



INQAAHE

International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

INQAAHE Bulletin October 2009

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President's Report October 2009

Board News

During the last quarter, the INQAAHE Board has met electronically each month.

Topics covered included:

- Namibia Forum 2010 (page 4)
- Madrid Conference 2011
- Quarterly Financial Report
- Revised 2009 budget (this was revised in the light of revised fee income projections. The Board envisages a small deficit on the year.)
- The right level of reserves for the Network to maintain (an amount equal to about 3-4 months fee income was agreed. This is about US\$35,000, and would allow the Network to cover its obligations, and to take up unexpected valuable opportunities.)
- The area on the INQAAHE website for the regional and other QA networks
- The GIQAC area on the INQAAHE website
- Indicators for QA networks, and specifically the ones for the GIQAC-supported projects

Board Membership

Dr Jean Morse left Middle States Commission on HE, and so resigned from the Board.

The Board gratefully acknowledges her work on redrafting the Guidelines of Good Practice, on performance indicators, and most of all on the graduate QA program – see next item.

The Board now has vacancies for two directors and would like to hear from anyone interested. The Board would particularly like to hear from anyone with skills in fund-raising.

Graduate QA Program for QA professionals

The Graduate QA Program for QA professionals (QAP) has been completed and sent to the two universities that will be offering the program in its entirety (or nearly so). They are the University of Melbourne, Australia and New York University, USA. The text of the program will be available on the INQAAHE website and any organisations and institutions are invited to use any or all of it. INQAAHE will not attempt to monitor the extent of usage, but would like any users to give us feedback on it. We are keen to receive feedback both from organisations implementing any of the modules or units and any students of the program.

This very comprehensive program was supported by funds from both GIQAC and INQAAHE, as well as from member agencies, but most of all was supported by the extensive work of a large number of volunteer writers and coordinators. The Project was led by Dr Jean Morse who has moved to take up a position at New York University.



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It is expected that the Program will be launched at the EUA European QA Conference in November, and will also be strongly featured at the INQAAHE 2010 Forum in Namibia in May.

Clearinghouse

The Clearinghouse (QAHEC) is nearing completion. It has taken a great deal of work to create a facility that will be useful over and above what anyone can find out through Google. We hoped to launch this at the same time as QAP, but have now decided to defer the launch to the Namibia Forum.

Networks

A very useful meeting was held in Paris in July, in association with the UNESCO World Conference, with all the QA networks known to INQAAHE. Participants discussed how best to run a network, what indicators to use and so on. The meeting was kindly hosted by the CIEP. The presentations and conclusion can be downloaded at: <http://www.inqaah.org/main/networks/regional-reports-2009>

The next meeting of regional and other networks will be on Friday 8 May in Namibia after the INQAAHE 2010 Forum.

During the last quarter, INQAAHE has been actively working with the African Network, and sent a message of support to the Caribbean Network's annual conference.

GIQAC

Two INQAAHE representatives participated in a meeting, also in association with the UNESCO World HE Conference, called by the GIQAC steering committee to discuss indicators for the GIQAC projects. INQAAHE subsequently put to GIQAC a revised proposal for funding in 2009 – 2010 that was aligned with the agreed funding level and used the agreed indicators. The funds were supposed to become available in September 2009.

Other Activities

Work has continued on all other INQAAHE activities, including planning for the 2011 Conference in Madrid, the database of Good Practices in QA, the alignment with the Guidelines for Good Practice, and so on.



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Membership

Some members appear reluctant to pay the membership fees, but INQAAHE is an inclusive organisation and we try to keep members within the INQAAHE family as long as possible. However, during the last quarter, we have removed from our register of members, 14 organisations that have not paid their fees for several years. Membership currently stands at 204.

