

AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of the China (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties");

Recognizing the benefit of establishing a mechanism to promote and strengthen cooperative educational activities and student and professional mobility between the two countries;

Desiring to conclude an Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Academic Degrees in Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit and in accordance with the laws and regulations in force between the two countries;

Have agreed as follows:

1. Objectives of the Agreement

The Agreement aims to promote the mutual recognition of higher education degrees and graduates awards as herein described awarded to students in the Philippines and China and facilitate mutual recognition of their academic credentials, so as to make it easier for students or graduates to pursue further academic studies in each other's countries. The Commission on Higher Education of the Republic of the Philippines (CHED) and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (MoE) will designate appropriate bodies to provide information on recognition, and to make concrete recommendations in accordance with their current regulation, and to make concrete recommendations in accordance with their current regulations and practices to promote academic exchange and cooperation.

2. Agreement Profile

The Agreement relates to (the recognition of) the diplomas issued by all Philippine higher education institutions and research institutions (hereinafter referred to as "the higher education institutions") accredited by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to award higher education qualifications and degrees and all Chinese higher education institutions accredited by the Government of the People's Republic of China with the authority to award degree or postgraduate qualifications. The specific information as to award titles that are recognized by their respective governments shall be affirmed through diplomatic channels.

The Parties respect the autonomy of higher education institutions and the government designated bodies in the Philippines and China as bodies that have

the right to make their own decisions about recognition of overseas qualifications.

3. Introduction to the Academic Qualifications Framework in the Philippines and China

Philippines

Higher education credentials consists of associate degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, and doctoral degree as follows:

Associate Degree

Associate or pre-baccalaureate are college or university parallel programs that are similar to the first two years of a four-year college curriculum. These are oftentimes referred to as a terminal/transfer degree or "ladderrized" programs leading to baccalaureate programs.

Bachelor's Degree

A baccalaureate or bachelor's degree generally requires four years of full-time study with minimum of 180 credits. Engineering, architecture, music and physical/occupational therapy require five years while dentistry and veterinary medicine require six years. In law and medicine, students must already have obtained a four-year bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline.

Post-baccalaureate (Professional Title)

Post-baccalaureate certificates or diplomas are awarded upon completion of one or two years of study beyond the bachelor's degree. These certificates and diplomas are not equivalent to master's degree and are frequently awarded in subjects such as cultural area or period studies, education specializations, technological or scientific applications, and business applications.

Master's Degree

A master's degree is a more advanced level of study which normally requires four semesters of course work, a comprehensive examination and/or a thesis and defense of this thesis. Studies for a master's degree require minimum credits ranging from 42 to 48. Applicants for this level of study must have obtained a bachelor's degree.

Doctoral Degree

Doctoral degrees, the highest level of postgraduate studies, are research-oriented and research-based. A doctorate requires two to three years' study with at least four semesters of academic units and research for the doctoral dissertation equivalent to twelve academic units. At the end of the academic program, students must pass the comprehensive examination and present their dissertations. To be admitted to a doctorate program, students must have obtained a master's degree with an average of at least 1.75.