

# Training

## In-house events 2009

The following events will be held in our Cheltenham offices. Morning sessions run from 09.30 – 12.30 and afternoon sessions run from 13.30 – 16.30.

TRAINING	DATE	SESSION
Degree of Deception - Combating Education Fraud	27/01/2009	morning session
Education in China	27/01/2009	afternoon session
Education in india, Pakistan and Bangladesh	28/01/2009	morning session
Education in English speaking Africa	28/01/2009	afternoon session

## External events 2009

Following the introduction of the new membership packages in the summer demand for training has increased significantly. We have already scheduled a number of sessions around the country for 2009; the first of these sessions are shown below:

DEGREES OF DECEPTION – COMBATING EDUCATION FRAUD		
Southampton	10/02/2009	afternoon session
London	17/03/2009	afternoon session
EDUCATION IN NEW EU MEMBER STATES		
London	19/03/2009	morning session
EDUCATION IN CHINA		
Southampton	11/02/2009	morning session
London	18/03/2009	morning session
EDUCATION IN INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH		
Southampton	11/02/2009	afternoon session
London	18/03/2009	afternoon session
EDUCATION IN ENGLISH SPEAKING AFRICA		
London	19/03/2009	afternoon session

Further external events are still being discussed and will be advertised in our upcoming training newsletters.

For more details on UK NARIC training courses or if you would like to host your own event please contact our training department on e. [training@naric.org.uk](mailto:training@naric.org.uk) or t. **+44 (0) 871 330 7303**.

## Feedback

If you have any comments about the service that we provide, or any of the articles in this edition of NARIC News, please contact us on [feedback@naric.org.uk](mailto:feedback@naric.org.uk)

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## The new HK Diploma of Secondary Education



Meeting with HKEAA in Cheltenham;  
Chris Lyons, Dr Francis Cheung, Dr Cloud Bai-Yun and James Freeman

In a significant overhaul of the Hong Kong education system a new qualification will replace both the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) and the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE).

A new Diploma for Secondary Education (HKDSE) replaces both these well recognised school leaving examinations. The first HKDSE examinations will take place in 2012. These changes seek to revise the system's structure, moving away from the traditional O-level and A-level examinations, and opting for a six-year secondary system. Students will now be required to stay in full time education until they are 17.

The curriculum is transforming rather narrow 'subjects' into broader 'key learning areas'. These key learning areas are designed to cover the concepts of all the major learning experiences, including but going beyond academic study.

UK NARIC has undertaken a two-part benchmarking exercise to demonstrate lines of comparison between the new HKDSE and similar qualifications. The research has shown that the HKDSE compares favourably with the alternative systems, with features especially noticeable in relation to the programmes offered in Australia and England.

Changes within Hong Kong mirror closely some of the developments that have taken place in the senior secondary systems of these two countries. With an emphasis on personal and career progression, as well as academic development, the research also indicates a more practical and wider-reaching qualifications.

The first part focused on the research of the HKDSE design, methodology and curricula; and the second on the evaluation of subject specific level descriptors.

The completion of the first part found the development of the HKDSE to be thorough and rigorous. Each of the subjects selected was devised carefully, and each provided detailed specifications for the implementation of the HKDSE programme in Hong Kong schools. The HKDSE programme changes have also been made consistently from subject to subject.

A recent meeting between UK NARIC and the Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) discussed how these changes would impact Hong Kong's system and how the new qualification would be assessed.

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On behalf of:  
department for  
Innovation,  
Universities & Skills

## The International Certificate of Christian Education gains wider recognition

Students studying the International Certificate of Christian Education (ICCE) have received a significant boost from UK NARIC.

The recent benchmarking project was undertaken to establish the comparability of the qualifications offered by the ICCE to those offered by Cambridge International Examinations (CIE).

Using the NARIC benchmarking methodology, these qualifications have been closely examined in terms of their learning outcomes, assessment frameworks, underpinning quality assurance mechanisms, mode of learning and delivery. More information about the methodological process can be obtained from our website [www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk).

'In light of the evidence examined, we have concluded that the ICCE and CIE qualifications are broadly comparable' stated Dr. Cloud Bai-Yun. 'This exercise continues to show how useful the NARIC benchmarking methodology is, it can really make a significant difference for less well known qualifications. The ICCE are delighted by the results of the project and we feel that this work also helps improve awareness and understanding of such international qualifications.'

Details on the comparability of the individual awards are shown below:

ICCE Qualification Title	Comparability to Cambridge International Examinations
ICCE General Certificate	Comparable to Cambridge International O Level standard (grades C-E)
ICCE Intermediate Certificate	Comparable to Cambridge International O Level standard (grades A-B)
ICCE Advanced Certificate	Comparable to Cambridge International A Level standard

In relation to the programme delivery, the ICCE qualifications are offered either through schools or home based learning, both of which use the ICCE syllabi and assessment regime. However, it should be noted that the research upon which our recommendations are based, focused solely on the review of delivery provided

by ICCE school based learning and did not include a review of home-schooling.

Further information on ICCE and the comparability of the individual awards can be obtained from *International Comparisons*.

## UK NARIC Annual Conference

This year's event was the biggest event UK NARIC have ever held with over 270 delegates attending. Held at the Radisson SAS Portman Hotel on 6<sup>th</sup> November the event was the first opportunity for many delegates to speak to colleagues about the implementation plan announced by the UK Border Agency (UK BA) in October.

The event was opened by Dominic Scott, Chief Executive of UKCISA, and he highlighted the timeliness of the event given the changing economic environment and the changes within the immigration system.

Dr Cloud Bai-Yun, Head of UK NARIC, demonstrated the importance of qualifications in managing migration and also showed how migration had changed over the past few years.

