

Credit system and qualification recognition: promoting international academic mobility



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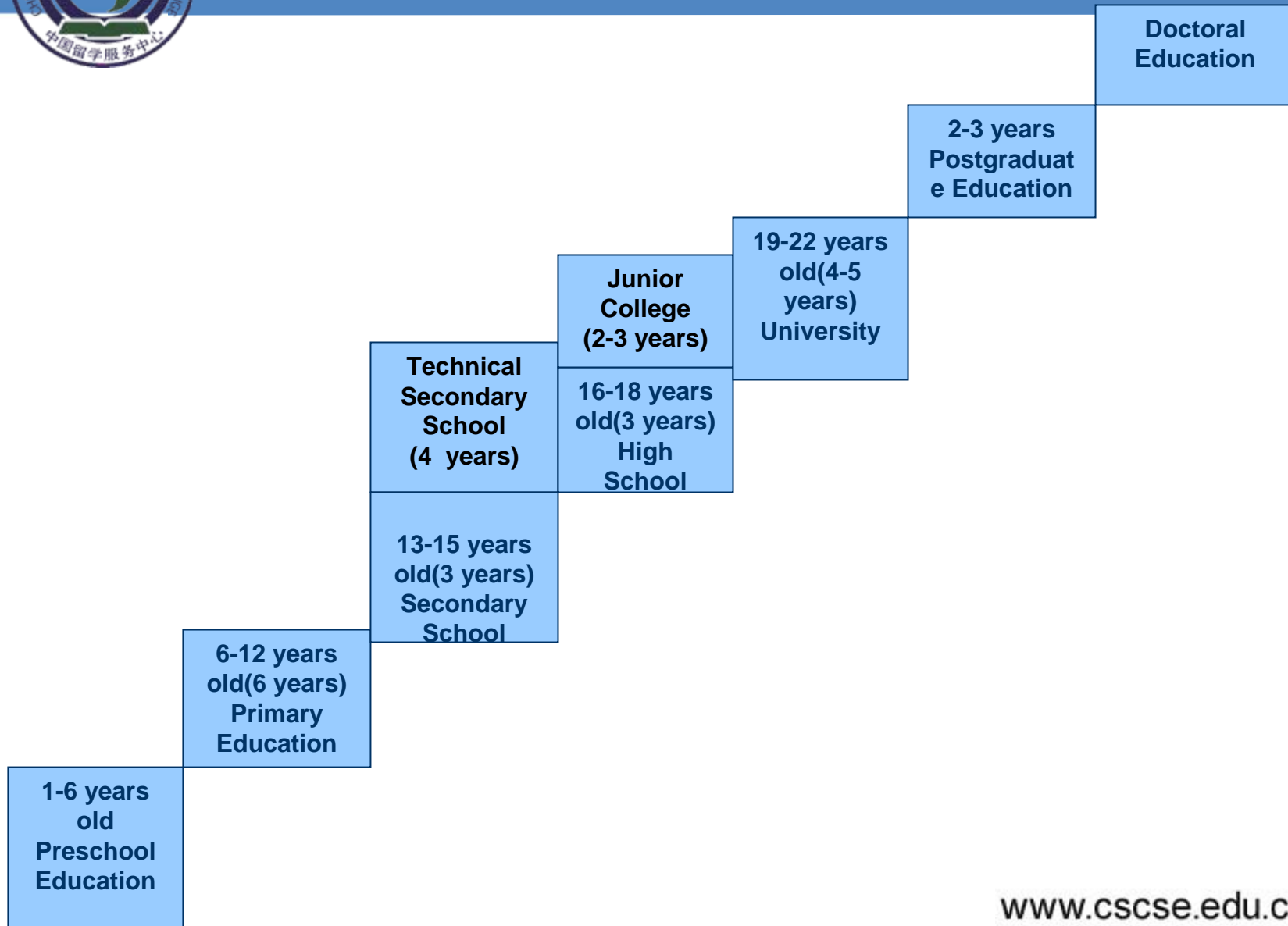


