HRDD
For RD's Approval:

RAMIR B. UYTICO EdD, CESO III
Regional Director

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
NEGROS ISLAND REGION

Regional Advisory No. 129, s. 2026
November 10, 2026
In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013
this Advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001,
but only for the information of DepEd NIR
officials and personnel/staff.

NON-TRADITIONAL LEARNING PATHWAYS AND THEIR RECOGNITION: THE CASES OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND JAPAN

Attached is a letter from the UNESCO – Learning and Education 2030+. regarding the **APNNIC Capacity-Building Webinar Series Session 5 | Non-traditional Learning Pathways and their Recognition: the cases of Republic of Korea and Japan** on the specified dates and venues.

For queries, contact:

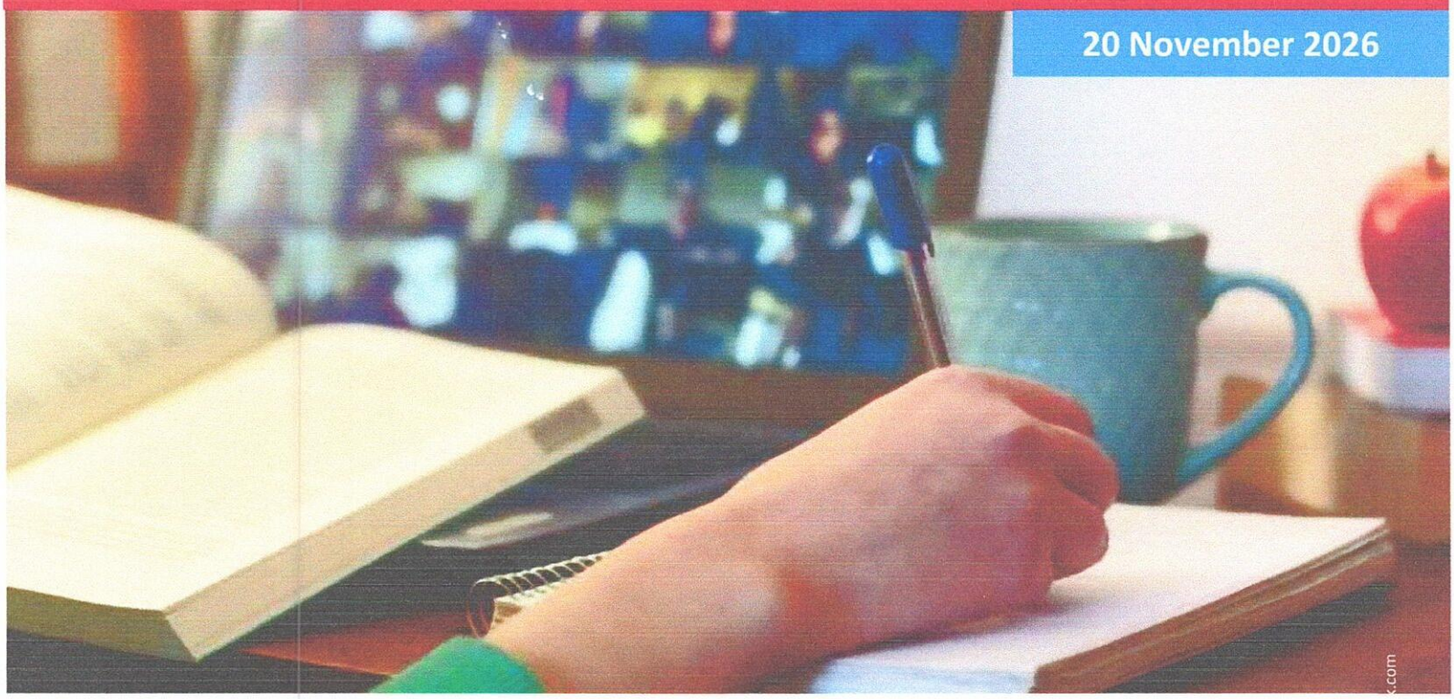
Ms. Marina Patrier
Deputy Director and Chief of Education
UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok
ed2030.bgk@unesco.org / apnnic@unesco.org

Address: Batinguel, Dumaguete City, 6200
Telephone Nos:
Email Address: nir@deped.gov.ph
Website: depednir.net

Non-traditional Learning Pathways and Their Recognition: the cases of Republic of Korea and Japan

APNNIC Capacity-building webinar series: Session 5

20 November 2026



Date and time: 14:00 – 15:00 (UTC+7), 20 November 2026

Format: Zoom webinar. Prior registration is required via this link: **Webinar Registration**

Target audience: Policymakers and higher education professionals based in Asia and the Pacific

Language: English

Background

Rising access to higher education and cross-border student mobility are two defining features of the contemporary higher education landscape. Global tertiary enrollment has more than doubled over the past two decades – from about 100 million in 2000 to 269 million in 2024 – with an average participation rate of 43%. Concurrently, internationally mobile students reached nearly 7 million in 2024. (UNESCO, 2026)

However, this expansion does not guarantee equitable opportunities. Traditional, linear higher education models often fail to serve non-traditional learners, including working professionals, refugees (only 9% of whom participate in higher education), and vulnerable groups who require flexible learning options. As diverse learning pathways – such as distance learning and prior learning experiences – are becoming more common, the need of transparent and fair recognition frameworks is increasing for lifelong learning and mobility.

