

BRIEF REPORT ON

Webinar in International Webinar series on

“A RENEWED FOCUS ON HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE: THE CASE OF THE MALDIVES”

An International Webinar on the theme “A Renewed Focus on Higher Education Quality Assurance: The Case of the Maldives” organized by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru was held on 5th August 2021, through video conferencing using Cisco Webex platform. Resource Person for the Webinar was **Dr. Abdul Hannan Waheed**, Chief Executive Officer, Maldives Qualifications Authority, Maldives. The Webinar was organized with the aim of taking initiatives to understand the Quality assurance mechanism internationally in particular to Maldives perspective and way ahead towards Quality Improvement in Higher Education. Around 130 participants comprising a blend of National and International Academicians, Vice-Chancellors, Professors, Principals, IQAC and NAAC Coordinators from various institutions attended the Webinar.

The screenshot shows a Cisco Webex webinar interface. At the top, there are navigation options like 'File', 'Edit', 'Share', 'View', 'Audio & Video', 'Participant', 'Event', and 'Help'. The main content area features the Maldives Qualifications Authority logo on the left and the NAAC logo on the right. The webinar title is prominently displayed in red: “A Renewed Focus on Higher Education Quality Assurance: The Case of the Maldives” on Friday 5th August 2021, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM IST. Below the title, a list of main processes is shown:

- ❖ Evolvement of the National QA system in the Maldives
 - o Established in 2000 as Maldives Accreditation Board
 - o MNQF developed and implemented in 2001.
 - o Name change in 2010 to Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA)
 - o Legislative power given in 2021 under Maldives Higher Education and Training Act
- ❖ Main processes:
 - o Programme Approval
 - o Institutional Audit
 - o Qualifications Recognition
 - o Implementation of MNQF

On the right side, a 'Participants' panel shows a list of attendees, including Dr. K.R. Vishnu Mahesh, NAAC ICT, Dr. D. K. Kamble, and Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath. A speaker card for Dr. Abdul Hannan Waheed is also visible, identifying him as the CEO of MGA. The bottom of the screen shows the Windows taskbar with the time 11:41 and date 05-08-2021.

The Webinar started at 11:00 am IST with the Welcome and Introduction Address by Dr. B. S. Ponmudiraj, Adviser, NAAC.

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Viewing Maldives

MALDIVES QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

International Webinar series

NAAC NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

"A Renewed Focus on Higher Education Quality Assurance: The Case of the Maldives"
Friday 5th August 2021, 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM IST

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Speaker: Dr. Abdul Hannan Wahied
The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA)

PONMUDIRAJ BELAVENDRAN SELVADURAI

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Participants Chat

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11:05
05-08-2021

Opening Remarks was delivered by Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, Adviser NAAC on behalf of Director, NAAC.

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05-08-2021

Introduction of Resource Person was given by Dr. Shyam Singh Inda, Assistant Adviser, NAAC.



Dr. Abdul Hannan Waheed, in his session spoke about the current scenario about the Higher Education in Maldives and explained about Maldives Accreditation Board (MAB) which was created by a Presidential Decree on 14th August 2000 and renamed as Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA) on 17th May 2010.

Maldives Qualifications Authorities (MQA's) mandate is to assure the quality of post-secondary qualifications awarded in testimony of educational attainments. Thus, a framework was developed in 2001. It is called Maldives National Qualifications Framework (MNQF).

He also highlighted Maldivian post-secondary education sector, which is growing rapidly, with an increasing number of private providers entering the sector to meet the demand. Emerging from this growing importance of post-secondary education is the concomitant requirement to assure the quality of qualifications awarded in testimony of educational attainments. Thus, the Maldives National Qualifications Framework (MNQF) is designed to:

- Facilitate the development of a quality assurance mechanism for the post-secondary education sector.
- Provide a framework for recognition of qualifications offered in the Maldives and abroad.

He also focused on Maldives Qualification Framework (MNQF) provides a comprehensive and coherent national framework that facilitates quality improvement, quality assurance, and private sector participation in post-secondary education. MNQF also ensures that students, employers, education providers and the community at large easily understand the learning outcomes involved in various qualifications.

