



INQAAHE Monthly Newsletter

February, 2004

INQAAHE News

- The INQAAHE Board notes with regret the resignation from the Board due to pressures of work of Francisco Alarcon, Deputy Secretary General, Central American University Superior Council, (CSUCA). The Board hopes to draw on his help in the future.

- **2004 Workshop**
The third workshop of INQAAHE will be held in Muscat, Oman, 22-24 March 2004, in collaboration with the Oman Ministry of Higher Education and Oman's National Accreditation Board. The workshop is organised for the full members of INQAAHE to discuss practical problems and new developments in the field of Quality Assurance. Associate members can make a significant contribution and are not excluded from attending. Further information is available at <http://www.mohe.gov.om/workshop>. Members who have not yet registered for the workshop are urged to do so.

- **2005 Conference – Tue 29 Mar 2005 – Fri 01 April 2005**
The 2005 INQAAHE conference will be held in New Zealand. Please note that these dates are provisional. Details of the conference will be posted on the INQAAHE website at www.inqaahe.org when available.

- **OECD/UNESCO Paris Meeting**
Richard Lewis, President of INQAAHE has received a joint UNESCO/OECD invitation to participate in the 5-6 April meeting on guidelines on quality provision in cross-border higher education.

Forthcoming Events

- The European Conference "**LEONARDO'S EUROPE. Transparency and validation of skills in Europe. The contribution of the Leonardo programme.**" will be held on 18-19 March at the University Victor Ségalen, Bordeaux, France. Information and registrations details available at www.socrates-leonardo.fr

- **ECA workshop in Bergen** will start on Sunday 13 June 2004 (late afternoon) and last until Tuesday 15 June (afternoon). Further details will be available in due course at www.nvao.net

- 19-21 May 2004, Scotland UK - **ISSED 2004 (International Seminar on Staff and Educational Development)** - "Practical Approaches to Quality Enhancement in Mass Higher Education: a new

kind of seminar for senior staff in universities and policy makers in higher education." The conference is organised by LTSN and Caledonian Conferences. A brochure is available to download at <http://www.gcal.ac.uk/conferences>

- The **16th International Conference on Assessing Quality in Higher Education** will be held on 12-14 July 2004, Glasgow, Scotland UK <http://www.gcal.ac.uk/conferences/>

Items of Interest

The **OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy** met at Ministerial level on 29-30 January 2004. Final Communiqué at

http://www.oecd.org/document/15/0,2340,en_2649_201185_25998799_1_1_1_1,00.html

Brussels, 12 February 2004. **The European Commission** has welcomed the European Parliament's approval of the proposed Directive in the field of the recognition of **professional qualifications** between the Member States. Information at

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/qualifications/index.htm

A downloadable version of 'The current and future role of professional music training in society' can be found at <http://www.aecinfo.org/news50.htm>

The **Central American Council of Accreditation (CCA)** has been recently established, CSUCA (Central American University Superior Council) is leaving much of the work in this field to this Council and new areas of work are being included in the scope of CSUCA (<http://www.csuca.edu.gt/>)

Bangkok, 3-5 November 2003, as part of a **NUFFIC/SEAMEO** project, a SEAMEO 'QA Network' has been set up aiming to involve not only EQA agencies but any organisation with some relation to quality of HE. <http://www.seameo.org/home/index.htm>

In November 2003, the **Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA)** launched its Good Practice Database on the web. The New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit will publish good practices from its audits on this database also. AUQA is willing to consider working with other quality agencies in the same way. <http://www.auqa.edu.au/gp/>

NIAD (Japan) has completed its initial three-year pilot stage, and in March/April 2004 will be reviewing this and moving into the next stage. <http://www.niad.ac.jp/english/index.htm>

Jordan carried out subject assessments in computer science on the model of the former teaching assessments in the UK. Some assessments are now being done in business studies, and assessments in engineering are foreshadowed, perhaps using different models. Some banks set up a QA fund (the Hussein fund) which will be used to fund an independent quality agency.

Singapore is considering how to set up an accreditation scheme for private providers.

