



INQAAHE Bulletin March 2012

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News from the Secretariat

INQAAHE welcomes the following new members:

Full members

Seychelles Qualifications Authority, Seychelles

Associate members

Consejo De Rectores de Universidades Privadas (CRUP), Argentina
University of Palestine, Palestinian Authority
Jinnah University for Women, Pakistan
University of Lahore, Pakistan

Affiliates

Hilary Winchester, Australia
Daniel Guhr, United States



INQAAHE Forum

Within a few weeks the INQAAHE Forum will take place in Melbourne, Australia. On the 17th and 18th of April a wide range of QA topics focusing on the future of external quality assurance is discussed during plenary and break-out sessions. On the 19th a meeting for representatives of the regional networks will be organised.

Registration is open until the 2nd of April for INQAAHE Members and members of **AfriQAN, ANQAHE, APQN, ASEAN, AQAAIW, AQAN, CAMES, CANQA, CANQATE, CEENQA, EAQAN, ENAEE, ENQA, ECA and RIACES** please visit the Forum website for more information:

<http://wired.ivvy.com/event/8Q772P/>



President's Message

Dear friends,

We are in the final stages of preparation for the Members' Forum, to be held in Melbourne, in a few weeks. We have a good program, which provides ample room for members to discuss current issues focusing on the future of external quality assurance. This is one of the most important parts of our work, and one which is developing in many new and challenging ways. We need to exchange experiences, share questions and possible answers, dare to 'think out of the box' and develop useful guidelines for the future. We have received a number of interesting contributions, and have engaged several experienced speakers to introduce the issues, but of course, the core of the Forum lies on the participation of each and all of you.

I am really excited at the prospect of holding discussions on the different approaches to external program reviews, the way to adapt traditional QA processes to non university tertiary education; to share views on how to promote internal quality assurance and institutional capacity for self regulation, and to learn how different agencies manage to balance the demands from national policies, institutional requirements and the necessary independence in their decision making. We hope to end up with a set of documents which we can then share with those members unable to attend the Forum. I look forward to our discussions, and to seeing you there!

We will also meet at the General Assembly – you will be receiving the agenda and its annexes shortly. I and my colleagues at the Board, as well as those members leading the different working groups will prepare a full report of the activities carried out since our last general assembly in Madrid; this will be distributed and published on our website, and therefore, I will keep this very brief.

Let me remind you of our next international conference, to be held in Taiwan. We are still at the stage of defining the main theme, and if any of you has some proposals to make, please address them to the Secretariat under a label "INQAAHE Conference 2013".

I would also like to invite you to think about having your agency recognized as being aligned with the Guidelines of Good Practice. As we tend to emphasize to higher education institutions or programs, the opportunity to look closely at what we do, check it out against a set of criteria for good practice, and learn what others think about us is a really useful exercise. You can check the GGP on our website <http://www.inqaahe.org/main/professional-development/guidelines-of-good-practice-51> and see the agencies that have been recognized as aligned with them – your agency could be the next one there!

Finally, I want to remind you that your opinions and comments are always welcome. Do get in touch and let us know what are your needs and requirements, or share with us any new ideas or experiences.

Maria José Lemaitre
INQAAHE President

Joint ANQAHE and DAAD Conference on Joint Degrees

In continuation of the fruitful cooperation between the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) both organizations held a joint seminar on the quality assurance of the international joint and dual degree programs.

The conference took place in Cairo on 28 and 29 January 2012 under the title "Joint Degrees: A Catalyst or a Challenge in Quality Assurance?" and was attended by experts from Universities and Quality Assurance Agencies representing 13 Arab and European countries. More than 100 participants presented and discussed their views and experiences with international programs.

The opening session included welcome speeches given by H.E. Prof. Hussein Khaled, Egyptian Minister of Higher Education, and H.E. Michael Bock, German Ambassador in Egypt.



Report

The 2012 Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) Conference and Annual General Meeting

**APSARA Authority Complex, Siem Reap, Cambodia
29 February – 2 March 2012**

From 29 February to 2 March 2012 the APQN 2012 Conference was successfully hosted by the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC) and Cambodian Higher Education Association (CHEA) in APSARA Authority Complex, Siem Reap, Cambodia. The theme of the Conference was "**External Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific: What has changed over a decade?**"

H.E. Dr. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and Chairman of the ACC opened the Conference with Dr. Antony Stella, President of APQN. Dr Gwang-Jo Kim, Director of UNESCO Bangkok presented the keynote speech.

