



INQAAHE Bulletin December 2012

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News from the Secretariat

INQAAHE Conference 2013

From Monday 8 until Thursday 11 April INQAAHE will organise its Biennial Conference in Chinese Taipei. We would like to give you a few updates:

The deadline of sending paper and poster proposals is now passed. We would like to thank the many applicants for sending their interesting proposals. On January 25th we will announce which applicants are elected to present their paper or poster on the Conference.

Please visit the new [Conference website](#). Here you can find all the details about the Program, the costs, information about the host [HEEACT](#) and many more.



Finally, INQAAHE likes to announce that the registration for the Conference is now open! All INQAAHE Members and other interested people can register [here](#). INQAAHE provides funds for least developed and low income countries to attend the Conference. Please consult the INQAAHE [website](#) for more information.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Taipei!

Awarded GCQA Scholarships

INQAAHE provides funds for five individuals associated with INQAAHE member organisations from developing countries to enroll for a Graduate Certificate in Quality Assurance at The University of Melbourne.

This year the 5 lucky ones are *Emmanuel Oware Nyarko* (Ghana), *Cyrus Ssebugenyis* (Uganda), *Rosalia Mofolo* (Lesotho), *Ruby-Ann Levendal* (South Africa) and *Delphine Petaia* (Samoa).

The available funding consists of 5,000 USD for each successful applicant.

INQAAHE is delighted to give these applicants the chance to take part in this QA Program.



Board Elections 2013

The terms of the current INQAAHE Board members end in April 2013. Hence INQAAHE calls for nominations of Board members.

The election will be in two parts: namely for the President and for other Board members. Nominations should be accompanied by a confirmation by the nominee of agreement to serve if elected and a biographical note of the candidate, of not more than 250 words.

Please consult our [website](#) (Full and Associate Members only!) for the relevant documents as the call (including the specifics and requirements) and the nomination forms.

Nominations must be received by the INQAAHE Secretariat by **14 January 2013**.

GGP Aligned Agencies

INQAAHE is delighted to inform you that ASIIN (Germany) and NZUAAU (New Zealand) are comprehensively adhering to the INQAAHE Guidelines of Good Practice. They are added to the [GGP database](#).

[ASIIN](#) and [NZUAAU](#): Congratulations!



Membership mutations

INQAAHE welcomes the following new members:

Full Member

National Computing Education
Accreditation Council (NCEAC) – Pakistan

Affiliates

Mr. Mohamed Emran Hossain – Bangladesh
Ms. Asfa Rena - Pakistan

Call for hosting the INQAAHE Conference in 2015

The INQAAHE Board seeks expressions of interest from member agencies in hosting the biennial Conference in 2015. Are you interested in hosting the next Conference? *Let us know!*

Please consult our [website](#) for all details and specifications.

Applications to host the Conference should be submitted to secretariat@inqaahe.org by **15 February 2013**. A decision will be made during the Board Meeting in Taipei.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The INQAAHE Secretariat wishes all its Members a very warm Christmas and all the best for 2013!



President's message

Dear friends,

As I am sure you all know, we are in the final stages of the preparation for next year's conference, which will be held on 4-8 April, in Taipei.

I hope many of you are also preparing to take part in it, and have sent us your proposals for papers to be presented.

The theme of the conference is **Managing Diversity: Sustainable quality assurance processes**. In a context of continuing social changes, higher education is certainly subject to many pressures. It needs to adjust to new demands and different operational conditions; in doing this, it develops new institutional and organizational strategies, new modes of teaching, new approaches to research. If quality assurance processes are unable to adapt to these changes, it runs the risk of becoming irrelevant, or even worse, of making quality difficult.

The Taipei conference will provide us with a time and a place to meet together and discuss these issues, share the problems we face and find different solutions to our common problems.

Discussions will be organized in four main subthemes:

1. The QA of trans-border education: from quality providers to quality assured provision
2. Innovative approaches to external QA in tertiary education: not a single approach towards excellence
3. Impact of QA and the effects of external and internal QA: regional perspectives to a shared issue
4. National qualifications frameworks and their links to QA (including involvement of stakeholders)

Most of us have had to deal with some or all of these issues in the recent past. We have a lot to contribute, in terms of experience, actions, mistakes, successes – and by doing so, we all learn together. Let us make the most of this important opportunity.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Taipei, but even if you cannot come, you can share your thoughts and ideas with us, on any of the topics of the conference. Just send them to us, and we will take care to present them in a special session of the conference.