Gavin Douglas, Director of Student Recruitment at Robert Gordon University, held up a mirror to the processes used in international recruitment and highlighted some areas of concern. He said that it was important for both marketing and admissions work together to ensure that the correct messages about institutions and UK higher education, and its inherent quality, were being communicated.

Mark Franks, Head of Secretariat, Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), provided an overview of the work of the MAC and the way in which the occupational and skill shortages in the UK were identified. He also gave an indication of the areas that were being considered by the Committee as possible shortage sectors in the future.

The latest developments in the Points Based System for immigration were presented by Neil Hughes, Programme Director PBS, UK BA. After providing an overview of the new system he moved on the cover move information about the timetables for Tier 2 (Skilled Workers) and Tier 4 (Students). The key message from this session was for organisations wishing to bring individuals to the UK to work or study to register as sponsors as quick as possible; this can be done on the UK BA website.

A number of workshop sessions were available to delegates in the afternoon:

- Degrees of Deception; combating education fraud - Jochen Pichler, UK NARIC
- Education in the Middle East - Omar Kasem, UK NARIC
- Improving the Transparency of Qualifications - Maryanne Hall and Chris Bye, UK NEC, Dora Timar, City & Guilds
- Focus on immigration - Tier 2 - Bharat Pamnani, UK BA
- Focus on immigration - Tier 4 - Jenna Nowson, UK BA
- English Language Requirements and Immigration - Carly Mouldings, IELTS

Our next Annual Conference is scheduled for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

## What's new

After a few months' busy research, a number of key updates have been made on our three main databases: International Comparisons (IC), Vocational Comparisons (VC) and Teaching Comparisons (TC). Two new country files - Holy See and Kosovo have been added to IC and the following five countries files have been fully reviewed and updated, following country visits and / or desk based research:

- Mexico
- Myanmar
- Italy
- Switzerland
- Lithuania

Country file sections on South Africa (new National Secondary Certificate), Singapore (new A level examinations), Czech Republic, USA, Cyprus, Greece and India have also been updated to reflect the recent changes in higher and secondary education.

In addition to this, the HEI lists for 26 countries have been fully updated, including Canada, USA, Japan and India, covering more than a thousand institutions. Forty new qualifications and comparability changes have been made including the MBBS from Nepal, largely as a result of the latest information gathered from country visits and information provided by overseas authorities.

## Europass

**UK National Europass Centre enjoyed recent success at the annual NARIC conference. The conference was sponsored by Europass and a workshop held on the 'Transparency of Qualifications' with guest speaker, Dora Timar from City & Guilds.**

The workshop received excellent feedback after exploring the role of the Certificate Supplement within vocational training. This interactive workshop gave participants the opportunity to explore the preparation, obstacles and benefits behind the City & Guilds initiative to launch the Certificate Supplement. Delegates investigated the role of vocational education in enabling mobility as well as the launch of the new Inland Mobility Pilot. For follow up on the workshop or for further information please email: [info@uknec.org.uk](mailto:info@uknec.org.uk).

The Europass team recently attended the Network Meeting in Brussels which provided the opportunity to explore new ideas on mobility alongside fellow Europass centres from across the EU. The main topic on the agenda was the new Europass online mobility tool which will be launched in 2010. The new system will provide an excellent way of registering and searching for host partners across the EU on all Lifelong Learning Programmes. The tool will make life easier for project leaders and will save on paper too as everything is electronic.

Next year will see the launch of the new inland mobility pilot and the Quality in Mobility taskforce along with many other exciting developments.

For more information on Europass, please visit [www.europass.org.uk](http://www.europass.org.uk).



## Stats

The number of enquiries received by UK NARIC has increased over the last couple of months following a decline in the volume received during July and August. Almost 2000 statements of comparability were issued in October to individuals from countries worldwide. Over 60% of enquiries received relate to admission to further education or professional employment; undergraduate education is the least common purpose of enquiry representing only 5% of the total number of enquiries received from individuals, with the majority of these enquiries being submitted to UK NARIC by admitting institutions. In recent months over 50% of enquiries received from subscribing organisations have been submitted from the Higher Education sector.

India, Pakistan and Poland remain top of the country league, followed by the USA, Romania, Philippines and Nigeria.

### New National Contact Point for Professional Qualifications opens

Ensuring that professional qualifications are understood is key to helping qualified professionals practice throughout Europe. Providing this information to employers and education providers is vital; and the responsibility for doing this is changing.

ECCTIS Ltd, the organisation that runs the NARIC and the National Europass Centre for the UK, has been awarded the contract to manage the National Contact Point functions to aid the mobility of professionals throughout Europe.

"This is a big but logical step for us," said Dr. Cloud Bai-Yun, "being able to extend our service to a new arena means that our customers will be able to come to one place to find the information they need, irrespective of whether the qualification is academic, vocational or professional; ultimately enabling us to provide a better and more integrated national service."

Under the contract effective 1st December 2008, the new National Contact Point, [www.europeopen.org.uk](http://www.europeopen.org.uk), will continue to provide the essential information in aid of professional mobility, offering a telephone helpline service to answer enquiries from members of the public and organisations. The National Contact Point also provides the Certificate of Experience service to EU nationals with UK work experience.

The service will go live from Monday 1st December.

## Where have we been?

The UK NARIC core services team has undertaken a series of research visits in 2009 and countries visited since August include Sri Lanka, Italy, Lithuania and France. In Italy, Lithuania and France, meetings took place with the NARIC offices where recent changes to education systems and recognition issues were discussed. The visit to Sri Lanka included meetings with different organisations from various sectors, including the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Higher Education and University Grants Commission. New information and data is being reviewed and processed in order to appear on UK NARIC products in the near future.