that will provide higher education information.  
The form of the national information centre could vary. (Article VIII. 3)





# National Information Center for Academic Recognition Japan



高等教育資格承認情報センター  
National Information Center  
for Academic Recognition Japan

Established by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) (September 1, 2019)

## ◆ Mission

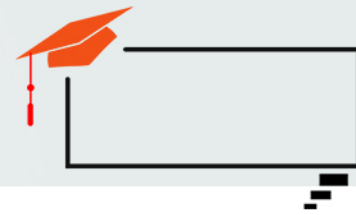
- Ensure credibility of Japanese higher education qualifications
- Facilitate recognition of qualifications among Japan, Asia-Pacific and the world

## ◆ What We Do

<https://www.nicjp.niad.ac.jp>

- ✓ Provide information on the Japanese higher education system
- ✓ Provide information on education systems in other countries, especially State Parties of the Tokyo Convention
- ✓ Build a global network for recognition of higher education qualifications
- ✓ Conduct relevant survey and research

# Establishment of a Network of NICs



## Asia-Pacific Network of National Information Centres [APNNIC] (September 20, 2019)

- **A network of national information centres on academic mobility and recognition shall be established** and shall uphold and assist the practical implementation of this Convention by the competent recognition authorities (Article IX. 3).
  - ✓ Information sharing related to academic recognition and mobility.



The 2nd session of the Committee of the Tokyo Convention, September, 2019 at UNESCO Bangkok, Thailand



Thank you!

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