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Education System in China





Current Education Situation in China

❖ **Primary and Secondary Schools Education**

600,000 primary and secondary schools with 200 millions students

91,492 general secondary schools with 47.6 million students

❖ **Vocational Education**

14,767 with 20.56million students and annual enrollment of 8.1million students

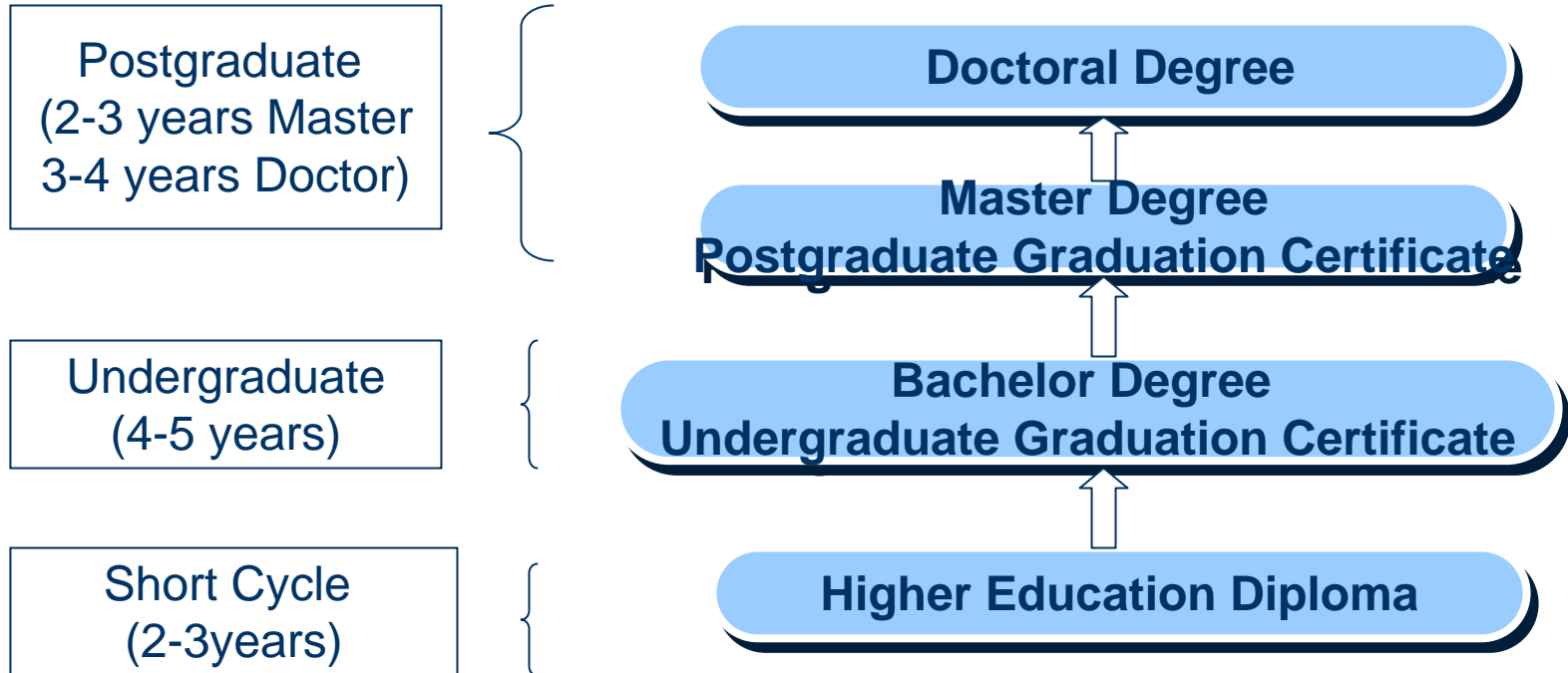
❖ **Higher Education**

2,263 regular HEIs with about 24.1 millions students

In 2009,10.3 million candidates took the College Entrance Examination.



Higher Education Qualification Framework (HEQF) in China





Development of credit system in China

- ❖ **Before 1978: Academic Year System was the major management system in Chinese universities**
 - experience studied from the Soviet Union
 - unique model in all Chinese universities at that time
- ❖ **After 1978: Credit System was introduced into China**
 - Since the reform and opening of China, credit system was introduced by some top Chinese universities
 - <Decisions on Chinese Higher Education System> in 1985: a milestone in the development of credit system in China



Current situation: coexistence of 2 systems

❖ Academic year system

- measure students' workload by the academic year
- one academic year is usually divided into 2 semesters

❖ Credit System

- 1 credit= 16-20 hours of study (18 hours in most universities)
- Bachelor degree requires normally 2500 hours of study and 170 credits

❖ However, academic year system is still the major system today



Trend: credit system is going to be dominant

❖ Trend

- More and more Chinese universities are implementing credit system (moving from A to B)



Academic
Year System

Credit System

- Objectives: encouraging students autonomy and initiative; facilitating students mobility; meeting the challenges of higher education popularization and internationalization etc.