The end of the year is almost upon us. It is a time for looking back, and seeing what we have achieved, and what is still to be done. It is a time for planning, and looking forward, with expectations for the future. For many of us, Christmas is also a time for the renewal of hope, and for the expression of love.

My very best wishes for each of you – may this holiday time bring you peace and happiness, time to spend with family and friends, and renewed energies for the new year.

Maria Jose Lemaitre

News from other networks

The ASEAN Plus Three Forum

The ASEAN Plus Three Forum on Quality Assurance in Higher Education, held in Kuala Lumpur from 10th to 11th October 2012 was organized by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency ([MQA](#)). The forum themed - 'Building Regional Confidence towards Harmonizing Higher Education of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries'- was attended by the representatives of quality assurance agencies, institutions and ministries of higher education from the ASEAN Plus Three and ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) member countries. The forum was also attended by MQA's quality partners as well as local participants from the higher education institutions.

The two-day program was officiated by the Honorable Minister of Higher Education Malaysia, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

Professor Dr. Andrejs Rauhvargers, Secretary General of the Latvian Rectors' Conference and Chairman of the Bologna Follow Up Group delivered a keynote address on the theme of the forum. This was followed by four plenary sessions addressing the four subthemes of the forum: "Revisiting the Principles of Qualifications Framework System", "Revisiting the Principles of External Quality Assurance Agency", "Revisiting the Principles of External Quality Assurance Processes" and "Revisiting the Principles of Institutional Quality Assurance System".

The forum also included a special session on the ASEAN-QA Project. It was continued with the 2012 AQAN Roundtable Meeting. [Here](#) you will find more information.





Transparency of European higher education through public quality assurance reports (EQArep)

[ENQA](#) has recently obtained funding for a LLP/Erasmus proposal. The two-year project started on 1 October and will end on 30 September 2014. The project, entitled "Transparency of European higher education through public quality assurance reports" (EQArep), aims at developing European standards for quality assurance reports.

The consortium of the project includes ENQA (as applicant and coordinator), the Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in HE (OAQ), the Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB), the Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE) and the Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency (EKKA).

The [project](#) will map the current publication practices, explore the different needs of stakeholders for transparent and comparable information, develop standards for different types of quality assurance reports in the EHEA and evaluate whether a European template for quality assurance reports is feasible.

The project will result in a recommendation to quality assurance agencies on the content and form of informative and approachable quality assurance reports. Thus the envisaged impact is a higher degree of comparability of quality assurance reports and consequently a better contribution of quality assurance to transparency of higher education at the European level.



New Board Members ENQA

The ENQA General Assembly elected new members of the ENQA Board on October 19, 2012. The newly elected Board members are:

- Tove Blytt Holmen, Deputy Director General and Head of Department of quality assurance, NOKUT, Norway (3-year term)
- Caty Duykaerts, Head of the Executive Unit, AEQES, Belgium (1-year term)
- Helka Kekäläinen, Secretary General of FINHEEC, Finland (re-elected for a second 3-year term) and re- elected as Vice President
- Rafael Llavori, Head of Unit on International Relations, ANECA, Spain (re-elected for a second term)

Fiona Crozier, Assistant Director, Development and Enhancement Group of QAA, UK, was re- elected as Vice President.



National Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority for Education and Training (NAQQAET)

His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa the King of Bahrain has issued a Decree No. (83) for 2012 organising the National Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority for Education and Training NAQQAET (formerly known as the Quality Assurance Authority for Education and Training QAET).

The NAQQAET now comprises of five units. A new unit called "National Qualification Framework (NQF) Unit" was established along with the present four units (Schools Review Unit; National Examinations Unit; Vocational Review Unit; and Higher Education Review Unit). The NQF Unit will run the operations of the National Qualification Framework and establish communications with national and international bodies that are involved with Education and Training Frameworks. It is foreseen that the NQF will further enhance the Authority's main objectives in improving the quality and performance of education and training sectors within the Kingdom. The NQF emphasizes the value of qualifications by mapping those qualifications on the framework according to a set of educational quality standards that are on par with global standards.

Seminar and Roundtable Meeting AQAAIW

The 2012 Association of Quality Assurance Agencies of the Islamic World ([QA-Islamic](#)) Seminar and Roundtable Meeting was hosted by the Egyptian National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education (NAQAAE) in Cairo, Egypt from November 5 to 7, 2012.

