



# INQAAHE

*International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education*

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## News from the secretariat

### Upcoming event: INQAAHE Conference Madrid

Next week the INQAAHE Biennial Conference will take place in Madrid, Spain. Over 300 QA colleagues have registered themselves for the Conference and/or Pre-Conference Workshops.

Guido, Mark and Esther from the secretariat are looking forward to seeing you in Madrid!

### New INQAAHE Board

The votes have now been cast, counted and certified and the following individuals who received the highest number of valid votes for the following offices are elected:

Maria José Lemaitre, Centro Interuniversitario de Desarrollo, Chile (President)  
Badr Aboul-Ela, Commission for Academic Accreditation, United Arab Emirates (Director)

Carol Bobby, Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs, United States (Director)

Horacio Alcides O'Donnell, National Commission for Evaluation and Accreditation, Argentina (Director)

Richard Lewis, British Accreditation Council, United Kingdom (Director)

Rafael Llavori, National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation, Spain (Director)

Antony Stella, Australian Universities Quality Agency, Australia (Director)

Iring Wasser, Accreditation Agency Specialised in Accrediting Degree Programmes in Engineering, Informatics, the Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Germany (Director)



### Membership Mutations

INQAAHE welcomes the following members and affiliates:

#### Full Members

Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur, France

Zentrale Evaluations- und Akkreditierungsagentur Hannover, Germany

#### Associate Members

James Madison University, United States

Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, Canada

Kohat University of Science & Technology, Pakistan

National Center of Public Accreditation, Russia

Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization - Regional Training Center, Vietnam

#### Affiliates

Usha Chander, Philippines





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## **One goes, one comes : new INQAAHE Secretary as of 1 March 2011**

As of 1 March 2011, Leendert Klaassen has left his position as Member of the Executive Board of the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). He is facing new challenges in higher education as he has been appointed President of the Executive Board of Stenden University of Applied Sciences in Leeuwarden.

Guido Langouche, vice-president of NVAO, has taken over the duties of Secretary of INQAAHE. Before joining the NVAO Executive Board in 2007, he was full professor of physics at the University of Leuven, Belgium, where he served as vice-rector from 1995 to 2005. From 2005 to 2010 he was also President of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group, a network of 38 of Europe's most ancient universities.

Just as Leendert Klaassen did before him, Guido Langouche is determined to make sure that the INQAAHE Secretariat, which is presently been taken care of by NVAO, supports the activities of INQAAHE to the best of its abilities.

### **President's Report**

The exciting news is that we are now in INQAAHE's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Coming up quickly is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Madrid which has taken a great deal of work by the local committee, the program committee and the Secretariat. I am pleased to report that after a slow start of paper submissions, we received more than we can accommodate; and after a similarly slow start in registrants for the Conference, the Conference is now full.

A very significant piece of work carried out in the last three months is the production of a 'chronology of INQAAHE'. During the 20 years of INQAAHE's existence, records have been directed at the Network activities, not maintained with an eye to writing a history one day. This publication, which will be available at the Conference and then on the web site, cannot therefore be called a history: rather, it is a first attempt to gather together some data and dates of people and activities. A formal and interpretative history might come later.

I, and the leaders of the various projects and working groups, have written a full report for the General Assembly meeting at the Conference (and this will of course be sent to all members and posted on the website), so I shall keep this report very brief. In my report to the General Assembly, I am pleased to be able to report to members that the last year has been one of action, progress and success for INQAAHE, with continued and new services to members.

Activities have included the following:

- the graduate program in quality (QAP) was offered for the first time (by two universities) and some scholarships to the program were provided;



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- members had the use of the Clearinghouse (QAHEC) which was launched at the Namibia Forum;
- the consultants database was extended and used (in conjunction with APQN and ANQAHE);
- interns from small states were hosted by various members;
- interaction with regional networks continued;
- the Query Service was offered throughout the year;
- a meeting of professional accreditors was held in Europe;
- members have been reviewed against the GGP;
- there was intensive study of how best INQAAHE can assist its members in identifying accreditation mills;
- in conjunction with some organisations and institutions in Australia and New Zealand, INQAAHE won an ICDE contract to map the regulations on open and distance education in the Asia-Pacific region (a task to be replicated in other regions);
- work began on studying mutual recognition of accrediting agencies globally;
- work has also begun on studying the transnational impact of quality agencies;
- Conference 2011 was planned;
- Forum 2012 venue was decided; and
- agencies have been reviewed against the Guidelines for Good Practice.

Many of these work items have benefited from a second year of funding from the World Bank via the GIQAC scheme.

All this work is made possible by the dedicated work of many people, including the Board Directors, the Secretariat, members of many project and working groups, and member agencies.

The Board was very sorry to lose Leendert Klaassen as Secretary as he took up his new role as President of the Executive Board of Stenden University of Applied Sciences, but of course we are delighted for him, and wish him well.

We welcomed as the new Secretary Guido Langouche, vice-president of NVAO and former vice-rector of the University of Leuven. Members will be able to meet Guido in Madrid.

