

Report of Meeting of INQAAHE Board and Regional Representatives

**Monday, 2 April, 2007
Sheraton Hotel, Toronto, Canada**

Present: Richard Lewis, President INQAAHE/Open University, UK
Seamus Puirseil, Secretary INQAAHE/HETAC, Ireland
Jean Morse, Middle States Commission, USA
Norman Sharp, QAA, Scotland
Lee Harvey, INQAAHE Board/Sheffield Hallam University, UK
David Woodhouse, INQAAHE Board/AUQA, Australia
Chita Pijano, APQN
Dorte Kristoffersen, INQAAHE Board/AUQA
Jorge Mora, INQAAHE Board/SINAES/RIACES
Ethley London, UCJ/CANQATE
Peter Cheung, INQAAHE Board/Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation
Tibor Szanto, INQAAHE Board/Hungarian Accreditation Committee
Pavol Navrat, Slovak Accreditation Committee/CEEN
Emmi Helle, ENQA
Vladimir Navodnov, National Accreditation Agency, Russia/EAQAN
Galina Motova, National Accreditation Agency, Russia/EAQAN
Donald Baker, INQAAHE Board/UAE University
Olusola Oyewole, AAU
Nadia Badrawi, INQAAHE Board/Association of Arab Universities
Lis Lange, HEQC, South Africa
Etty Arjora, CCA
Rick Hopper, World Bank
Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic, UNESCO

In attendance: Ann Graves, INQAAHE Secretariat

Richard Lewis, INQAAHE President, welcomed all present and noted that the Agenda had been revised to facilitate discussion of the proposal received from the World Bank.

Séamus Puirseil, Secretary, reported with a brief history of the lengthy process involved in applying for a DGF to the World Bank and that despite the time and efforts of both himself and the President, that the latest document received bore no reflection on the submission made by INQAAHE.

Following discussion the group agreed the importance of the meeting of INQAAHE with the Regions and while provision had been made at INQAAHE events for Regional Meetings, formalizing meetings was the way forward. It was also noted that the reports submitted by the representatives were most impressive and informative and would, with the permission of the authors, be included in an INQAAHE report.

The Regional Representatives welcomed the experience of meeting others in similar circumstances across the regions.

The INQAAHE Board advised that they could support, in broad terms, the objective and activities as outlined in Section 1.4 of the GIQAC document and that a good working relationship already existed with UNESCO. However they pointed out that the proposed organizational structure had raised concerns and that INQAAHE would request a clearly defined tripartite partnership within the GIQAC.

The Group agreed to defer discussion until after the World Bank presentation.

Rick Hopper, World Bank and Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic, UNESCO joined the meeting and were welcomed and thanked by Richard Lewis.

Rick Hopper explained the Development Grant Fund, Established in 1998 and how it works. He also advised that he is now responsible for overseeing all DGFs. Rick also gave a brief history of the World Bank and how the focus had recently shifted to developing countries and that the mission of the WB was Poverty Reduction.

Following a presentation by Rick Hopper, he announced that despite strong competition the GIQAC proposal had been awarded, however the Council has yet to be created.

Richard Lewis, on behalf of the INQAAHE Board, expressed thanks and appreciation to Rick for all his efforts and congratulated him on the outcome.

Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic, UNESCO, advised that she had been approached by Rick Hopper in February 2007, with a proposal that UNESCO make a conjoint application to the World Bank. She also wanted to clarify that UNESCO are not in competition with UNESCO and that she had agreed to undertake the work of the Secretariat to the GIQAC as she had the facilities and means in place to complete the required work in the short time frame allowed.

Rick Hopper outlined the Work Plan requiring completion by September 15th deadline and advised that the following would need to be in place for discussion by the first meeting of the GIQAC Board:

- Operational Procedures Manual
- Grant distribution, criteria, eligibility (as part of the Procedures Manual)
- Code of Conduct/procurement guidelines
- Sustainability Plan
- Selection of Board

Rick Hopper also advised that the GIQAC was a tripartite partnership and was intended to compliment and strengthen INQAAHE and that INQAAHE should, in going forward, take on the role of the Secretariat to the GIQAC in the future. He also advised the Regions that existing DGF monies had been ring fenced.

Rick Hopper clarified that the WB required a transparent Chair and as they were providing the money would assume the Chair for the first year, following which the Board of the GIQAC would select the Chair.

It was agreed a mechanism for sharing information and for communications between INQAAHE, UNESCO and the World Bank, should be in place and that the members and regions should be kept informed of development, it was also agreed that this should be done through the INQAAHE Secretariat, in the first instance.

Richard Lewis thanked both Rick Hopper and Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic for the excellent discussion and noted that a good working relationship, which had already been established, would be vital for the future. He also noted that without Rick and Stamenka's input the grant would not have been possible. Rick and Stamenka left the meeting.

The Regional Representatives presented their reports to the Group and agreed that the reports be circulated to all INQAAHE members, following edits where appropriate and that they also be included in the INQAAHE Report and posted on the website.

Following discussion it was noted that INQAAHE had provided workshops which were directed at development but these have not been taken outside the network, it was suggested that these could be done in the future in conjunction with the regional networks.

It was also agreed to continue holding meetings at each INQAAHE event and continue to share information between INQAAHE and the Regions.

Richard Lewis thanked all attendees at the meeting and stressed the importance of the continuing with the initiative going forward.