As we enter the final years to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 4 on Quality Education, higher education systems should be prepared to integrate and recognize non-traditional learning pathways.

Ensuring the formal recognition and validation of these diverse learning outcomes is essential to building flexible learning ecosystems, bridging gaps and promoting the access to higher education.

UNESCO's Global and Tokyo Conventions on Higher Education provide inclusive frameworks that support the fair, transparent and timely recognition of qualifications globally and in the Asia-Pacific region. Both Conventions establish the right of learners to have their qualifications and partial studies assessed and recognized in a fair, transparent and timely manner, regardless of mode of delivery, and including qualifications held by refugees and displaced persons. The Global Convention goes further in applying the same principles to recognition of prior learning. To translate these principles into practice, countries in the Asia-Pacific have been exploring different practices to recognize qualifications delivered through non-traditional modes.

About the Asia-Pacific webinar series

The webinar series brings together policymakers and practitioners to explore how national systems can better support recognition of qualifications for lifelong learning, skills development, and employment to serve national development goals. In 2025, three webinars were organised in the lead up to the Sixth Session of the Tokyo Convention Committee and the Fifth APNNIC Plenary, led respectively by New Zealand, Japan and Australia in coordination with the Secretariat of the Tokyo Convention at UNESCO Bangkok. In June 2026, China as the President of the Tokyo Convention Bureau organized a webinar on Digitalization and AI Applications in Higher Education. The Asia-Pacific webinar series complements the capacity building webinars on the Global Convention on Higher Education. The recording and presentation of past webinars can be accessed via this **link**.

Objectives and agenda of the webinar

This webinar is the fifth in a series developed in cooperation with the Bureau of the Tokyo Convention and APNNIC, aimed at promoting cooperation on qualifications recognition within the Asia Pacific and increasing understanding of the Tokyo Convention and Global Convention on Higher Education in the region. This webinar aims to:

- share trends in the Republic of Korea and Japan on higher education conducted through non-traditional learning modes and recognizing non-traditional learning conducted in foreign countries;
- discuss how countries in the Asia-Pacific can collaborate to promote recognition of learning conducted through non-traditional learning modes to support academic mobility and access to further studies and employment.

Agenda	
14:00-14:05	**Opening and introduction** • Ms. Marina Patrier, Deputy Director and Chief of Education, UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok and Office for UN Coordination for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCO Bangkok), Secretariat of the Tokyo Convention and APNNIC
14:05-14:45	**Presentation: Non-traditional Learning Pathways and Their Recognition: the cases of Republic of Korea and Japan**

	• Ms. JungEun Lee, Director, Korea Academic Recognition Information Center (KARIC), Republic of Korea • Prof. Rie MORI, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Executive Director of the National Information Center for Academic Recognition Japan (NIC-Japan)
14:45-14:55	**Discussion: how can Asia-Pacific countries collaborate to promote recognition of learning conducted through non-traditional learning modes** • Moderator: UNESCO Bangkok and Secretariat of the Tokyo Convention and APNNIC (TBD)
14:55-15:00	**Wrap up** • Ms. Marina Patrier, Deputy Director and Chief of Education, UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok and Office for UN Coordination for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCO Bangkok), Secretariat of the Tokyo Convention and APNNIC

Speakers



Ms. JungEun Lee is Director of Korea Academic Recognition and Information Center (KARIC), Republic of Korea. She has been involved in establishing KARIC since 2016. She serves as First Vice-President of the Tokyo Convention committee and the APNNIC Bureau for 2026-2027. She is a member of the Open-ended Working Group on the Draft Subsidiary Text under the UNESCO Global Convention. She holds a master's degree in higher education and is a PhD candidate in global education cooperation at Seoul National University.



Prof. Rie Mori is a Professor at the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) and the Executive Director of the National Information Centre for Academic Recognition Japan. She earned a BA and an MA from Waseda University and joined the National Institution for Academic Degrees (NIAD) before its reorganization to NIAD-QE as a Research Fellow. Her prime research interest is the accreditation of higher education institutions that ensures the legitimacy of higher education credentials, including degrees earned in nontraditional ways such as personal credit-hour accumulation. She was a visiting researcher at the New England Association for Schools and Colleges (now New England Commission of Higher Education) and Boston College (2004-5).
Her recent publications include: Mori, R. (2016) "In Defense of Japanese Liberal Education", Liberal Education, Association of American Colleges and Universities, Vol. 101:4/102:1, Fall 2015/Winter 2016, pp.72-75, Washington DC.