Cross-Border Accreditation in Mexico

FIMPES

(Federation of Mexican Private Institutions of Higher Education)

CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG)
Rodrigo Guerra B.
FIMPES
Secretary General
Washington D.C.
January 27-29, 2016
FIMPES (Federation of Mexican Private Higher Education Institutions)

• A private independent 35 years old organization, the only higher education institutional quality accreditation agency in Mexico.

• Voluntary membership: 110 Private Universities (4% of country total) 550,000 students (54%)

• Mission:

  * Higher education quality promotion and accreditation.
  * Represent & defend Private Universities interests & rights.

• Own Accreditation System oriented to outcomes; special focus on graduate professional performance.
Background

• Higher Education Institutions #1 objective within their missions: graduate students prepared to succeed in their professional lives.

• Mexican economy and professional labor markets are now mostly oriented to international opportunities & projects.

• Good job opportunities are found in the international companies (MNCs) and export markets/projects.

• Many of Private Universities are now offering an education with international content & exposure, and pursuing international standards.

• An international view and dimension is in the process to be included in our Institutional Accreditation Process; our Accreditation System is aiming towards an international recognition.

• International Accreditations are now being considered for a growing number of Mexican Private Universities to consolidate their Quality assurance strategies.
However

• As of today, according to CHEA records, Mexico’s cross-border quality accreditation is very reduced:
  * 6 Private Universities accredited by: SACS, WASC, ACICS.
  * 41 Private (80%)/Public (20%) accredited programs by: ABET, ACBSP, ... AACSB, etc.
• Why so few?
  * There are no incentives for quality accreditation.
  * There is still not enough understanding/acceptance of the importance of an International Accreditation in many HEI’s.
  * No government presence/updated regulation regarding Higher Education quality assurance.
  * Position of US Regional Accreditors regarding International Accreditation.
Why is cross-border accreditation important and who would it benefit?

• Universities: improving their educational offer following international standards.

• Families: having better prepared sons/daughters for growing opportunities in the international professional labor markets.

• Graduates: having more/better paid job opportunities.

• Companies: hiring better prepared professionals gaining in competitiveness.

• Quality Accreditation Organizations: improving their own Accreditation Systems.
FIMPES’ actions to support cross-border accreditation in the next 24-36 months

• Keep supporting US-Mexico academic/research mobility agreement.
• Keep strengthening and improving our Accreditation System by being active part of CHEA/CIQG and WASC activities/programs.
• Take actions to adhere, as much as possible, to CIQG Principles; communicate to society.
• Obtain CHEA/CIQG recognition/affiliation.
• Support our Universities (5-10 in next 24 months) looking for International Accreditation.
• Assess carefully if we promote government involvement in our quality assurance efforts.
• Propose incentives for national/international quality accreditation.

Define and communicate our role and responsibilities.
Conclusions

• As economies and professional labor markets become global...

... and the good attractive jobs and opportunities for our graduates become available in the international arena...

... H.E.I.s should offer a high quality accredited education, based on international standards, to response to society requirements...

... therefore, international (cross-border) accreditation becomes a very important element within universities efforts to demonstrate everybody a much better and positive student outcomes whatever these may be.
Thank you very much!

www.fimpes.org.mx

guerrab@fimpes.org.mx