



MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION

**between the
International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in
Higher Education (INQAAHE)**

**and the
ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK INC. (APQN)**

MAY 2008

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The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) is the global network of quality assurance agencies in higher education. It exists to

- enable quality assurance agencies to share information and experiences;
- lead the theoretical and practical foundations of the profession;
- develop and promote standards of professional practice in QA; and
- encourage and assist continuous improvement in member agencies, including professional development and capacity-building

for the benefit of higher education institutions, their students and their societies.

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) exists to:

- promote good practice in the maintenance and improvement of quality in higher education in the Asia-Pacific region
- facilitate research in the region into the practice of quality management in higher education and its effectiveness in improving the quality of higher education in the region
- provide advice and expertise to assist the development of new quality assurance agencies in the region
- facilitate links between quality assurance agencies and acceptance of each others' decisions and judgements
- assist members of APQN to determine standards of institutions operating across national borders
- permit better-informed international recognition of qualifications throughout the region
- assist in the development and use of credit transfer schemes to enhance the mobility of students between institutions both within and across national borders
- enable members of APQN to be alert to dubious accrediting practices and organisations
- where appropriate, represent the region and promote the interests of the region, e.g. vis-à-vis other networks and international organisations

Recognising their mutual interest in the quality of higher education and higher education institutions, it is in the interests of INQAAHE and APQN to formalise a memorandum of co-operation between the two organisations to establish the objectives, parameters and resourcing of joint activities and mutual support.

The memorandum of co-operation covers the following areas:

1. The nature of the relationship between INQAAHE and APQN

“APQN intends to operate as a regional network in association with the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education Incorporated (INQAAHE)” (*source: APQN Constitution version 7.0, section I, clause 2*).

“INQAAHE wishes to strengthen its links with the other networks in order to be able to advocate for the interests of the totality of regional networks and their members. It also needs the operational and political input from the regions to help ensure that INQAAHE’s agenda is aligned with the regional development and that of the members of the local networks.” (*Source: Networks of Quality Agencies: Working Together, INQAAHE position paper, October 2007*)

2. Overall objectives of this Memorandum

This Memorandum is intended to reinforce and provide a platform for the desired co-operation between INQAAHE and APQN. It aims to strengthen the work of INQAAHE and its member agencies, and the work of APQN and its member agencies, as well as their interrelations, with the overall goal of enhanced global understanding and practice in the field of quality assurance in higher education. This MoC is intended to facilitate cooperation between INQAAHE and APQN and also involve other regional networks with a direct interest in the activities organised under the MoC, or who are running projects similar in nature to the projects included.

3. Exchange of information

The two organisations will exchange non-confidential policy documents and relevant non-confidential operational information to enable the two organisations to support and learn from each other.

4. Principles of Quality Assurance

The two organisations will share experiences with respect to the development of principles of quality assurance, particularly in the context of the Brisbane Communiqué Initiative and INQAAHE’s Guidelines for Good Practice.

5. Database of consultants and reviewers

APQN and INQAAHE will collaborate on establishing a global database of consultants and reviewers in quality assurance, under the leadership of APQN. The database will be accessible via the APQN website with a link directly to it from the INQAAHE website.

6. Resources

APQN has received a GIQAC grant for the purpose of developing the Database of Consultants and Reviewers, and INQAAHE will contribute to the development from its own resources.

More generally, unless a specific contract is agreed, the two organisations normally cover their own costs. Other fund sources include INQAAHE’s Development Fund and the World Bank, through the GIQAC fund.

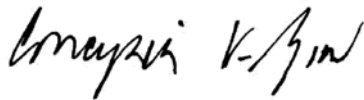
7. Timeline

For the Database of consultants and reviewers, the timeline will be as agreed between APQN and the GIQAC contractual agreement. For other projects, the timing will be as individually agreed.

This agreement comes into effect on the date of signing, is valid for a period of two years, and may be renewed by mutual agreement.

Agency Officers responsible for managing the Agreement

The President of INQAAHE and the President of APQN will have responsibility for managing the Memorandum of Co-operation. Either party may delegate the responsibility from time to time in relation to particular areas of co-operation. The President of INQAAHE will appoint a member of the INQAAHE Board to exercise the overall responsibility for this Memorandum on behalf of INQAAHE.



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