



## INQAAHE Monthly Newsletter

March/April, 2004

### INQAAHE News

- The INQAAHE Board is delighted to say that Donald Baker, Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board, Toronto and Tibor Szanto of the Hungarian Accreditation Committee have accepted the invitation to become co-opted members of the INQAAHE Board until the board is reconstituted at the General Assembly in New Zealand

- **2004 Workshop**

The third workshop of INQAAHE was held in Muscat, Oman, 22-24 March 2004, in collaboration with the Oman Ministry of Higher Education and Oman's National Accreditation Board. The minutes of the Board meetings held in Oman are available to download from the INQAAHE website at [Board minutes - workshop 2004](#).

The opening addresses by Dr Adnan Al Haj, Ministry of Higher Education and Richard Lewis, President of INQAAHE are also available on the website and located on the same page at [Adnan Al Haj](#) and [R Lewis](#)

- **2005 Conference – New Zealand**

The INQAAHE Biennial conference will be held in the James Cook Hotel ([James Cook Hotel](#)), Wellington, New Zealand. The early Bird registration fee will be New Zealand \$900 (for bookings before 31 January 2005) and the standard conference fee will be NZ\$1200.

Further information including programme, call for papers, registration details and dedicated conference site link will be advised to members.

- The INQAAHE President, Richard Lewis, attended the UNESCO/OECD meeting on Quality Provision in Cross Border Higher Education and included discussion on an international database on recognised higher education institutions. The meeting was held in Paris on 5-6 April 2004 and the vice-chairperson of the meeting was Dr Mala Singh (South Africa) a member of the INQAAHE Board. Further information is available at [OECD](#) and [UNESCO](#)

### Forthcoming Events

- 20-21 April 2004 – Conference on Quality of Education organised by the Ministry of Education and Science and EC-Directorate General for Education and Culture and Human Resource Development Centre (NA Socrates, Bulgaria). For further information please e-mail [hrdc@hrdc.bg](mailto:hrdc@hrdc.bg)
- 10-11 June 2004 – Hemispheric Conference "Professional Accreditation and Certification: Gateways to Quality and Mobility in the Americas", co-sponsored by the Ministries of Trade and Education of Mexico and Chile, the World Bank and the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development. A full registration packet including programme and registration details can be downloaded in English at [Registration pack - English](#) or in Spanish at [Registration pack - Spanish](#)
- 26-27 August 2004 – Seminar on external relations: "Communicating Higher Education: Image and Reality" to be held in the OECD Headquarters in Paris. Announcement and Programme available at [OECD Seminar announcement](#)
- The Central and Eastern Network of Quality Assurance Agencies (CEE Network), which has eleven member agencies in INQAAHE, will hold a workshop in Prague on 23 October 2004 attached to its biennial General Assembly on the following day. The workshop is on "**Convergence and Divergence in Quality Assurance Systems. The CEE Contribution to the European Higher Education Area**". For more information please check the CEE Network website at [www.ceenetwork.hu](http://www.ceenetwork.hu)

## Items of Interest

- The Academic Cooperation Association of Belgium (ACA), Newsletter is available at [ACA Newsletter](#)
- During March 2004, Ireland, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro ratified the Lisbon Recognition Convention, which takes the number of ratifications to 38. Further information available at <http://www.bologna-bergen2005>
- The AUQA (Australian Universities Quality Agency) are seeking an Audit Director. Further information is available on the INQAAHE website at [INQAAHE news](#) Position description and application details can be obtained from AUQA on + 61 (0)3 9639 1100 or [admin@auqa.edu.au](mailto:admin@auqa.edu.au)
- Bologna process – The Berlin follow up group (European agreement for Higher Education) has published its work programme for 2004-5. Further information is available at <http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no>

## Papers/Reports/Publications

- INQAAHE QA Newsletter Issue 24, May 2004  
Contributions are invited for the captioned official newsletter of INQAAHE. Item such as articles (length preferably not exceeding four A4 pages), short news, book reviews, research report, conference announcement and reports, letters to the Editor are mostly welcome. Please send items to Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation at 14/F, Ruttonjee House, 11 Duddell Street, Central, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2845 9910 or email to [contact@hkcaa.edu.hk](mailto:contact@hkcaa.edu.hk) .
- The ECTS Key Features brochure, to be published by the Commission this spring is available on their website at <http://europa.eu.int> in 11 languages. The "Key Features" are the fruit of more than ten years of experience in testing and promoting ECTS. The content has been endorsed by the European Rectors at an EUA conference in Zurich in October 2003. According to the Key Features, ECTS can be used across a variety of programmes and modes of delivery.
- The Secretariat has received a copy of the working document resulting from the International Conference "Globalization and Catholic Higher education: Hopes and Challenges", jointly organized by the Congregation for Catholic Education (Holy See) and the International Federation of Catholic Universities, which was held at the Vatican City in December 2002. The Document is circulated by Fcderatio Internationalis Universitatum Catholicarum (FIUC) – <http://www.fiuc.org> and is available at Congregatio de Institutione Catholica (CIC) – <http://www.vatican.va/>

## General Information

- When the Australian Universities Quality Agency audits an institution or agency, it begins by asking the auditee to prepare a self-review document. The self-review usually reveals both successes and shortcomings. In due course, AUQA publishes an Audit Report which also identifies successes (which it lists as 'Commendations') and shortcomings (which it has listed as 'Recommendations'). Auditees have felt rather disappointed that AUQA designates as 'recommendations' even those shortcomings already detected by the auditee itself. They have argued that in fact AUQA should list it as a 'commendation' for the auditee's perceptiveness and openness in finding and reporting a problem. AUQA has been reluctant to do this, since if an area needs attention, this fact is not changed by virtue of which body detects it.

However, AUQA was sympathetic to this feeling. They have therefore introduced a third category of finding, namely an 'affirmation'. This is a kind of recommendation (ie AUQA is saying that something needs attention) but gives the auditee the credit for having detected the problem itself.

AUQA will now list at the start of its reports commendations, affirmations and recommendations. As AUQA subsequently checks whether an auditee had addressed problems reported by the audit, we shall be checking both recommendations and affirmations

- Ton Vroeijenstijn has retired from his position at the VSNU. He will remain active in the field of quality assurance but has decided to end his work as ECA Coordinator. The ECA Management Group respects Ton's decision and is grateful for his valuable contribution to the establishment of ECA.

The Management Group has decided that Mark Frederiks will succeed Ton as ECA Coordinator. We are glad that Mark is willing to do this work and wish him well in carrying out this important task for ECA.

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- The Hungarian Accreditation Committee has entered its fourth term of membership in January 2004. About one half of the membership has changed and the HAC has a new president, Dr. Laszlo Fesus. The full membership list can be seen on the HAC website at [www.mab.hu](http://www.mab.hu) . Additional information is available on the website also in English