The Seminar – themed *Enhancing Exchangeability in Quality Assurance in the Islamic World* – was attended by members of the QA-Islamic and representatives from the Egyptian universities. The seminar addressed the four subthemes: *Regional Quality Framework, Mutual Confidence, Exchanges of Experts and Expertise* and *Rating vs. Ranking*. The participants of the Seminar were updated with the current developments related to the subthemes in the member countries of the Association.

The Seminar was followed by the 2012 QA-Islamic Roundtable Meeting which discussed on the governance matters and strategic direction of QA-Islamic.



Internship Programme AQAAIW

The Association of Quality Assurance Agencies of the Islamic World (QA-Islamic) organized an [Internship Programme](#) for quality assurance officials of its member agencies from October 8 to 12, 2012. The programme was part of the Association's capacity building initiatives.

The five-day programme was hosted by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency in Kuala Lumpur in parallel with the ASEAN+3 Forum on Quality Assurance in Higher Education.



This programme was consciously designed so as to give the interns occasion to get connected with the Forum's participants from diverse countries and to benefit from the discussions that covered the fundamental principles of a quality framework.

Three officials from two QA-Islamic members, Azerbaijan and Indonesia took part in the programme and were joined by six other officials from Yemen and Namibia.

First ENAEE Conference

On the 12th and 13th November 2012, [ENAEE](#) held its first [International Conference](#), in the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto.

The conference hosted 90 participants from 20 countries. The participants were mainly engineering academics interested in accreditation standards and procedures (especially Portugal, Spain and Belgium), representatives of European accreditation agencies, agencies from abroad (ASEAN, Washington Accord, International Engineering Alliance), and members of ENAEE.

The various sessions consisted of presentations by accreditation agencies on their accreditation practices, views on accreditation from the universities, international guests' contributions (especially the International Engineering Alliance and the Washington Accord).

A final session, chaired by Prof. G. Augusti, former president of ENAEE, consisted of a plenary debate on the future of ENAEE and the EUR-ACE label. Among the issues raised were: the involvement of ENAEE in the 3rd cycle (doctorate); the potential need to differentiate standards for the bachelor degree (professional and theoretical types); coordination in national contexts between evaluation agencies and engineering accreditation agencies; the development of EUR-ACE outside Europe; the relationship of ENAEE with the International Engineering Alliance and the Washington/Sydney Accords.



New ECA project: Certificate for the Quality of Internationalisation (CeQuInt)

Current literature suggests that higher education's internationalisation is perceived as an indicator for the quality of higher education. Nonetheless few European-wide approaches have been developed to assess the quality of internationalisation. The current national accreditation systems do not explicitly include international and intercultural learning outcomes and a commonly agreed assessment methodology is lacking. Therefore, the [European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education \(ECA\)](#) decided to develop a European certificate for the assessment of internationalisation. In October 2012, a [consortium](#) of quality assurance agencies from eleven countries, the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA), and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) started the development of a Certificate for the Quality of Internationalisation (CeQuInt). This ECA project is funded by the EU and coordinated by the Accreditation Organisation of The Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). The overall aim of the project is to assess, reward and enhance internationalisation.

CeQuInt will provide programmes and institutions insight into their level and quality of internationalisation and provide them, where necessary, with recommendations for improvements. The project currently develops an assessment framework that focuses on improvement and excellence, and which builds on [NVAO's experience with the assessment of internationalisation](#).

The assessment framework (i.e. methodology) will be used to assess the quality of internationalisation at either the level of a programme or an institution. The framework and methodology will be tested in a series of twelve pilot procedures, of which four at institutional level and eight at programme level. The experts taking part in the assessment panels will be trained before these procedures start. The pilot procedures will be used to test and evaluate the developed assessment framework from the perspective of both the experts as well as the assessed programmes and institutions. The feedback and results will be used to amend and finalise the assessment methodology.

A positive assessment by an assessment panel will lead to the award by ECA of the Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation. This certificate confirms that a programme or institution has successfully included a significant international and/or intercultural dimension in the purpose, function and delivery of its education. The Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation is intended to lead to a substantial improvement in the transparency and level of internationalisation.

HE institutions will be kept informed about the progress of the project through a newsletter, stakeholder meetings, workshops, conferences and publications. In addition, a platform will be developed to share good practices in the field of internationalisation as identified by assessment panels.

