

RECOGNITION/EQUICALENCE OF CERTIFICATES

10/04/01



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY – DIPLOMA - RECOGNITION

(No. B/187) Dr. J. B. David (Fourth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether, in regard to the Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety (the Diploma) issued by the National College of Industrial Hygiene of Australia (the College), he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to –

- (a) whether the Diploma is internationally recognised;
- (b) whether the views of the University of Mauritius (the University) have been sought before granting recognition to the Diploma;
- (c) the minimum academic qualifications required by the University to enter for the Diploma and those required by the College, and
- (d) the duration of the studies leading to the Diploma at the University compared to that requested by the College.

Reply: The answer is as follows –:

(a) I am not in a position to state whether the Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety is internationally recognised, but I am advised that the Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety issued by the National College of Industrial Hygiene (NCIH) in Mauritius.

The diploma in Occupational Health and Safety awarded by the College of Industrial Hygiene of Australia was recognised as far back as in 1981. In fact, the said diploma appears in the Regulations made under Section 57 of the Labour Act 1975 in 1981.

(b) In April 1987, the Ministry of Labour & Industrial Relations, Women's Rights & Family Welfare made a request, to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to ascertain as to whether or not –

- (i) the Diploma in Occupation Health & Safety (National Coll Industrial Hygiene, Australia)
- (ii) the Diploma in Industrial Hygiene (National College of Ind Hygiene, Australia)

could each be considered equivalent to –

either (i) a diploma in Occupational Health & Safety (University of Mauritius);

or (ii) the certificate in Occupational Health & Safety (University of

Aston in Birmingham).

The National Equivalence Council, which was set up by Act of Parliament in 1986, and which was functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, took up the matter. The views and advice of the University of Aston (Birmingham, U.K.) and of the University of Mauritius were sought.

However, the University of Mauritius advised that some components of the courses offered by the NCIH, having direct bearing on the training requirement in the field were not covered, e.g. industrial psychology and advanced safety management.

Following the above advice, the two diplomas awarded by the NCIH were not considered equivalent to the diploma offered by the University of Mauritius. The Ministry of Labour & Industrial Relations was informed accordingly.

The case was again taken up at the National Equivalence Council meeting held on 17 June 1988 and it was decided that both diplomas be considered equivalent to the Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety (University of Mauritius) provided the components not covered are included.

In 1997, the Agricultural Marketing Board requested clarification from the National Equivalence Council as to whether the Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety awarded by the NCIH, Australia was recognised.

The National Equivalence Council confirmed that the diploma was recognised, but until 1988 could not be considered equivalent to the Diploma of the University of Mauritius as it was only in 1988 that all the other components were included in the course.

(c) The minimum qualifications required by both the University of Mauritius and the National College of Industrial Hygiene, Australia for such diploma course are -

Cambridge S.C./GCE "0" in 5 subjects including English and a Science subject and
GCE "A" level in 2 subjects – plus 2 years of relevant experience or 5 years of relevant experience in a responsible position.

(d) The duration of the course, both at the University of Mauritius and at the National College of Industrial Hygiene (NCIH) for such diploma course is of

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two years (part time).

CA/D10/P14/1

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME - CERTIFICATE

(No. B/426) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac) asked the Minister of Education & Scientific Research whether he will state what action is being taken to ensure that students who are investing in the long distance learning programme do get a proper and recognisable certificate at the end of the course so as to enable them to enter the labour market.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, overseas education institutions are providing courses either directly to students or in collaboration with the partners/agencies.

The National Accreditation and Equivalence Council (NAEC) Act 1996, which was proclaimed in 1998, makes provision for regulatory mechanisms to ensure course credit accreditation, quality and standard of institutions operating in Mauritius. However, the NAEC has not, so far, exercised direct control over the institutions and has limited itself to the recognition and equivalence of certificates.

I am informed that recognition of certificates by the NAEC is based on criteria, such as :-

- duration of course;
- content of course;
- quality of the content of the course;
- level of assessment, etc.