The Conference was attended by 339 participants, including 103 from APQN member agencies. Overall 32 countries and territories were represented. The first two days of the conference were open to all participants and the third day was open for members only.



On the “members only” day, Mr. Peter Cheung, the founding President of APQN, delivered the keynote on “Tensions in Quality Assurance” emphasizing the challenges faced by quality assurance.

The 2012 APQN Conference focused primarily upon reflecting on expectations and achievements of quality assurance in higher education, highlighting the current challenges and issues of quality assurance in higher education. To have in-depth discussions on “**what has changed over the past decade**” with respect to external quality assurance, the Conference contained various parallel sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and keynote lectures, which involved the following sub themes:

- Mutual recognition
- Qualifications framework
- QA of distance education
- QA of cross-border education
- Benchmarking
- Standards
- Research on QA and IOA
- Capacity building of the QA agencies
- Good practices in QA

The Conference closed with very positive feedback on the benefits of sharing good practices in quality assurance for which the conference provided a sound platform.



DIES ASEAN-QA Training Course – Internal and External Quality Assurance Track (Phase II)

The Second Phase of the ASEAN-QA Training Course – Internal and External Quality Assurance Track was held in Potsdam University, Germany from 19-23 March 2012. The DIES ASEAN-QA Training Course was jointly conducted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), and the University of Potsdam, Germany together with partners from Southeast Asia and Europe, i.e. the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN), the ASEAN University Network (AUN), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), and the Southeast Asian Ministries of Education Organization Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED).

The training course which addresses both QA coordinators at universities and staff of QA agencies aims at developing capacity in the field of quality assurance in the ASEAN region. The participants and experts are looking forward to meeting each other again in October 2012 (IQA) and beginning of 2013 in Southeast Asia (EQA) for the third phase of the training course. ASEAN-QA concludes with the external evaluation of study programs based on self assessment reports which will be submitted by the participating universities.



Next CEENQA General Assembly and Workshop

The Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) will hold its next workshop on May 11 and its general assembly on May 12, 2012 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meetings will be hosted by the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance. CEENQA will welcome two new members who joined since the last meeting in 2011, the Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council YÖDAK of North Cyprus and Accreditation Agency for Study Programs in Health and Social Science AHPGS. CEENQA now has a total of 23 member agencies.

News from ECA

ECA held its winter seminar on 11 January 2012 at the NVAO offices in The Hague. The topic of the seminar was the impact of QA and accreditation. There were some 40 participants from a dozen European countries. At the seminar two research projects on impact of accreditation and external QA were presented. One was commissioned by the German accreditation agency ZEvA and focused on the impact of programme accreditation in the past 5 years in the state of Lower Saxony. The other study was commissioned by INQAAHE and carried out by CHEPS. Here the focus was on the impact of QA on cross-border HE. Representatives of universities ([EUA](#)), employers ([BusinessEurope](#)) and students gave their views on the impact of accreditation and QA. There was a consensus that more impact studies are needed which should particularly focus on the relationship between internal and external QA, how external QA can improve the teaching and learning process, and how it can enhance trust in higher education. There was also a call addressed to QA and accreditation agencies to make it better visible for the public what the effects are of external QA and accreditation.

ECA intends to facilitate the need for coordinated research on impact in a close dialogue with higher education institutions and its stakeholders. The seminar presentations can be downloaded here:

<http://www.eacaconsortium.net/main/events/documents/eca-winter-seminar-2012/17>

Forthcoming: E-TRAIN dissemination conference, 14-15 June 2012 in Madrid

The number of experts participating in QA procedures in other countries than their own is increasing. ECA contributes to this positive development by organising trainings for these experts and setting up a pool of European experts. The EU funded E-TRAIN project has started these initiatives. In addition, a train the trainers workshop for agencies and a knowledge base for experts and QA staff have been developed. It is now time to disseminate these results of the E-TRAIN project to a wider audience.



