



The **STANDARD**

AICE

a monthly newsletter by AICE

AICE Newsletter

October 2017

Message from the Editor:

Greetings from everyone at AICE.

Much has been said in recent months about reconstructing educational histories for various scenarios where documents are not available. Due to the unfortunately increasing numbers of displaced persons around the world, academic organizations in the United States and abroad are finally reacting to the refugee crises by creating pathways to recognize prior learning for those who no longer have access to their records or credentials. While these approaches vary, the reaction overall is a positive development.

This month's AICE Credential Forum included information about the indefinite closure of two main Anglophone universities in Cameroon. Cameroon has experienced turmoil for some time now, and the ability to obtain official records or verification responses has been challenging. However, many graduates of University of Buea and University of Bamenda, those institution ordered to close on October 1st, are now in a state of limbo should they need access to their official academic records.

The turmoil in Cameroon is not a unique scenario. In fact, throughout the years, many geopolitical factors contributed to the closure of academic institutions. Political turmoil or sanctions, natural disasters and other factors routinely contribute to making academic records inaccessible, much to the detriment of the students or graduates of these institutions who seek to prove their qualifications abroad and in their home country. For those who are in the United States, many turn to credential evaluation agencies for assistance.

AICE Endorsed Member evaluation services have all experienced instances where official documentation or contact with academic institutions is strained. In response, they all have policies in place for such situations. The discussion among Endorsed Members and Affiliates at the October Credential Forum confirmed our mutual desire to help individuals have their legitimate qualifications recognized. We stay abreast of situations across the globe, and work with what we can to assist these individuals. The phenomenon of reconstructing academic histories for refugees is not a novel undertaking invented in response to the recent crisis. Each AICE Endorsed Member organization can share their policies, strategies, and experiences in response to such situations since AICE's establishment in 1995 and before.

Sincerely,
 Aleks Morawski
 Chair of Scholarship and Publications, Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE)®
 Director of Evaluation Services, Foreign Credits, Inc.

Notable Events:

- Sponsorship opportunities for the 2018 AICE Symposium are now available! Please contact AICE at info@aice-eval.org.
- The AICE Symposium Planning Committee continues to work on the 2018 AICE Symposium, to take place on March 28-29, 2018 in Orlando, FL, immediately following AACRAO's 104th Annual Meeting. This symposium will strive to answer questions, generate discussion, and update the AICE Standards on the topic of institutional accreditation, specifically comparative regional academic accreditation. Stay tuned for upcoming information on the 2018 Symposium. For questions, comments, and to help in the planning process, please contact Alexander Agafanov alexander@globelanguage.com or Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert Jasmin@AICE-Eval.org. AICE invites all to attend a reception on the evening of March 28th prior to the day-long Symposium on March 29th.



The poster features the AICE logo on the left, with the text '2018 AICE SYMPOSIUM' in a blue arrow. Below this is the theme: 'Setting the Standard: Evaluating International Recognition and Accreditation'. The right side of the poster is dominated by the text 'SAVE THE DATE!' in large orange letters, followed by 'ORLANDO FLORIDA' in green and 'March 28 – 29, 2018' in black. A yellow speech bubble contains the text 'Come for AACRAO... stay for AICE!'. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of the Orlando skyline with 'UCF' labeled on one of the buildings. The footer text reads 'AICE, Association of International Credential Evaluators' and 'Registration coming soon at : aice-eval.org'.

AICE® Forum Highlights

This section includes topics discussed at the monthly AICE® Forum in October, 2017.



Pakistan

Associate Degrees

Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) in 2016 approved the offer of Associate's degree programs – two year applied programs with the possibility to transfer to higher academic programs. These are similar in nature to Associate of Applied Science programs

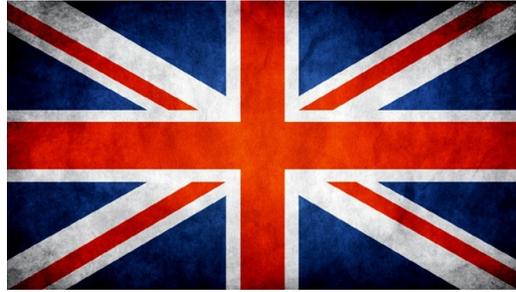
offered in the United States and are not to be confused with Associate Engineer diplomas offered by technical boards.

