

## *Certificate on the Tokyo and Global Conventions*

The National Center for Higher Education Development (NCHED), as part of the project "Assessment of UNESCO's Needs for Technical Assistance in Higher Education in Kazakhstan," has examined the possibility of ratifying the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education in the Asian-Pacific Region (Tokyo Convention) and the Global Convention.

*For reference, the Tokyo Convention was adopted in 2011 and has been signed by 12 countries (Australia, Armenia, Afghanistan, China, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the Holy See, Turkey, Fiji).*

*The Global Convention was adopted in 2019 and has been signed by 22 countries.*

NCHED has prepared an analytical report on the advantages and obligations arising from the ratification of these conventions. Additionally, a project for a National Action Plan for the ratification of the Tokyo Convention is in progress.

**In the initial stage, ratifying the Tokyo Convention is proposed. This will open up a new market in Southeast Asia for the export of Kazakhstani higher education** by providing a legal mechanism for mutual recognition of educational documents and qualifications.

This step will contribute to achieving one of the key indicators of the Concept for the Development of Higher Education and Science in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029, namely, reaching a foreign student enrollment rate of up to 10% of the total number of students by 2029.

*For reference, the Asian-Pacific region has significant potential for recruiting students. In 2020, more than 1 million students from China, 132,000 from Vietnam, and over 100,000 from South Korea studied abroad, while only 1,200 students from this region studied in Kazakhstan. The reasons for this include:*

- Lack of reliable information about the quality of Kazakhstani higher education.*
- Absence of legal mechanisms for mutual recognition of educational documents and qualifications.*

The ratification of the **Lisbon Convention** on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in 1998 contributed to the development of international educational cooperation in Kazakhstan. This document served as the legal basis for active engagement with universities from **56** countries that also signed the convention. Intensive activities in accordance with the Lisbon Convention increased academic mobility for students, providing them with the opportunity to pursue education primarily in CIS and European countries.

The ratification of the Tokyo Convention will increase awareness among Asia-Pacific countries about Kazakhstan's education system, higher education institutions, educational programs, the national higher education qualifications framework, and the diploma and certificate issuance process. Such interaction will foster mutual understanding and trust between countries and expand cross-cultural knowledge and experience exchange.

The commitments made under the Tokyo Convention are largely in line with Kazakhstan's obligations under the Lisbon Convention. Implementing the Tokyo Convention does not require changes to domestic legislation.

The National Center for Higher Education Development (NCHED) of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which oversees the implementation of the Lisbon Convention, can simultaneously serve as the National Information Center for both the Tokyo Convention and provide information about the higher education system, quality assurance mechanisms, qualifications, and educational institutions for Asia-Pacific countries.

Thus, the ratification of the Tokyo Convention appears to be a timely and necessary measure to achieve the goals of the Concept for the Development of Higher Education and Science in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

As for the **Global Convention**, it contains several provisions that will require amendments to the Law on Education and other legislative acts. Therefore, the ratification of this Convention can be considered at a later time.