Update on ENQA Activities

Over the past three months the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) has launched the E4 publication on the MAP-ESG project and organised two workshops in respectively Dublin and Zagreb.

ENQA launched the publication "MAP-ESG: Mapping the implementation and application of the ESG in the EHEA" co-authored with ESU, EUA and EURASHE, on 17 January 2012 in Copenhagen. The purpose was to present and discuss the findings of the project "Mapping the implementation and application of the ESG in the EHEA" (MAP-ESG) and the recommendations to the Bologna ministerial conference 2012 on further development of the ESG. The conference gathered around 100 participants from the BFUG, representatives of ministries, national rectors' conferences, student organisations, quality assurance agencies and employers.



The ENQA workshop “Quality Assurance and Qualifications Frameworks: exchanging good practice” took place on 9-10 February 2012 in Dublin, Ireland. The theme of qualifications frameworks and their relation to quality assurance is gaining urgency in the European scene as more and more countries are completing their national qualifications frameworks and quality assurance agencies need to take important decisions on how to implement them.

In the framework of the GIQAC project, ASHE and ENQA co-organised a training workshop for agencies in the Balkan region on 8-9 March 2012 in Zagreb, Croatia. The GIQAC project focuses on capacity building activities for quality assurance networks in the field of higher education in the regions of Central Asia and the Balkans. GIQAC is a joint initiative of UNESCO and the World Bank. The theme of this training workshop was the preparation of external reviews and writing of the self-evaluation report.

Future Events

The ENQA Members' Forum 2012, focussing on the Impact of QA and Independence of Agencies, will be organised in cooperation with the Evaluation Agency for Research and Higher Education (AERES), and will be held on 23-24 April, 2012 in Paris, France.

On 3-4 May 2012, ENQA will hold a workshop on “Development of QA procedures and alignment to the ESG” in Belgrade, Serbia in cooperation with the Serbian Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assessment (CAQA). The event targets especially newer agencies, and those in the process of aligning their processes to the European Standards and Guidelines.

ENQA, in collaboration with ACSUCYL, will organise its annual Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) Seminar in Valladolid, Spain on 7-8 June 2012 on the theme of “Assessing impact – Using external reviews and evaluations for internal learning”.

Upcoming events:

- [2nd ENQA Members' Forum, 23-24 April 2012, Paris, France](#)
- [ENQA Workshop, 3-4 May 2012, Belgrade, Serbia](#)
- [ENQA Internal Quality Assurance \(IQA\) Seminar, 7-8 June 2012, Valladolid, Spain](#)
- [ENQA General Assembly, 18-19 October 2012, Basel, Switzerland](#)

Publications

- [Mapping the Implementation and Application of the ESG \(MAP-ESG Project\), Final report of the project Steering Group](#)
- [Quality Assurance in Lifelong Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance of joint Programmes](#)



News from members



*Magyar Felsőoktatási Akkreditációs Bizottság
Hungarian Accreditation Committee*

New Hungarian Accreditation Committee

With the higher education act CCIV/2011 a new HAC with 18 members was inaugurated on March 1, 2012. The tasks of the HAC are specified in a government decree on quality evaluation and development and will go into effect on September 1st. The Committee is to provide its opinion on the request of the Education Authority on applications for establishing and launching new programs, doctoral schools, and on applications for university professor positions. The currently running institutional accreditation procedures and evaluations for the accreditation of teacher training programs in the country continue according to plan.

For more information please visit: <http://www.mab.hu/joomla/index.php?lang=en>

Upcoming Events

4th Annual International Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance 2012 **Rankings as a Global Tool – National, Regional and International Perspectives** **Brussel, Belgium** **12 April 2012**

This annual international symposium, now in its fourth year, will assess the challenges that lie ahead in creating and maintaining comprehensive and user-friendly systems for ranking universities. Indicators and data collection are key areas which need to be addressed and explored through an integrated and joined-up approach under the guidance of the European Commission. The symposium offers an invaluable opportunity to discuss the dynamics between international rankings and national initiatives developed in various countries, collaborate and communicate strategies and share best practices.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/CD12-PPE2.php>



“What Works” Conference on Internationalization for Job Creation and Economic Growth: Increasing Coherence of Government and System Policies at a Time of Global Crisis



**New York, USA
12-13 April 2012**



In keeping with this year’s strategic planning focus on leveraging the power of “systemness” across functional areas of the six big ideas, SUNY Global and the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government at the University at Albany will be working with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to promote discussion of innovation and job creation through the internationalization of higher education at the system level.

