

## Biographical Note of Candidate for INQAAHE President

**Dr. Susanna Karakhanyan**

**INQAAHE VII President**

**Past President and current Member of the Accreditation Commission, National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance (ANQA), Armenia**

**Quality Assurance Manager, Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge, the UAE**

**Tel: +971505808267**

**E-mail: [president@inqaahe.org](mailto:president@inqaahe.org)**



Dr. Karakhanyan is the founding member and Past President of the Accreditation Commission of the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance in Armenia and the Quality Assurance Section Manager of the Abu Dhabi Education Council, in the United Arab Emirates. She is the current President of INQAAHE with an extensive experience and expertise in managing the organization.

Dr. Karakhanyan's expertise evolves around authoring, initiating and implementing a variety of projects under the auspices of the Council of Europe, UNESCO, Open Society Institute, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank to name some, thus contributing to higher education reforms in general and different elements in quality assurance in particular. The systems to which she had tangible contribution include, but are not limited to such countries and regions as Albania, Mongolia, Tajikistan, other former Soviet countries, Europe, Southern and Eastern Africa, MENA region and recently Asia, Vietnam. She authors and delivers capacity building events and external reviews of QA systems/agencies. Her service has been acknowledged through multiple awards and in recognition of her vast experience in QA, Susanna is a popular invited keynote speaker in numerous high-profile international conferences and forums.

Dr. Karakhanyan holds M.S.Ed in Educational Administration/Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, the USA and PhD in Social Sciences from Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Her research interests focus around higher education governance and administration, reforms, policymaking, policy diffusion and transfer, and external and internal quality assurance. Her research background has helped her tremendously in the establishment of new and evaluation/review of existing external and internal (both quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions) quality assurance systems in a diversity of contexts at the global level.

## MOVING INQAAHE FORWARD AND UPWARD

**Dr. Susanna Karakhyan**

*Accreditation Commission of the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance (ANQA),  
Armenia*

*Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), the UAE*



Honorable INQAAHE members,

It has been a year and a half since I was elected President of INQAAHE and I am proud of the progress we, as a global quality assurance community, have made on our strategic directions. With the joint efforts and hard work, we have inspired a broad involvement and achieved a wide engagement from our members, strategic partners and peer organizations in the INQAAHE operational and strategic activities! Your trust and support have enabled me to fulfil the promise I made in 2016 to promote the **efficiency & sustainability, relevance** and **impact** of INQAAHE as a global assurance community and more is yet to be accomplished.

In my manifesto for the second term as the INQAAHE President, I am pleased to brief you on the significant progress the Network has made in terms of promoting its strategic priorities as well as the major strategies forward as spelled out in the new Strategic Plan 2018-2022 developed with a broad involvement of our members and adopted in December 2017.

- **Efficiency & sustainability in the INQAAHE operations:**
  - o Efficient & sustainable operations of an organization are the heart of success and capitalizing on them led us through a thorough review of our 26-year performance, including but not limited to the *2017 Financial Audit, INQAAHE Impact Study 2017, Feasibility of the INQAAHE operations*. The major findings from the in-depth studies fed into a new Constitution to be adopted in 2018, revised INQAAHE's operational model, new approaches to revenue diversification, a new Strategic Plan.
  - o To promote trust, efforts have been invested in ensuring transparency of the INQAAHE operations, broader and wider involvement of the INQAAHE members in the projects and daily activities of the organization. The INQAAHE Quarterly Communiques favorably referenced to by our members, is one of the bright examples.
- **Enhanced relevance of the INQAAHE contributions and benefits to the members:**
  - o To promote relevance, an in-depth *Impact Study of the INQAAHE Activities* as well as a *Global Study on the External and Internal Quality Assurance* was undertaken. The findings will feed in to new projects to promoting relevance of quality assurance to benefit our members and systems at large.
  - o The *INQAAHE Funding Scheme* launched in 2016 has already had two rounds of grants allocated to enhance the capacity as well as invest in research on quality and quality assurance. Some bright examples of the contribution evolve around developing mechanisms for the alignment with the National Qualifications Frameworks and initiatives to fight corruption in HE in general and QA in particular. Further, an *Integrity Assessment Framework* proposal has been developed and we are currently in the search for external funds to implement it.

Contact details: [president@inqaahe.org](mailto:president@inqaahe.org); Mobile: +971505808267; Skype: karakhyan5

- As per the results of the extensive studies on enhancing the INQAAHE relevance, we have also revised criteria for the different types of membership, thus highlighting the benefits of being recognized as a QA agency aligned with the *INQAAHE Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP)*.
- To promote trust in QA outcomes and mutual recognition of the QA decisions, such major steps as revision of the GGP and development of three alignment procedures aimed at reducing the recognition burden on the QA agencies have been introduced. Activities are in place to design a universal and global tool for further promotion of mutual recognition of QA decisions.
- Further on relevance, decades of accumulated knowledge on quality and QA provides a firm background for redefining quality and approaches to QA to respond to the diversity of needs the ever-changing environment and diversification poses on us – a new initiative we currently explore.
- **INQAAHE's impact and influence globally:**
  - As an umbrella Network, INQAAHE has established stronger collaborative links with other QA networks and international organizations to jointly promote the agenda outlined in the *UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030*, which also constitutes a tangible part in the new INQAAHE Strategic Plan.
  - Through the *INQAAHE Global Study on EQAAs and IQAs* and due to the joint initiative with the regional QA networks we have managed to outreach all the regions, identify the major needs and develop recommendations to feed into the *Global Conference on QA 2018* to be held in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The resultant recommendations from the INQAAHE's contribution are to benefit HE systems at large. Tangible results are already registered in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arab Region, Eastern and Western Europe to be followed by Northern America and Asia Pacific.

There is undoubtedly more to be accomplished to achieve the goals, which we have outlined in the Strategic Plan 2018-2022, as well as to meet the expectations and aspirations of our honored INQAAHE members. I sincerely hope you will continue to support me to lead the Network to the next level of global recognition, as envisaged by the founders and successive leaders who have contributed their best to advance the Network to the benefit of our members and systems at large.

I have always enjoyed working with you, listening to your constructive ideas for the betterment of INQAAHE. I have also been very fortunate to receive the invaluable support from the Board of Directors of INQAAHE, the Secretariat, and honorable Past Presidents. Thank you all.

I am always available for discussion of any of the points related to the past, present and future of INQAAHE and am ready to keep working tirelessly to advance the INQAAHE's noble mission.

**Susanna Karakhyan, PhD**



Candidate for President