UK

Pre-university diplomas from Cambridge Assessment International Education

These programs are offered to 16-19 year-old students who want to progress to university.

They are considered "Level 3" for university admission. They are equivalent to GCE AS (Advanced Subsidiary) and A (Advanced) level examination.



Mexico

RVOE Recognition

AICE Members responded to a case of probable retroactive program recognition, where the search for recognition of a program completed in 1997 resulted in finding the program with a recognition date of year 2000. Probable causes were determined to be the replacement of the

completed program with the current one, or prior incorporation of the university with a different institution.

Cameroon

Closure of University of Bamenda and University of Buea

Forum participants reviewed recently published news that two Anglophone universities in Cameroon were ordered to close on October 1st, as reported by University World News



<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20171010121644957>. While unfortunate, this news allows AICE Endorsed Members and Affiliates to examine their operating procedures to assist individuals with credentials earned at institutions that are closed or otherwise unreachable.

Cameroon



National Polytechnic Bamenda, HND and License Professionnelle

Participants reviewed an interesting case of a Higher National Diploma from Cameroon, completed as part of a transnational program with a Nigerian institution, with debatable evidence of the award of a Bachelor of Technology degree. No consensus was reached whether or not a BTech degree was actually awarded, but the discussion allowed participants

to examine how they approach the HND credential from Cameroon.

To join us for the next AICE Credential Forum on November 16th 2017, please contact info@aice-eval.org.

Upcoming Events

November 4-8, 2017 NAFSA Regions I, II, IV Conference, Denver, CO – Endorsed Member Laura Sippel (ACEI) Exhibiting; Endorsed Member Aleks Morawski (Foreign Credits) Exhibiting; Endorsed Member Sonya Brauchle (Foreign Credits) will present “International Graduate Admissions - Examining the Requirements for International Degrees” on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 10:30 AM – 11:45 am

December 3-9, 2017 AIRC Annual Conference, Miami, FL – Endorsed Member Laura Sippel (ACEI) will present “Using Chinese Case Studies Addressing Credential Evaluation Issues” with WholeRen.

Publications

The NAFSA IEM Spotlight newsletter for Summer 2017 featured articles by several AICE members:

- [“AICE 2017 Symposium Report: Setting U.S. Admission Standards for Three-Year Degrees”](#)– AICE Endorsed Member Beth Cotter (Foreign Credential Evaluations, Inc.)
- [“The Three-Year Indian Degree Conundrum”](#) – Ujjaini Sahasrabudhe, University of Southern California and AICE Endorsed Member Aleks Morawski (Foreign Credits, Inc.)
- [“A Report on the Three-Year Bologna Bachelor’s Degrees Presentation at the ENIC-NARIC Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark”](#) – AICE Endorsed Member Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert (ACEI)
- NAFSA released a new publication: *Managing a Successful International Admissions Office*, edited by Dr. David L. DiMaria, on March 1, 2017. AICE Endorsed Member Aleks Morawski (Foreign Credits Inc.) contributed by authoring the chapter on Foreign Credential Evaluation. This publication can be orderd from [NAFSA](#).
- AACRAO’s newer (2016) publication: *The AACRAO International Guide: A Resource for International Education Professionals*. Endorsed Members Beth Cotter and Jasmin Saidi contributed to this publication (section on Diploma Mills and Outsourcing International Credential Evaluations with a Historic Perspective). You may order this publication on line or by post. Here’s the [link](#).

Resources

NAFSA 2017 Annual Conference Presentations related to International Enrollment Management are available for free download from the ACE Network Library [Click Here](#).

Blogs

ACEI hosts “**ACEI -GLOBAL**,” a blog on education-related topics:

[Visit Blog!](#)

For more information

Visit the AICE Website at www.aice-eval.org or contact info@aice-eval.org.

Submission of events, notifications, research items, and original content to the AICE Standard can be sent directly to amorawski@foreigncredits.com.

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