Session on "Mobility"
at the IFEES Summit 2011

Introduction for a discussion on "Mobility of engineering graduates"

by

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Mobility of students at different stages of their career essentially depends on trust between HEIs....

To ensure mobility of engineering graduates, some more formal trans-national recognition is necessary.

In this context, the catchword is “accreditation” or more precisely: “accreditation as entry route to a profession” (that can be defined pre-professional accreditation), provided it is inserted into an international system…

On the world scene of engineering, one can identify two existing systems of transnational recognition….

1. The IEA system;
2. The European situation (hardly a “system”)

In this introduction, I will briefly describe the two systems.

Then, I will ask Dr Arun Patil, of CQUniversity, Australia, to elaborate on the significance of and the obstacles to mobility, and to make some constructive proposals.

On the world scene ...two systems of transnational recognition….

The IEA system comprises the Washington/ Sydney/Dublin Accords for recognition of degrees (resp. of Eng. Bachelors, Technologists and Eng. Technicians) and three “Mobility Fora” for automatic (in principle!) recognition of professional qualifications.

The Washington Accord dates back to 1989 and now includes 14 ”signatories” and 6 ”provisional members” (countries or “jurisdictions”).

On the world scene …two systems ….

In the European Union, mobility of professionals is (should be?) guaranteed by a "Directive" (= European Law): anybody practising a profession in a Member State is entitled to practice it throughout the EU. "Professions" are defined within the European Qualification Frameworks at appropriate "levels": a system still in the making.

"Education" is outside the realm of the EU Treatises: hence "recognition of degrees" must follow a "bottom-up" approach, as the "Bologna Process" is doing in the 47-country European HE Area (EHEA).

Within this context, the "voluntary" EUR-ACE system...

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