Problems of credit system in China

❖ Lack of government guidance

- no relevant laws or regulations in credit system at the national level

❖ Lack of unified standards in implementing

- no governmental guidelines in how to implement credit system

❖ Credits of different universities are incomparable

- understandings and practices in credit system varies in different universities

❖ Lack of recognition in credits and learning outcomes among Chinese universities

- difficult for students to transfer between universities



Students mobility in China

- ❖ **Domestically— students' mobility is not satisfying**
 - Inflexible education system
 - Lack of tools for recognition and comparison (e.g. Credit system)

- ❖ **Internationally— students move more frequently**
 - China is the No.1 sending country
 - Number of students returning from overseas study is increasing



Chinese students' international mobility

❖ Studying abroad

- Since 1978, China has sent 1,38 million students to study abroad
- In 2009, 229,000 Chinese students went abroad (increasing 27.5% compared with 2008)

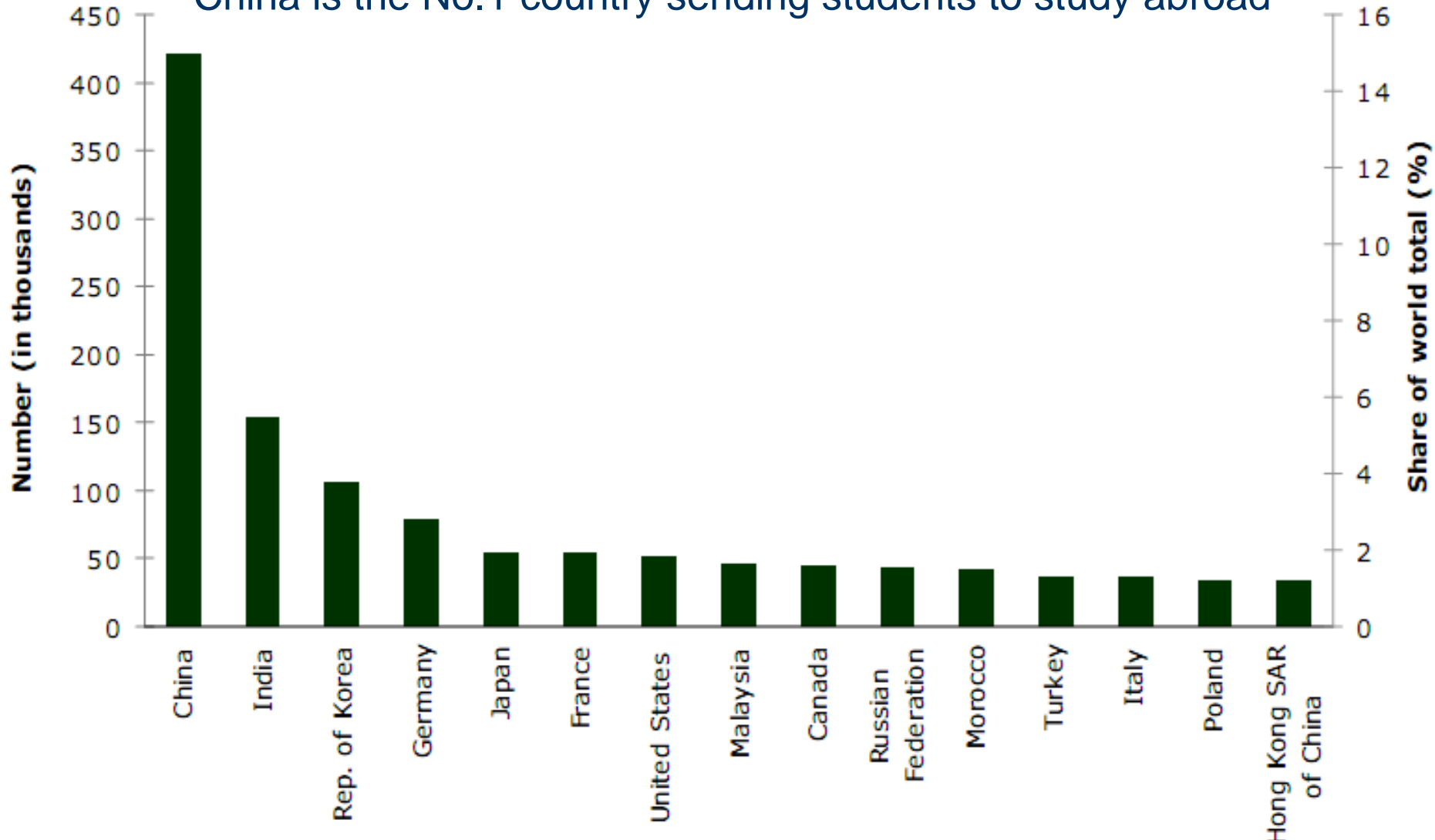
❖ Returning from overseas study

- Since 1978, 497,400 Chinese students have returned from overseas study
- In 2009, 100,000 Chinese students returned from overseas study (increasing 56.2% compared with 2008)



Studying Abroad

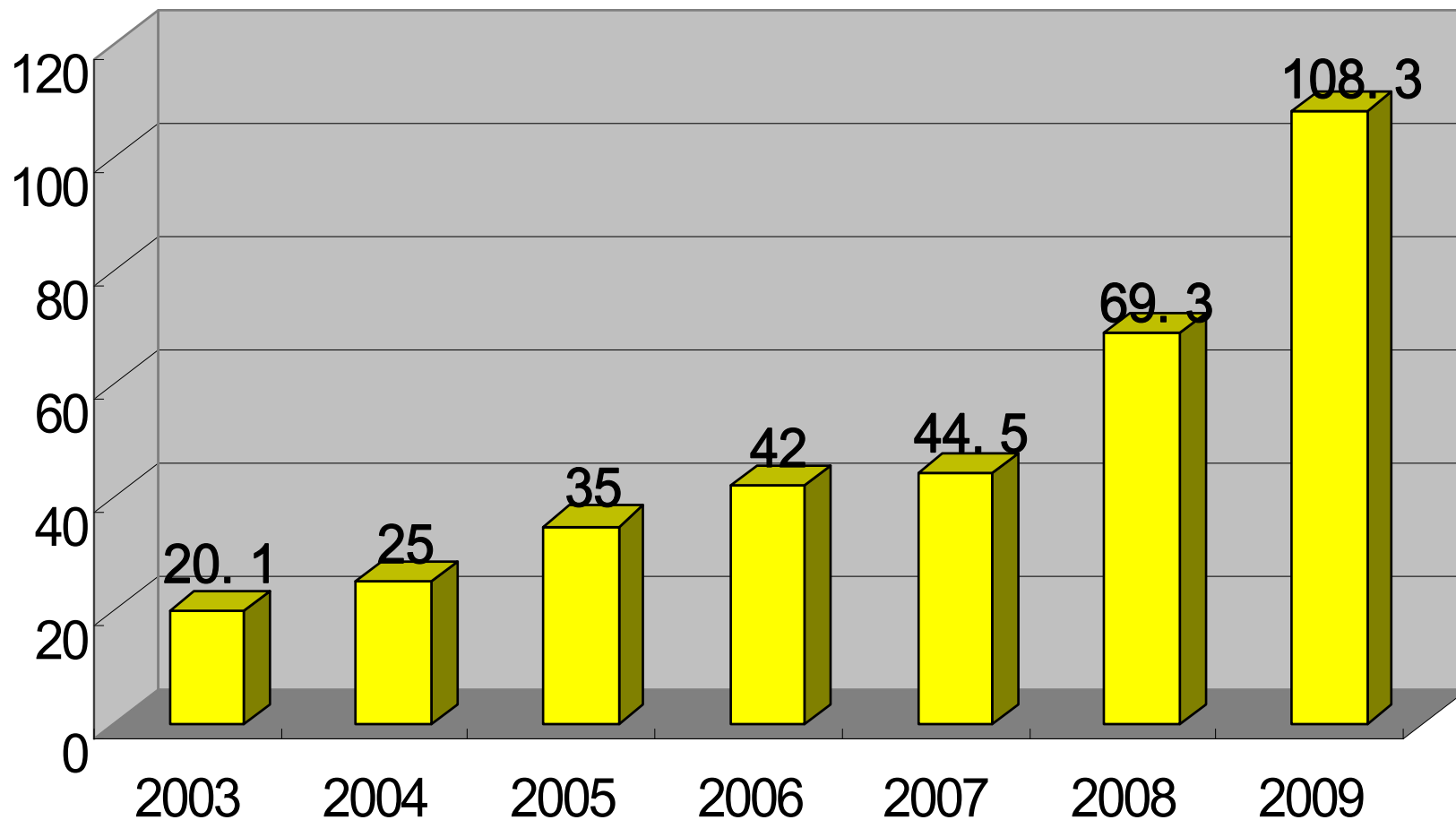
China is the No.1 country sending students to study abroad