Discussions will focus on the key role multiple actors play together in tackling the effects of the global financial crisis and fostering recovery policies, especially job creation, innovation, and wealth generation.

This event is also part of the OECD What Works conference series. Discussions will examine the ways in which internationalization can be leveraged to support economic development in the 21st century. Creative and effective approaches will be highlighted against the urgency of implementing new strategies in a time of global economic crisis, with job creation, economic recovery policy and human capital development and, above all, innovation at the core of the discussion.

For more information please visit <http://www.cvent.com/events/suny-organisation-for-economic-co-operation-and-development-oecd-conference/event-summary-889d9c88ca214d3c84581437751077e8.aspx>



Enhancing the global student experience

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

24 April 2012



This one day conference presents an opportunity to explore and evaluate the unique factors that come together to create a rich global student experience. It is particularly important for today's students who are globally mobile and looking at international and transnational qualifications as their route to success. Student experience will provide the focal point for both institutions and government in attracting the best and the brightest.

For more information please visit: http://www.tcp-events.co.uk/obhe2012/downloads/i-graduate_2012_programme.pdf



THE OBSERVATORY
on Borderless Higher Education

The Observatory's 2012 Global Forum
'New Players and New Directions: The Challenges of
International Branch Campus Management'
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
25-26 April

New data on international branch campuses (IBCs) from the Observatory's just-released report will be explored during the Forum. Participants have the possibility to interact and debate with experienced practitioners and gain insights into issues associated with planning and operating IBCs. There will be plenty of opportunities to Engage with expert government officials from existing and prospective host countries on how IBCs fit with their national, economic and developmental strategies and goals.

For more information please visit :

http://www.obhe.ac.uk/conferences/2012_global_forum_kuala_lumpur/gf2012_programme

ACA Annual Conference 2012: Tying it all together.
Internationalisation, excellence, funding and the social dimension in
higher education
Helsinki, Finland
10-12 June 2012



There are conferences galore focused on the internationalisation of higher education and on international mobility. There is no shortage of events dedicated to world-class universities or "excellence", to use a trendy expression. Gatherings to address questions of funding for higher education and on social issues at the tertiary level are likewise not in short supply. But these issues are usually only addressed separately and with little to no reference to one another. Rarely are the various relevant higher education themes discussed together. This leads to a reduction of perspectives, to a "single issue view" of higher education.

The 2012 ACA Annual Conference tries to avoid this mistake. It attempts to take a "holistic" view, by tying all these themes together and thus exploring their relevance to one another. For example, what is the relationship between social commitment and "excellence"? Or, to put it differently, can a university both cater to disadvantaged groups in society and be world-class? Does it perhaps even boost academic performance to provide wide access and be socially inclusive? These are just a few of the many questions (and "synergies") which the ACA Annual Conference will explore.

The conference will be organised in four thematic streams, dedicated to internationalisation and mobility, excellence, funding and the social dimension.

For more information please visit: <http://www.aca-secretariat.be/index.php?id=560>



Call for Papers
7th European Quality Assurance Forum
“How does Quality Assurance Make A Difference?”
Tallinn, Estonia
22-24 November 2012

Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the 2012 EQAF, entitled “How does Quality Assurance Make a Difference?”, will combine practice-oriented or research-based discussions that will take place in the paper sessions and workshops with presentations of current developments in quality assurance (QA). This year, the event will specifically explore the impact of external and internal QA on higher education policies and institutional realities.

Within the framework of this year’s EQAF theme, the organisers would like to encourage paper and workshop proposals that will address issues such as external evaluation and institutional follow-up; relationship between QA, pedagogical approaches and student learning; QA supporting institutional aims and goals; QA supporting informed decision-making and the role of QA in globalised higher education.

The deadline to submit contributions is 31 July 2012. For more information, please consult the enclosed call for contributions. All documents can also be downloaded on our [webpage](#).

Further information on the event, including the programme and registration information will become available in summer 2012.