At present, there is no controlling mechanisms to supervise institutions dispensing distance education learning programmes in Mauritius.

The NAEC has been requested to look into the matter, and I am informed that the Council will soon refer its recommendations to my Ministry for consideration.

I am certain that the hon. gentleman would agree that, in the light of the anarchic development in the field of distance education in the past, there is urgent need to put some order in that sector. Indeed, the whole operation of the NAEC and the means at its disposal will now have to be reviewed.

NATIONAL ART GALLERY - MR E. RICHON -
QUALIFICATIONS

25/5/04

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(No. B/473) Dr. A. Boolell (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will, for the benefit of the House, ascertain if National Accreditation and Equivalence Council sent a letter to the Chairperson of National Art Gallery on 07 February 2003 to certify that the qualification of Mr Emmanuel Richon is recognised as equivalent to a Master's degree.

Mr Obegadoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am advised as follows -

- (i) On 14 May 2002, the post of Director, National Art Gallery was advertised to holders of MA in Fine Arts or an equivalent acceptable qualification.
- (ii) On 06 August 2002, the National Art Gallery requested from the National Accreditation and Equivalence Council (NAEC for short) confirmation that the "*Diplome de Professeur des Ecoles*" was equivalent to, I quote: " BAC +5 or "Master", as affirmed by the French Authorities. Documents submitted related to one Emmanuel Richon. Further information was submitted to NAEC in November 2002.

D11P14CO3**PQ No. B/473 (contd)**

- (iii) On 07 February 2003, by way of a letter addressed to the Chairman, National Art Gallery, NAEC stated that, I quote- "the BAC+ 5 is recognised as equivalent to a Master's degree."
- (iv) On 28 April 2003, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Arts & Culture requested NAEC to, I quote to - "specify whether the Master's degree of Mr E. Richon is equivalent to a Master's degree in Fine Arts" and in response thereto, on 15 September, 2003 NAEC stated, I quote - "that the Master's degree of Mr. E Richon is not equivalent to a Master's degree in Fine Arts."

Dr Boolell: Mr Deputy Speaker, I hope the Minister will lay on the Table of the Assembly a copy of the letter addressed to the Chairman of the National Art Gallery stating very clearly that BAC +5 is recognised as an equivalent to Master's degree. When the post of Director became vacant is the Minister aware - it was stated clearly - that an alternative qualification would be considered, provided it is equivalent to a Master's degree? And then, for reasons obvious to the Minister and the Government of the day, it has been decided that undue pressure would be applied to the National Accreditation and Equivalence Council with the end result that they deliberately disqualified Mr Richon; and this is a fact, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Obeegadoo: The hon. gentleman again appears to be labouring under mistake. I am the Minister of Education responsible for the National Accreditation and Equivalence Council and have no responsibility for the National Art Gallery, Sir.

YEAR 2006

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DESIGN OF MYSORE, INDIA - RECOGNITION (31/10/06)

(No. B/1232) Mrs B. Juggoo (Third Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Professional Architects Council, information as to whether the University School of Design of Mysore is recognised by the Council, and if not, why not.

Mr Gokhool: Mr Speaker Sir, I am advised that the Tertiary Education Commission which is responsible for the recognition and equivalence of post secondary educational qualifications contacted the Professional Architects Council of Mauritius and the answer is in the negative as –

(1) The University School of Design of Mysore, India, is not recognised by the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) as provided for under the Professional Architects Council Act 1988.

(2) Furthermore, from the academic point of view, the University School of Mysore is not recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India and All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), India, is also not accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) of India.

Mrs Juggoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, since 2002/2003, the University of Architecture and Design of Mysore has been recognised. It is also recognised by the Indian Council of Architecture. If the hon. Minister could please look into this case, because there are many students from Mauritius who are studying there, they have been granted a student visa and for the past three years they have spent money to study there. Now they are left with two years; they are coming back and the degree will not be recognised by the Architects Council of Mauritius. Can the hon. Minister look into the matter and see to it that these Mauritian students are being protected?