During the year, elections have been held for the Board that have seen a great change in membership of the Board. The new Board will be announced at the Conference. I am sure that the incoming directors will continue the excellent work, and I hope that the outgoing directors will continue to be involved in INQAAHE's work through its projects and working groups.

I do hope to see you in Madrid.

David Woodhouse  
President  
March 2011



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## New Role for David Woodhouse

INQAAHE President Dr David Woodhouse has been appointed as a Commissioner for Development with the Commission for Academic Accreditation of the United Arab Emirates. David will take up his new position in July 2011.



## News from other Networks



## APQN Annual Conference: Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Expectations and Achievements

The APQN 2011 Conference and AGM was held in Bangalore, India during 2-4 March 2011, and was hosted by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India. The main theme of the 2011 Asia-Pacific Quality Network Conference was - *Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Expectations and Achievements*. The conference was attended by more than 400 delegates, including about 70 participants from APQN member agencies representing 22 countries and territories. Sir John Daniel, President of Commonwealth of Learning presented the key-note speech. The contributor' session had more than 59 speakers and 60 others contributed to the poster presentation on various sub themes on QA. There was a preconference workshop on open educational resources sponsored by the Commonwealth of Learning.

APQN conferences have a session dedicated to the national QA system of the host country and there were good presentations on the QA developments in India. The first two days of the conference were open to all members and day-3 was open for members only. Dr David Woodhouse, President of INQAAHE delivered the keynote on Mutual Recognition emphasising the need for continued cooperation in the region.

On the members only day, the APQN members discussed the strategic plan and the priorities of the network for the next two years. The new Board that assumed office on 3 March at the Annual General Meeting will work on the priorities the membership has identified.

The following eminent professionals are in the APQN Board 2011-2013, bringing to their position a wide set of skills and experiences that APQN can draw from. More information about each board member is available at [www.apqn.org/about/board/](http://www.apqn.org/about/board/)



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No	Name	Position	Agency
1	Dr. Antony Stella	President (Elected)	Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA), Australia
2	Dr. Jagannath Patil	Vice President (Appointed)	National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India
3	Prof. Li Yaogang	Secretary/Treasurer (Ex officio)	Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI), China
4	Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi	Board member (Elected)	Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei
5	Prof. Zita Mohd Fahmi	Board member (Elected)	Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), Malaysia
6	Dr. Kazuo Okamoto	Board member (Elected)	National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE), Japan
7	Prof. Colin Peiris	Board member (Co-opted)	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council (QAAC), Sri Lanka
8	Mr Vicheanon Khieu	Board member (Co-opted)	Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC), Cambodia
9	Dr. Jan Cameron	Board member (Co-opted)	New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit (NZUAAU), New Zealand
10	Ms. Zia Batool	Board member (Appointed)	Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan

## An update on ENQA's activities



Over the past six months ENQA has organised a seminar, the seventh General Assembly, a training workshop for agency reviewers and the first Members' Forum. In cooperation with FHR - Fachhochschulrat, ENQA organised a seminar on "Quality Assurance and Learning Outcomes", which was held on 9-10 September 2010 in Vienna, Austria.



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The purpose of this seminar was to address the stakeholders' expectations from quality assurance agencies in connection with learning outcome orientation and to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the learning outcome orientation in the higher education sector from different perspectives.

The seventh ENQA General Assembly was held on 23-24 September 2010 in Helsinki, Finland, and hosted by FINHEEC- the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council. As the year 2010 marks the 10th anniversary of ENQA, the first day was devoted to a seminar celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Association. Day two was reserved for all organisational and administrative matters (including the election of the new ENQA Board). The General Assembly introduced a second annual meeting for all members, the so-called Members' Forum.

The first ENQA Members' Forum was held on 4 March 2011 in The Hague, Netherlands, in cooperation with the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO).

The Members' Forum was aimed at strengthening the role of members in the internal decision-making process of ENQA and in the work that is carried out by the Board. Thus, the Members' Forum 2011 did not only cover the issue of the relocation of the association but also provided a forum for discussion and decision-making on two additional issues: Quality Assurance and Transparency Tools and Membership structure.

## Upcoming events

ENQA has three upcoming events in the next half a year.

The [ENQA seminar on Quality Assurance and Lifelong Learning](#) will be held on 16-17 May 2011 in Bonn, Germany in cooperation with FIBAA.

The annual [ENQA Internal Quality Assurance \(IQA\) Seminar](#) will be organised in cooperation with FINHEEC on theme "Learning from each other – using benchmarking to develop IQA". It will be held on 16-17 June, 2011 in Helsinki, Finland.

Furthermore, ENQA will organise [the fifth training session/workshop for experts for agency reviews](#) to be held on 5-6 September 2011 in London (tbc), UK.

## Publications

ENQA has recently published a report on ["Internal Quality Assurance - Facing Common Challenges"](#). This report includes contributions of staff members of ENQA member agencies discussing the common, tangible challenges they frequently encounter in their daily operations. It follows an ENQA seminar on "Internal Quality Assurance - Facing Common Challenges", which took place in The Hague, Netherlands in June 2009.