Returning from Overseas Study

Chinese students returning from overseas study are increasing rapidly



no of students returned(in thousand)



Reasons for international mobility

- ❖ **China has signed mutual agreements on recognition of degrees and diplomas with 34 countries and regions (by April 2009)**
 - 18 European countries: UK, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Netherland, Belgium, Ireland, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Sweden, Denmark,
 - 7 Asian countries: Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Vietnam, Korea,
- ❖ **Chinese universities are very active in international cooperation with foreign universities**
 - Large number of exchange and cooperation programs between Chinese and foreign universities



Overseas Qualification Recognition in China

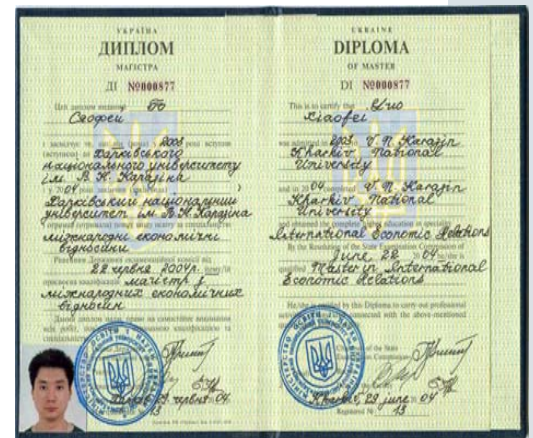
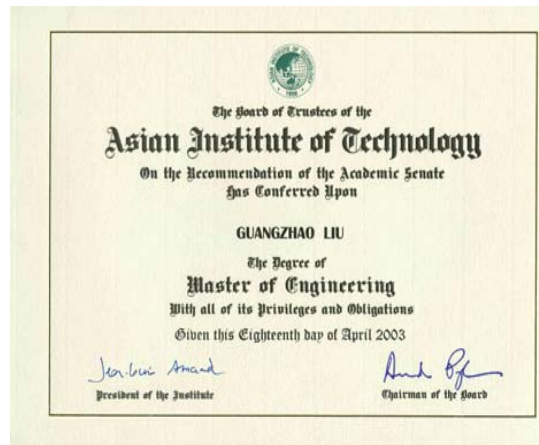
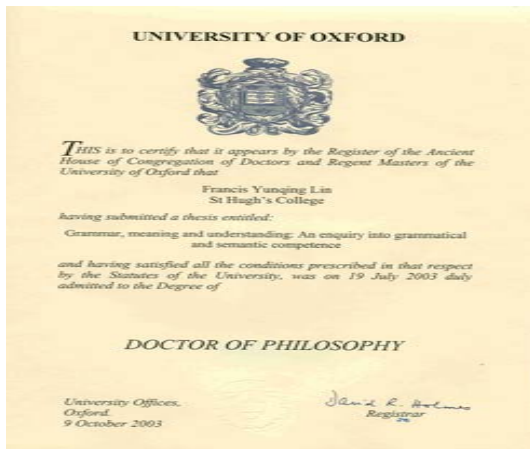
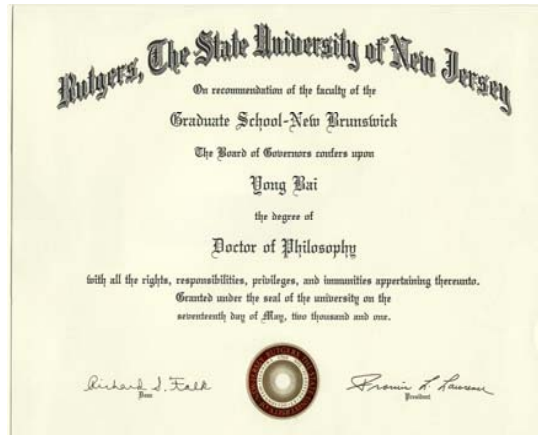
❖ **Competent body: CSCSE**

