

**Report of
Meeting of INQAAHE and Representatives of Regional / Special Interest Networks**

14 May, 2008 - Buenos Aires, Argentina

Present: David Woodhouse, President INQAAHE
Seamus Puirseil, Secretary INQAAHE
Richard Lewis, Treasurer, INQAAHE
Gemma Rauret, ENQA Board
Norman Sharp, INQAAHE Board
Maria Jose Lemaitre, President, RIACES
Marie-Odile Ottenwaelter, INQAAHE Board
Sholpan Kalanova, President, EAQAN
Lis Lange, Executive Director HEQC
Anthony Stella, APQN Board
Ethley London, President CANQATE
Terry Miosi, Canada

Apologies: Nadia Badrawi, Secretary General, ANQAAHE
Adwoa Sey, AAU

In attendance: Ann Graves, INQAAHE Secretariat

David Woodhouse, INQAAHE President, welcomed all present, and expressed pleasure at the obvious interest of the Networks in participating.

The report of the previous meeting was accepted as an accurate report. Séamus Puirseil proposed acceptance of the report, this was seconded by Terry Miosi and agreed by all present.

In follow up it was agreed that the networks would nominate an information contact person, not necessarily the President or Secretary, in order that a contacts group could be established, with a view to receiving input into the INQAAHE bulletin, sharing information and working on future projects.

Following discussion it was agreed that the President would write to each of the regional networks, proposing an agreement in reduction of subscriptions for those members of INQAAHE, who are also members of a regional network. Where there is agreement, it is proposed that the reduction be set at 10%, of the relevant subscription rate and that it be implemented from 2009. The meeting noted that there would be a need for discussion, by the officers of INQAAHE, on how best to administer the reductions.

Regional Updates

ENQA

Séamus Puirseil reported on behalf of ENQA. He advised that there had been a meeting between ENQA and representatives of the Regional Accreditors in the US, which had taken place the day before, to establish working relations between both and with a view to sharing information. As an outcome of the meeting, both sides will prepare papers on where co-operation can take place. ENQA Information Contact Person – Emmi Helle, Secretary General, ENQA, Emmi.Helle@enqa.eu

APQN

Antony Stella advised the meeting that there had been several major developments within APQN. The constitution had been changed to allow voting rights for co-opted members. The network had undertaken a scoping study to look at QA Frameworks in 52 countries and held a workshop to discuss development of frameworks, the outcome of which was a decision to develop a set of principles. Stella also noted that the three projects funded by GIQAC are:

- Developing a database of consultants/reviewers
- APQN website, discussion forums
- Internship – placement in developed QA agencies

It is intended that these projects will be in collaboration with other networks.

APQN Information Contact Person – Liesha Northover, APQN Administrator, l.northover@auqa.edu.au

RIACES

Maria Jose Lemaitre reported on behalf of RIACES and advised that a recent workshop, held in Colombia, had resulted in the development of a handbook for developing internal mechanisms. It was agreed that the link to the handbook be available on the INQAAHE website. The proposal to GIQAC had been agreed in the amount of \$185,000 which would fund:

- current and emerging QA agencies
- Internships
- Observers, evaluators and external reviewers
- Developing criteria for evaluating QA programmes
- Links with other organisations
- Database of materials, including translations
- Attending events

It was noted that the attendance at events by RIACES helped develop links with other regions and in particular with CANQATE members, who are intended to share in the development projects. A formal link between RIACES and CANQATE is being developed at present.

RIACES Information Contact Person – Leandro Habersfeld, CONEAU, leandroh@coneau.gov.ar

EAQAN

Sholpan Kalanova, President, EAQAN reported that there was quite a lot of activity this year and in particular the EAQAN 12th conference, which was attended and assisted by all the Ministers of EAQAN. She also noted that there are new private agencies emerging in the region, some of whom are full members of INQAAHE. Sholpan also noted the importance of the future (2009/11) initiative by the Kazakh Ministry of Education in National Expert training and expressed her hope that INQAAHE would assist with international experts. Five national universities in Kazakhstan are required to obtain international accreditation, supported by EAQAN.

Sholpan advised that the NAA - National Accreditation Agency of the Russian Federation, have become candidate members of ENQA, which is open to applicants who are likely to meet the criteria, within two years, for full membership of the network.

