

APEC Inventory of Mutual Recognition Agreements for Professional Qualifications and Licensure

The [APEC Inventory of Mutual Recognition Agreements for Professional Qualifications and Licensure](#) is a **single source location of all known mutual recognition agreements (MRAs)** on licensing, qualifications and accreditation of professionals and skilled service providers in APEC economies.

A '**Mutual Recognition Agreement**' refers to an agreement to facilitate the mobility of professional labour across international borders. The APEC Connectivity Blueprint for 2015-2025 declared that *'on people-to-people connectivity, much work needs to be done to ease existing barriers to interaction and mobility, and to develop joint endeavours that will support seamless flows of people.'*

The APEC MRA Inventory **enhances transparency** and **improves access** to information about the development of MRAs in APEC for individual service providers, firms, industry, and governments.

The Inventory contains details of more than **216 agreements** and is regularly updated, making it the **world's largest data collection of MRAs**.

What are the benefits of using the APEC MRA Inventory?

By listing all existing MRAs in one place and making them searchable, the APEC MRA Inventory makes it much more efficient for those interested in MRAs to find, access, understand and use them.

For individuals, businesses and professional associations, the APEC MRA Inventory provides a simple means of identifying MRAs that could facilitate their work across borders through cheaper and streamlined registration and licensing procedures and processes.

For governments and competent authorities (i.e. regulators, professional associations etc), an overview of all the agreements in place will assist in the prioritisation and development of future agreements as well as aiding in benchmarking current practice. The APEC MRA Inventory provides a rich dataset that has the potential to change the way we think about the possibilities of expanding mutual recognition.

Which economies are included?

The APEC MRA Inventory includes all known mutual recognition agreements that have been entered into by at least one of APEC's 21 member economies. For non-APEC economies, the Inventory only includes those agreements that also involve an APEC economy. If you are aware of MRAs by APEC economies that are not included in the APEC MRA Inventory, please get in touch to include the MRA (see below under '*Update or provide new details of your MRA*').

Some agreements are between a sub-national jurisdiction in one economy, especially in the case of the United States and Canada, and another economy. Intra-national agreements between states or provinces in the same economy are not included.

What type of agreements are found in the APEC Inventory of MRAs?

The Inventory includes all mutual recognition agreements which relate to professional practice licensure or professional accreditation and which involve at least one economy which is a member of APEC. For example, Australia may have a bilateral agreement with India in Accounting, or it may be one of many economies which have signed up to a multilateral international agreement such as the Washington Accord. The APEC Inventory of MRAs therefore includes different types of agreements, which are all international but may be between two economies or many economies, and which may lead to different levels of professional recognition.

International agreements that relate primarily to recognition of educational qualifications are only included where they confer a right to professional practice. The APEC MRA Inventory does not include unilateral recognition of foreign qualifications by APEC economies where there is no international agreement in place.

What information is included for each agreement?

The [APEC MRA Inventory](#) includes the following information for each agreement:

- Occupation
- Economies involved
- Agreement title
- Year the agreement entered into force
- Link to the competent authority in each economy
- Link to application details for professional seeking recognition
- Link to the agreement text, where available
- An assessment of the level of recognition afforded by the agreement

The APEC MRA Inventory includes the organisation in each economy that has responsibility for overseeing professional licensure/registration according to the MRA. In most cases, the Inventory includes a link to the organisation's home page, and a link to 'application details', i.e. the information provided by that organisation for foreign professionals seeking to have their professional qualifications recognised.

Update or provide new details of your MRA

Stakeholders and users of the APEC MRA Inventory are able to use a simple online form to submit feedback or details of MRAs for inclusion.

The link to the form can be found below and on the Inventory site under the tab “**Submit Additional Information**” <https://aasc.knack.com/mra-inventory#submit-additional-information/>

We welcome stakeholders from APEC economies to submit updates and new MRAs for inclusion on the Inventory website.

Online training

To learn more about the APEC MRA Inventory and about developing MRAs, an online training course has been developed.

If you'd like to participate in the **APEC Digital Credentials and the Mutual Recognition of Professional Services Course**, please check here for more details about how to register (<https://www.apec.org.au/mra-online-course>)

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