- Year 1991: started accreditation service
- Year 2000: obtained the approval of Ministry of Education and Academic Degree Commission of the State Council
- To date: the only recognized accreditation organization, covering 83 countries and regions



Overseas Qualification Recognition in China

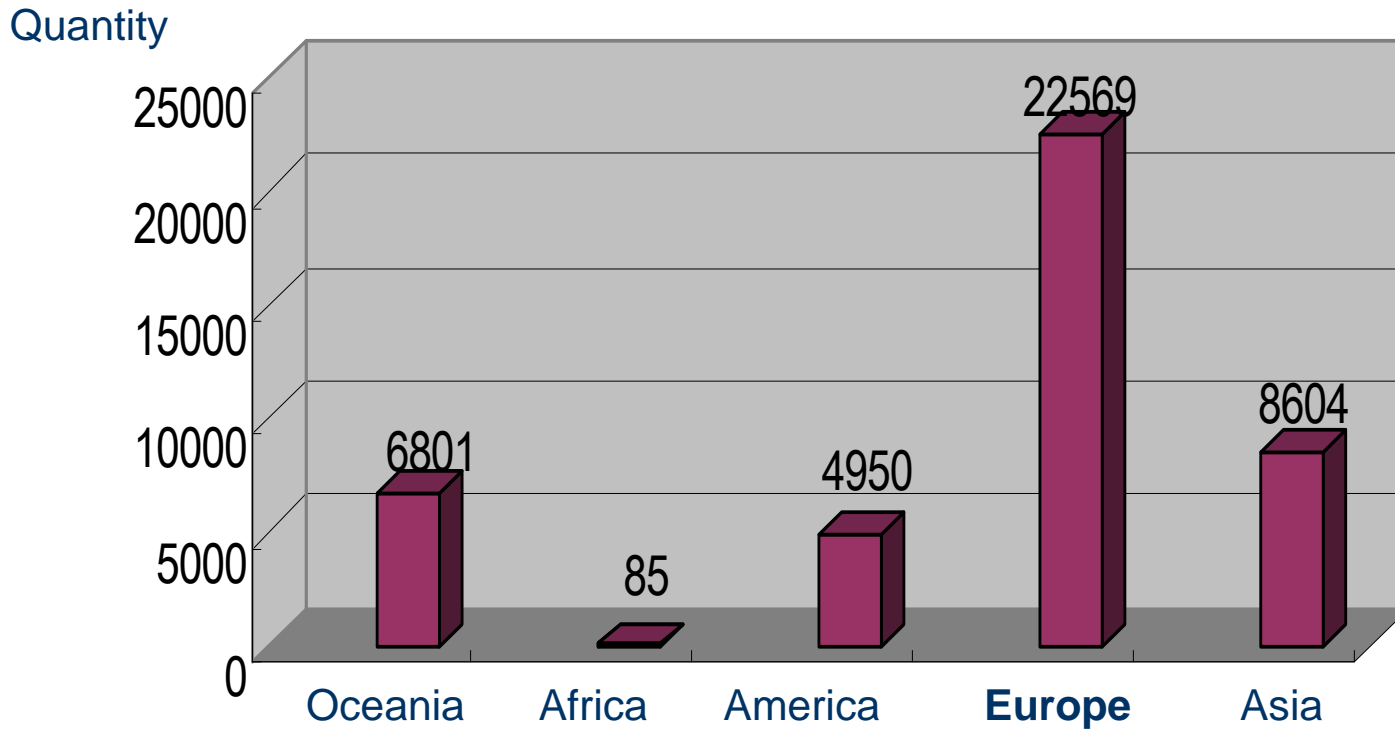
Examples of International Credentials





European credentials accounts for half of the credentials recognized by CSCSE

Degrees and diploma classified by region in 2009





The Role of Credit system in Qualification Recognition

- ❖ **Credit system is an important tool in evaluation of foreign qualifications**

- ❖ **Example: European Credits and Transfer System (ECTS)**



What to do to promote students' mobility between China and Europe?

- ❖ **To establish an unified NQF and applicable credits accumulation and transfer system**
- ❖ **Explore ways of compare Chinese credit system with the ECTS**
- ❖ **Set up information exchange mechanism on NQF and credit system**
- ❖ **Expand the scope of recognition: not only in degrees and diplomas, but also in credits and learning outcomes**
- ❖ **Enhance cooperation between Chinese and European universities in mutual recognition of credits**

Thank you !