The **Sri Lankan** universities have a national quality committee, chaired by a vice-chancellor, and have put in place a quality assurance system with the aid of the World Bank. This system involves assessment of both programs and institutions and pilot assessments were completed by the end of 2003.

Taiwan is launching a project to ensure it has a world-class university and a number of world-class research centres. QA agencies from Australia, Japan, Korea, UK and USA participated in initial discussions in Taipei on 5 and 6 February 2004 about the necessary QA environment.

Papers/Reports/Publications

The Centre for Higher Education Research and Information has available a number of copies of reports and publications that are relevance to quality assurance and accreditation agencies and which it would be happy to supply to members of INQAAHE free of charge.

A number of the reports were produced as a result of the Centre's involvement in the Phare Multi-Country Programme in Higher Education, which was concerned with developments in central and eastern Europe. These reports are

- The European Dimension of Institutional Quality Management: Final Report and Recommendations 2000
 - Strategic Study on Legislation, Accreditation, Recognition and Quality Assurance Applied to Open and Distance Learning in Central and Eastern Europe: Report and Recommendations, 1999
 - Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Final Report and Project Recommendations, 1998.
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- Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Manual of Quality Assurance Procedures and Practice, 1998
- The following publications which relate to the Centre's work on graduate employment may also be interest
- The Employment of UK Graduates: Comparisons with Europe and Japan, 2001
- Part-time Students and Employment: Report of a Survey of Students, Graduates and Diplomates, 1999
- Party-time Students and Employment: Report of a Study of the Collection and Use of Information on the Employment of Part-time Students, Graduates and Diplomates, 1999.

Members who would like to receive copies of any of the reports should contact Richard Lewis, r.w.lewis@open.ac.uk

"The National Assessment of Courses in Brazil" (by S. Schwartzman), the first policy analysis paper of the **PPAQ research programme** led by Prof. D. Dill is now available on the University of North Carolina website www.unc.edu/ppaq

Other Policy Analyses now under development include the following:

- Academic Audit (TLQPR Process in Hong Kong) - Bill Massy
- Course Experience Questionnaire and Graduate Survey (Australia)- Paul Ramsden
- External Examiner System (UK)- Richard Lewis
- Subject Assessments (Denmark)- Bjorn Stensaker
- New Forms of Accreditation:
- Accreditation System (Akkreditierungsrat) (Germany)- Don Westerheijden
- Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) (USA)- Elaine El-Khawas
- Contracting for Quality Process in Catalonia (Spain)- Joaquim Brugue and Josep Vilalta
- Research Assessment Exercise (UK) - PPAQ Staff
- University Report Cards (Hochschulranking) (Germany)- PPAQ Staff
- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) (USA) - Peter Ewell
- Subject Benchmarking (UK) - Gareth Williams

These policy analyses will be added to the web site (www.unc.edu/ppaq) as they are completed over the next year.

In addition to the policy analyses, the web site includes a description of the Ford-funded project, related background papers, and useful links.

ENQA latest newsletter is available at <http://www.enqa.net/texts/december2003.pdf>

General Information

CHEA Annual Conference: "Decision Path for Accreditation" was held in Marina del Rey, California on 26-28 January 2004. Structured in four Decision Paths: 1) Accreditation, Federal Policy and Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act; 2) Academic Quality and the Impact of For-Profit Higher Education; 3) Positioning Accreditation for the Future: Focus on Change or Preservation of the Status Quo; 4) Issues in International Quality Assurance and Accreditation. www.chea.org

The event was followed by a meeting of the CHEA International Commission which is supported by the Ford Foundation. Two members of the INQAHE board are members of the Commission, Marie Jose Lemaitre del Campo and Richard Lewis, while another INQAHE board member, Dorte Kristoffersen, also attended the meeting.

Among the subjects discussed were international quality review and student protection and international quality review and the fundamental values of higher education. In addition interim reports were given on two CHEA research projects, a mapping exercise of international quality review and an examination of quality review of distance education. It is expected that the final reports will be available in the next few months.