David Woodhouse
President

Message from the Secretariat

Next INQAAHE Forum

The preparations for the INQAAHE forum in Namibia (Windhoek 5-7 May 2010) are in full swing. The forum theme is the responsiveness of EQAs. The issue of the responsiveness of HE to the needs of society in general has been going on for several decades. INQAAHE tries to address the different aspects related to this by covering the following sub-topics:

- QA methodologies and HE economic responsiveness
- QA agencies between the global and the local
- QA and HE Social Responsiveness
- Political constraints on EQA
- QA and transnational education

More information can be found on the INQAAHE Website:

<http://www.inqaahe.org/main/conferences-and-fora/inqaahe-2010-forum>



Day, 2010	Activity
Monday 3 May	Regional meeting (African region)
Tuesday 4 May	Two pre-Forum workshops
Wednesday 5 May	INQAAHE Biennial Forum
Thursday 6 May	INQAAHE Biennial Forum
Friday 7 May	Meeting of QA networks (from around the world)

GIQAC Website online

INQAAHE has developed a special website for GIQAC funded INQAAHE projects. Representatives of the regional and other QA networks can visit this website at <http://www.inqaahe.org/giqac> to consult and discuss the various project proposals.



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International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

Quality assurance in European higher education makes significant headway



In its first progress report on quality assurance in higher education in Europe the European Commission points to significant developments towards more transparency and credibility over the past few years. Progress has not only been made in the way universities and other institutions deal internally with this, but also on external evaluation of institutions and programmes. Many new quality assurance agencies have been established at national level and there is increased awareness of the European Standards and Guidelines on quality assurance.

For more information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1353&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



ECA Pilot projects on the accreditation of joint programmes

The European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education (ECA) held a successful Workshop in Zürich (Switzerland) last June. Principles for the assessment of learning outcomes were adopted. In addition, recommendations with regard to mutual recognition of institutional reviews were made.

The first experiences with mutual recognition of joint programmes were also presented.

ECA members are currently involved in pilot projects for accrediting joint programmes. A single accreditation procedure is carried out instead of the multiple accreditation procedures in each of the countries concerned. The aim is that the resulting accreditation decisions will be accepted in each of the countries where the joint programme is seated. Moreover, through cooperation with ENIC/NARICs it should become clear which obstacles remain for the recognition of qualifications from joint programmes and how these can be removed. The website Qrossroads (www.qrossroads.eu) should be extended to include more countries, joint programmes, and learning outcomes. This so called TEAM II project is funded by the European Commission. More information on: <http://www.eaconsortium.net/team2/>

The European Commission has commended ECA and Qrossroads as good practices (see above)

On 9 December ECA members will meet in The Hague to discuss new developments in their systems (e.g. combinations of programme accreditation and institutional reviews). Measuring the quality of internationalisation will be the topic of a subsequent ECA meeting with institutions on 10 December.

<http://www.eaconsortium.net>



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EUA publishes report 'Quality Assurance for the Higher Education Change Agenda'

The European University Association (EUA) has published the final report of the 'Quality Assurance for the Higher education Change Agenda (QAHECA) project. The final report of the project, in which the the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC) served on the project steering group and several AEC members participated, contains several important recommendations for a more flexible use of quality assurance and accreditation procedures. The final report can be consulted at:

<http://aecsite.cramgo.nl/DownloadView.aspx?ses=20139>

Upcoming Events

Workshop on "Improving the Management of Quality Assurance in the Arab Region. Agencies and Universities Working Together"
17-19 October 2009 in Cairo, Egypt



Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

As a first result of the fruitful cooperation between the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the field of quality assurance and accreditation, ANQAHE and DAAD are organizing a joint workshop under the title "Improving the Management of Quality Assurance in the Arab Region. Agencies and Universities Working Together." from 17th to 19th October 2009 in Cairo.

The main goal of this workshop is to bring together the Arab region's key players in the field of quality assurance in higher education with European experts to discuss current challenges in quality assurance in higher education, to exchange information and create a cooperation or link between the European and Arab region in the field of quality assurance in higher education.