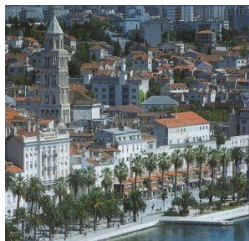
The other recently published report follows an ENQA workshop on the ["Quality Assurance of E-learning"](#), which took place in October 2009, in Sigtuna, Sweden. The workshop report provides a discussion ground for quality assurance agencies about the development of e-learning to enhance borderless education.



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## CEE Network Workshop in Split, 27 May 2011



The CEE Network is holding its annual workshop in Split, Croatia on 27 May. The meeting will discuss two issues identified by members to be of interest at this time: I. External Reviews of Agencies: Lessons learned and

II. Evaluation of Joint Programs: Challenges for QA agencies and Recognition of Degrees. Invited speakers are from the TEAM II, JOIMAN and JOQAR projects as well as independent consultants, including Kaja Braathen from NVAO/ECA, Nick Harris; former Director of the Development and Enhancement Group at QAA and David Cairns.

After the workshop the CEENet will hold their extraordinary general assembly to prepare its legal registration.

More information on the events will be available on the - fully redesigned - CEENet website to be launched at the end of March at [www.ceenetwork.hu](http://www.ceenetwork.hu).

## Upcoming Events

### **EUA's Annual Conference: Investing Today in Talent for Tomorrow**

**Aarhus, Denmark 13-15 April**



The European University Association's Annual Conference 2011 at Aarhus University, Denmark marks the 10th Anniversary of the EUA. The theme of the conference is talent development – a topic of high relevance for the future competitiveness of Europe. We face the challenge of making the European area for higher education and research an attractive destination for the best researchers and students in the world without, however, compromising the provision of mass education. With the Bologna Process a united Europe has already demonstrated that the European model is extremely competitive and durable. Now it is time to identify ways of using this position to attract and develop the bright minds of tomorrow.

Please visit the Conference website: <http://www.eua.be/aarhus.aspx>





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## Life after graduation: The Role of Graduate Employment and Tracking Systems for Continuous Curricula Development and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education

Sibiu, Romania May 19-21



This conference aims to look at a cross-section of successful graduate tracking systems from various regions of the world and at different types of institutions, and to share with HEIs in South East Europe how they are used at institutional level to contribute to short and medium term quality enhancement strategies. The conference is a joint initiative of The UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES), “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, The UNESCO Department in Quality Management of Higher Education and Lifelong Learning and The Quality Research Centre. The conference is inviting worldwide experts on graduate employability and representatives of “good practice” institutions with well-established tracking systems.

Please visit the Conference website: <http://conferences.ulbsibiu.ro/unescocepes/en/>

## ACA's Annual Conference: The excellence imperative. World-class aspirations and real-world needs

Vienna 22-25 May



The 2011 ACA Annual Conference takes place in lovely spring-time Vienna, from 22-24 May. Its title is ***The excellence imperative. World-class aspirations and real-world needs***. It explores the issue of excellence in higher education from multiple perspectives. Core issues are top quality in research, in teaching and learning, in internationalisation and in civic engagement and societal responsibility. Many renowned international speakers will make this event one of the year's conference highlights.

To view the entire conference programme and register yourself please visit: <http://www.aca-secretariat.be/index.php?id=461>



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**3rd Annual Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance in  
Europe 2011  
Brussels 30 June**

The concept of university rankings is rapidly becoming one of the most important tools used by both students and academic professionals across the world. Currently, there are 33 countries which possess some form of rankings system, and the field continues to grow both domestically and internationally. This annual Symposium organised by the Centre for Parliamentary studies, now in its third year, will analyse the latest findings of the U-Multirank project and consider the challenges that lie ahead in creating a comprehensive system that encompasses rankings, quality assurance systems and standards. Participants will explore the barriers that must be overcome in order to achieve the vision of creating a European Higher Education Area with a robust framework to improve the comparative quality of universities across Europe and their ability to compete in a global market.

To view the entire programme and to register yourself please visit:

<http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/BF30-PPE2.php>

**“The Social Dimension – Stocktaking and Future Perspectives of Student  
Affairs and Services in the European Higher Education Area”**

**Berlin July 11-13**



- Teaching - student affairs and services: these are the pillars of well-performing higher education systems. Excellence in education calls for excellent social infrastructures and support mechanisms for students. The social dimension is a key factor for the success of the European Higher Education area. DSW is organizing a major international conference on the social dimension in higher education, as a joint project with the European Council for Student Affairs and the Federal Ministry for Education and Research. The conference aims to:

- analyse the social and economic situation of students in Europe
- take stock of existing student affairs and services models
- discuss challenges and future perspectives for student affairs and services
- define the contribution that student affairs and services can make to improve the competitiveness of the European Higher Education Area
- strengthen the social dimension of the Bologna process

For more information please visit: <http://www.student-affairs.eu/home.html>