Since the start of the project in October 2012, the project partners have given specific attention to the further definition of assessment methodology, the identification of candidates for the pilot procedures, the specific roles and profiles of experts in the assessment panels and the commencement of dissemination activities. The immediate agreed actions include a stronger involvement of experts from the professional field in the assessment panels, the introduction of a core group of experts that will take part in several pilot procedures and the reporting of national and international dissemination activities.

You can find more information [here](#).

News from members

SEAMEO English Examiners Training Workshop

On December 3 to 7, 2012 an English examiners training [workshop](#) was jointly organized by SEAMEO Regional Training Center (SEAMEO RETRAC) and the Vietnam's National Foreign Languages 2020 Project (NFL 2020 Project) at the Center's headquarter, Ho Chi Minh City. Forty-six selected lecturers from 5 universities in the southern part of Vietnam and SEAMEO RETRAC participated in the workshop.

The five-day course aimed to train English speaking and writing examiners for the NFL 2020 Project. During the workshop, the participants had a chance to learn about the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), and to practice assessing English speaking abilities and rating English writing papers. The workshop was facilitated by Assoc. Prof. Carr Nathan, Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Phuong Nga, Dr. Vu Thi Phuong Anh and Dr. To Thu Huong.



Annual Report Council of Ontario Universities

The Quality Council was established in 2010 by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) as an independent body that oversees the quality assurance of undergraduate and graduate programs offered by the publicly assisted universities in Ontario. While rigorous quality assurance has long been a priority for Ontario's publicly assisted universities through OCGS and UPRAC, there has now been an alignment of the quality assurance processes that apply to both undergraduate and graduate programs and oversight is provided by an agency at arm's-length from universities and government.

[Here](#) you can find their Annual Report.



The 7th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF)

Last week's 7th European Quality Assurance Forum ([EQAF](#)) brought together around 400 higher education stakeholders from approximately 50 countries to discuss the latest developments and trends in quality assurance (QA).

This year's edition, held at Tallinn University in Estonia, focused on the theme 'How does quality assurance make a difference?'. Over three days, the majority of the plenary and parallel sessions discussed the impact of external and internal QA on higher education policies and institutional realities. While participants provided a wide range of evidence on this topic, many also called for more research to be carried out on the impact of QA. They also acknowledged, however, the challenges of delivering precise studies on this topic.

The sessions also explored new developments (in QA) such as the increased international dimension of external QA (e.g. cross-border accreditation and recognition of joint programmes). New approaches to quality assurance in various countries and institutions were also presented and participants were given an opportunity to update their knowledge on recent European policy developments.

One of the conclusions of the final plenary was that QA as a whole is a highly politicised field, and by no means an exact science, but perhaps this is part of its appeal to those involved in QA.

The discussions will continue in next year's EQAF, which will be hosted by the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, from 21 to 23 November 2013. More information on next year's event will be published through the EUA [website](#).





Upcoming events

The International Exhibition and Forum for Education 2013 18 – 22 February 2013

The International Exhibition and Forum for Education 2013 (IEFE 2013) is the 3rd in our series of events focused on providing substantial opportunities for international businesses in the education sector to create partnerships and connect with decision makers from Saudi Arabian and GCC government bodies overseeing education developments and also senior representatives from Universities, Colleges, Training Institutions, secondary education institutions and public and private schools in the region but particularly from Saudi Arabia.

IEFE 2013 will attract senior level decision makers, key industry education providers and stakeholders from around the world for a great, inspiring networking and learning experience. Globally recognised education, government and business leaders will deliver inspiring keynote presentations while there will be one to one meeting opportunities to foster cooperation, potential collaboration and possible commercial agreements in a formal setting. This is an excellent platform for generating alliances.

For more information visit their [website](#).

EUA's Annual Conference and General Assembly 2013 11 – 12 April 2013

The need to operate in a competitive international environment is no longer a concern for only a small number of elite universities. Rather, it has become a reality for the broad spectrum of European institutions, which affects all elements of the university mission. The EUA Annual Conference will provide a forum for participants to identify the institutional policies required to meet the challenges and reap the full benefits of further internationalisation.

In plenary and working group sessions, speakers from Europe and further afield will explore different drivers of the globalisation of higher education and the design and implementation of institutional internationalisation strategies. The conference will also address the profound changes taking place in the structure and form of national higher education systems and the extent to which these changes stem from pressure to make systems more efficient and internationally competitive.

There will also be the opportunity for further discussion of global rankings and their impact, with EUA's second Rankings Review due to be published and presented at the event. To register or for more information, please visit the [conference website](#).