The qualifications recognized in the MNQF are classified in two groups: (1) Further Education and Training, and (2) Higher Education. The levels of qualifications (e.g., Certificate I and Certificates II) are differentiated based on the breadth, depth and complexity of knowledge and skills that are included in various qualifications.

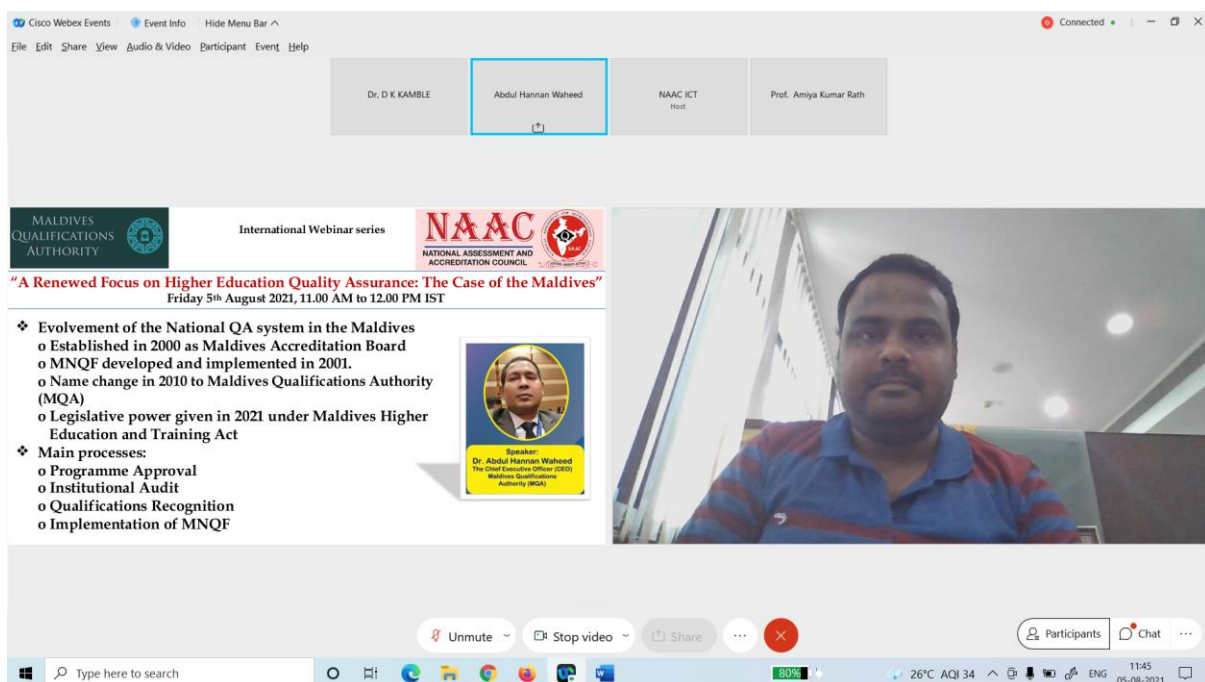
All qualifications in the MNQF have a purpose and are interrelated to each other, providing for articulation from one qualification to the other by recognizing prior learning. Qualifications recognized within the MNQF will be readily understood by the public, credible and useful to the employers.

MNQF provides pathways for life-long learning. The recommended minimum credit hours and credit points for each qualification are provided. The length of time it would normally take to complete a course leading to each qualification is expressed in weeks and academic years.

The Interactive Session/Question Answer session was handled by Dr. B. S. Ponmudiraj, Adviser, NAAC and Mr. Samuel, System Analyst, NAAC and clarifications and queries raised by participants regarding various aspects were addressed by the Resource Person and NAAC officials.

From ICT Side, Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, Adviser, NAAC and Mr. Samuel, System Analyst, NAAC took good and effective initiatives to successfully conduct the webinar.

Finally, the Webinar was concluded with expression of gratitude by Dr. D. K. Kamble, Assistant Adviser, NAAC.



Dr. K.R. Vishnu Mahesh, Assistant Adviser, NAAC compered and coordinated the programme.