Deriving from this objective, the following topics will be tackled in the workshop sessions:

- External and internal quality assurance systems for agencies
- Internal quality assurance systems in higher education institutes
- Experiences of the UNDP quality assurance project in the Arab region

Prestigious professionals from the field of quality assurance in higher education, quality assurance agencies from the Arab region, and foreign experts will participate in this workshop to achieve the above mentioned goals and objectives.

For further information about our partner ANQAHE, please refer to: <http://www.angqah.org>

For further information about the quality management project of the German Rector's Conference (HRK), please refer to:

http://www.hrk.de/eng/projekte_und_initiativen/121.php

For further information about DIES, please refer to:

<http://www.daad.de/entwicklung/hochschulmanagement/massnahmen/08182.en.html>



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2010 APQN Conference and Annual General Meeting



The next APQN Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3–5 March 2010, including one day for APQN members only and two days as an open symposium. The conference will be hosted by APQN member agency, the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA).

The theme of the Conference is: Enhancing Quality of Higher Education in the Developing World.

The Objectives are:

1. To highlight current challenges and issues of QA in Higher Education.
2. To share good practices in QA of institutions and quality agencies.
3. To enhance regional cooperation amongst QA agencies.
4. To share a regional vision on quality in higher education.

The target audience for the APQN Conference and AGM is primarily those associated with quality agencies in the region. This includes APQN Members and Observers, the APQN Board, Committees and Project Groups. In addition, others working in the area of quality assurance and improvement in higher education and government agencies are welcome to attend the conference days that are open to non-members.

For more information, please visit APQN's website: <http://www.apqn.org>

14th International Conference: HE institutions and their responsibility for the quality of their graduates



The national council of education and national accreditation commission of Chile are organizing their 14th International Conference.

The conference theme will be "HE institutions and their responsibility for the quality of their graduates", various issues related to the institutional accountability for learning outcomes, including accreditation, in a mass educational system, such as Chilean HE will be addressed.

The conference takes place in Santiago Chile, on October 21st and 22th, 2009.

Keynote speakers will be Paul Trowler (UK), Alberto Amaral (Portugal) and Patrick Terenzini(USA).

The registration deadline for the conference is the 15th of October.

For more information please consult:

<http://seminario.consejo.cl/asp/index.html>



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International Quality Assurance Networks in Higher Education: Profiles and Nodal Points

HRK German Rectors' Conference
The Voice of the Universities

Within its higher education reform projects in South Eastern Europe the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) organises the Conference "International Quality Assurance Networks in Higher Education: Profiles and Nodal Points", which will take place on 29-30 October 2009 in Belgrade, Serbia. One of the conference topics will be the integration and active participation of the young accreditation agencies in the European quality assurance net.



More information about the conference and a registration form can be found at:

http://www.hrk.de/de/projekte_und_initiativen/120_4699.php



Defining Quality - The Relevance of Field Specific Approaches to Quality Assurance in Higher Education-

ASIIN, the European Network for the Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAEE), the European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI), the European Quality Assurance Network for Informatics Education (EQANIE), the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association (ECTNAI), the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC) and the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI) cordially invite you to a cutting edge European conference: "Defining Quality – The Relevance of Field Specific Approaches to Quality Assurance in Higher Education".

In this truly international Conference, the European Networks in the field of Engineering, Informatics, Chemistry, Geology and Music will present the outcome of their work over the past years, especially their achievements in the formulation of European wide learning outcomes and competence profiles for study programs in their respective discipline.

The conference will be held on 2 and 3 November in the Maritim Hotel in Bonn, Germany

<http://www.asiin-consult.de/registration/>



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**MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION
ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

2009 MSCHE Annual Conference: Promoting Excellence

The annual conference of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education is designed to offer practical ideas and exemplary practices to help your institution become a distinctively strong member of the higher education community. You will learn and share expertise on the key characteristics of excellence that are critical to accreditation. The keynote sessions will be expansive in thinking; the workshop sessions will incorporate vision and best practices. The conference will be held from 9 till 11 December 2009 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel.



For more information visit:

<http://www.msche.org/?Nav1=EVENTS&Nav2=2009.01.01>