Mr Gokhool: I'll look into the matter, Mr Speaker, Sir, but as the hon. Member should know, the Indian High Commission provides advice and guidance to all students. This matter is taken care of by the Indian High Commission, but I'll look into the case of the students which have just been mentioned.

**UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DESIGN, MYSORE
ARCHITECTURE BACHELOR DEGREE (31/07/07)**

(No. B/898) Mrs B. Juggoo (First Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to degrees, mainly Bachelor degree in Architecture, obtained after five years study at the University School of Design, Mysore, he will state if they are now recognized in Mauritius by Government and the Professional Architects Council of Mauritius and, if not, why not.

(Withdrawn)

31/07/07
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DEGREES RECOGNITION – MAURITIUS/INDIA - MOU

(No. B/897) Mrs B. Juggoo (First Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the recognition, in Mauritius, of all the degrees obtained in India, he will state if a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of Mauritius and the Government of India, in October 2006 and, if not, why not.

(Withdrawn)

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DESIGN, MYSORE - BACHELOR
DEGREE - ARCHITECTURE

7/8/07

(No. B/998) Mrs B. Juggoo (First Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education & Human Resources whether, in regard to degrees, especially the Bachelor degree in Architecture, obtained after five years study at the University School of Design, Mysore, he will state if they are now recognized in Mauritius by Government and the Professional Architects Council of Mauritius and, if not, why not.

Mr Gokhool: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to refer to PQ No. B/1232 of 31 October 2006, related to the issue of recognition of the School of Design of Mysore by the Professional Architects Council and wherein I informed, *inter alia*, that the University School of Design of Mysore, India is not recognised by the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) as provided for under the Professional Architects Council Act 1988.

I have been informed by the TEC which is responsible for the recognition and equivalence of post secondary educational qualifications, that the University School of Design of Mysore is not recognised by the Professional Architects Council (PAC) of Mauritius. The reason is that the University School of Design of Mysore, India is still not recognised by the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA).

I am also informed that the TEC has written to the University of Mysore on 01 August 2007 to ascertain from the academic point of view whether the University School of Design, Mysore is affiliated to the University of Mysore and whether the Bachelor degree in Architecture is awarded by the University of Mysore. On the basis of the reply to be

obtained from the University of Mysore, the issue of recognition will be handled by TEC.

Mrs Juggoo: Can the Minister confirm whether there has been any Memorandum of Understanding that was meant to be signed last October regarding the education sector whereby the degrees from India would be recognised in Mauritius?

Mr Gokhool: There are discussions going on with regard to the signature of the MoU.

Mrs Juggoo: Now that there are students who have qualified after five years of hard study in Mysore and spent money, can the Minister tell us what type of problem would these students, who have come with a degree today, encounter when seeking a job in Mauritius?

Mr Gokhool: The hon. lady is referring to architecture. I have already mentioned that there is a Professional Architects Council. For the degree to be recognised by that Council, it has to be recognised by the Commonwealth Association of Architects. If the degree is to be recognised at academic qualifications for teaching purposes, for example, that can be handled by TEC and that is why TEC has written to the University of Mysore to know whether the School of Design of Mysore is affiliated to the University of Mysore.

Mrs Juggoo: Can the hon. Minister consider the suggestion of negotiating with the education desk at the High Commission of India? Because when a student goes to study, the High Commission of India issues a student visa regarding the universities concerned. Once the visa is given, I feel that it is valid for the period that when they come back to Mauritius, they should be reassured of their job. Can the Minister consider the issue of debating the matter with the Indian High Commission?

Mr Gokhool: As per existing procedures, Mr Speaker, Sir, students are strongly advised to go to TEC and find what are the degrees which are recognised before they proceed to India. If they go for a visa, the Indian High Commission will issue the visa, but the issue of recognition is a different matter.