EAQAN Information Contact Person – Sholpan Kalanova, President EAQAN, skalanova@mail.ru

AfriQAN

The meeting noted the apology from Adwoa Sey, AAU, who had been unable to secure a visa to travel. Lis Lange, updated the meeting on developments in the region and indicated that there were some

interesting research reports on QA within different regions of Africa. She further noted that while there was a movement to emulate the European set up (Bologna, etc), there was a division on the approach to take.

The group noted the importance of relations with the African region and in particular INQAAHE's involvement with the network's in the region.

AfriQAN Information Contact Person - Adwoa Sey, AAU CADRE and Quality Assurance, asey@aau.org

CANQATE

Ethley London, President, CANQATE reported that the network is very focused. They are working on establishing and developing a research base to assist in enabling capacity building. The 2008 CANQATE conference will take place 4-6 November in Bermuda.

National governments are requiring the establishment of EQAs, but CANQATE see the value of learning from each other, between countries within networks. They have established core groups for each country, who will link and report to the, recently appointed, CANQATE board. They have developed a strategic plan, including fund-raising targets, for the next five years and through Maria Jose Lemaitre, have developed links with RIACES. CANQATE are anxious to sign a MoU with INQAAHE.

CANQATE Information Contact Person – Ethley London, President, elondon@cwjamaica.com

CANADA

Terry Miosi reported that it is a very interesting time for QA in HE within Canada. The QA agencies that had formed a regional group, are now under the remit of the federal government. Federal and Provincial governments are taking a major interest and getting involved in QA, but want to control, which has implications for collaboration. Universities are becoming more insular.

Canada Information Contact Person – Terry Miosi, Terry.Miosi@ontario.ca

ANQAHE (information supplied later by Nadia Badrawi)

The proposal to GIQAC had been agreed in the amount of \$200,000 which would fund:

- Needs assessment study to the region
- Policy dialogue for the various initiatives of QA in the Arab region
- Establishing a regional QA framework
- Strengthening National Capacity of External Quality Assurance Agencies in the Arab Region
- Sub regional workshops according to the needs Assessment study
- Support current and emerging QA agencies
- Database of materials, including Arabic translations

Contact

Marie-Odile Ottenwaelter agreed to attempt to identify Information Contact people in the networks not represented at this meeting (primarily CEEN and CAMES) and to establish more regular interaction between the networks. David Woodhouse rehearsed the three levels of information-sharing that had been identified at the January meeting of the networks:

1. Brief (two or three lines) of report on recent action.
2. Information on longer-term priorities or major projects being undertaken.
3. Strategic plans and government actions.

GIQAC Update

David Woodhouse, President, INQAAHE noted that only five networks had expressed an interest in applying for GIQAC funding (due to lack of knowledge of the process). INQAAHE has therefore sought funding to

sponsor some of those networks not on the GIQAC list to attend the member's forum. INQAAHE had included five projects in its submission and had been given funding for four of these, including Developing Professional Courses, Clearinghouse, Small States and assistance to other networks.

Following discussion the group agreed the benefits of each of the World Bank DGF beneficiaries, INQAAHE, RIACES, ANQAAHE, APQN and AfriQAN, sharing information with other networks, from their submission to GIQAC, in the form of a single page report to be posted on the INQAAHE website and circulated to the membership. It was further agreed that the INQAAHE board would review the projects included and determine if there were areas for collaboration.

Future meetings

It was agreed that the INQAAHE Secretariat would check forthcoming events and determine which would be attended by the majority of the regional representatives, in order to determine the most suitable date for the group to meet.

AOB

1. The networks should be alert to the possibility of joint approaches to GIQAC for 2009 funding. Likely projects include training materials and consultants database.
2. The group agreed that there would be value in undertaking a project on Cultural Differences.
3. The group agreed the value of the meetings and proposed adding an additional day for networking to each event. This will be discussed at future meetings.
4. Three networks signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with INQAAHE. ENQA, APQN and EAQAN. Other networks (CANQATE, RIACES) advised of their intention to sign MoC's in the near future.

David Woodhouse, President of INQAAHE, thanked the group for their participation and noted the value of network to network and network to INQAAHE relations.