



INQAAHE

International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

Report of the INQAAHE Regional Networks Meeting,

28 January 2009, Washington D.C. , Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Present:

David Woodhouse (President INQAAHE, chair), Marie-Odile Ottenwaelter (Board member INQAAHE, coordinator regional networks), Maria Jose Lemaitre (RIACES; Vice President INQAAHE), Ethley London (CANQATE), Emmi Helle (ENQA), Rolf Heusser (ECA), Nadia Badrawi (ANQAHE, Board member INQAAHE), Baktybek Ismaylov (EAQAN), Richard Lewis (Treasurer INQAAHE), Carol Bobby (Board member INQAAHE), Jean Morse (Board member INQAAHE), Leendert Klaassen (Secretary INQAAHE).

1. President David Woodhouse welcomed everybody present and invited Marie-Odile Ottenwaelter to give an impression of her activities as Board member responsible for coordination with the networks – this task being shared with Norman Sharp, who could not attend the meeting but sent a supportive message. This turns out to be not a very rewarding activity, that asks for a very pro-active attitude of the coordinator. Contacts are now established, but a real exchange of information was difficult. A short report of this meeting will be sent to the networks and they will be asked again for information about their activities (for the website) and for information regarding intended GIQAC proposals.
2. Through the new website there will be the possibility for interactive communication between networks. Someone will be needed to facilitate this contact and to start up the process. This may be included in the INQAAHE GIQAC proposals for 2009.
3. There will be a short networks meeting in Abu Dhabi (Thursday April 2, 2.00 – 3.00 p.m.) which can be used for preparing a next, one-day meeting, (probably in Paris, Thursday 9 July, in connection with the UNESCO conference). During the networks meeting in Abu Dhabi there will also be a short presentation on the possibilities of the new INQAAHE website for the regional networks.
4. The Secretary gave an overview of the Memoranda of Cooperation between INQAAHE and the regional networks. CEEN, ANQAHE and ECA have each signed a

MoC since the last meeting in Buenos Aires. Together with the already signed MoC's with APQN, EAQAN and ENQA that brings the total to six. Maria Jose Lemaitre announced that RIACES also has taken a positive attitude towards signing a MoC with INQAAHE. Although the MoC's have a similar general intention, each has a specific emphasis.

5. The regional networks reported on their respective activities. Concluded was that an extensive description of all the different activities will not be included in this report, but that the networks will provide an overview of these data for publication on the INQAAHE website. A request to present this information as soon as possible will be sent out (see 1.)
6. INQAAHE has submitted a proposal for extra funding (\$ 20 K) to the GIQAC Steering Committee regarding the possibility to support attendants for the Abu Dhabi conference. A positive response from UNESCO is expected.
7. GIQAC proposals for funding in the period 2009-2010 should be submitted before 6 March 2009. The regional networks are asked to share their ideas for new GIQAC funded activities. General opinion was to put in all the proposals (regional networks and INQAAHE) the general idea that the regional networks and INQAAHE are willing and intending to cooperate in the preparation and execution of the different projects.
8. APQN (not present in the meeting) presented some ideas in writing: develop the online discussion fora into short courses; further development of the internship programme; run a pilot programme accreditation in one discipline in different countries; link between internal and external QA; student participation in QA; and, introduce a membership review system for enhancement purposes.
9. RIACES wants to focus on continuation of capacity building; development of QA for agencies; and, harmonization of programmes.
10. CANQATE mentioned the development of an information management system (for publishing research findings, etc.); links between internal and external QA; preparation and development of accreditation handbooks; and, training of evaluators.
11. ANQAHE is building an Arabic glossary on QA; proposing fees to attend the INQAAHE Forum and to study QA Programmes; and, preparing special workshops in the region.
12. President David Woodhouse gave an overview of ideas that have come up in the INQAAHE Board discussions concerning new GIQAC proposals to be submitted: funding further development of the QA Qualifications Programme (\$ 20 K); funding for attendance of the Namibia INQAAHE Workshop 2010 (also thinking of translation

in other languages) (\$ 20 K); what can INQAAHE do about “accreditation mills” (\$ 30 K); facilitating the interactive communication between (regional) networks on the INQAAHE website (\$ 5 K); building and supporting networks, more specifically the African network.

13. Some ideas were developed for the agenda of the one-day regional networks meeting in summer (Paris, July 9). Two themes were identified for further development: 1. Capacity building in agencies; 2. How to organize the networks (structure, secretariat, budget). The intention is to have an in-depth-approach to the subjects with a thorough preparation of the attendants to achieve the maximum results.
14. Marie-Odile Ottenwaelter (regional networks coordinator) will send again a message to the networks regarding the information about their activities for the INQAAHE website and sharing of information about their GIQAC proposals. The INQAAHE Secretariat will draft a short report of this meeting to be distributed to the participants and to be put on the INQAAHE website.

The Hague, 10th February, 2009.