



INQAAHE Bulletin

September 2007

INQAAHE News

President's Message

The new Board of INQAAHE was elected in April and is pleased to be able to report to Members the progress made since then, and some further projects under way.

2008 Members' Forum

This will be held in Buenos Aires on 14-16 May 2008. The theme is "The Evaluation of curricula in a context of change" and the program is in the conferences section of the INQAAHE website on the forthcoming events page or by clicking here...[Draft Programme](#)

As usual with the biennial Forum, the cost is minimised by not inviting and paying for keynote speakers. Instead, members planning to attend are invited to offer to lead one of the sessions listed in the program. Leading a session will require the leader to speak for about 20 minutes and to prepare a set of questions for the subsequent break-out discussion groups. Please consider whether you would be able to lead a session. Offers to lead a session should be sent to the Chair of the Program Committee, Dr Lis Lange [lange.l@che.ac.za], and copy to the Secretariat [inqaahe@hetac.ie]. Comments on program topics may also be sent to Dr Lange.

The Registration Fee will be \$260, payable on arrival in Buenos Aires. (This saves over 10% of the fee in transfer charges.)

The Chair of the Local Organising Committee is Dr Leandro Haberdorf, who has joined the Board as an observer.

Constitution

The Board reviewed the Constitution and Members supported the proposed changes.

The most important change is the introduction of a category of Institutional Member to recognise the special relationship between education institutions and QA agencies in the education sector. It also recognises the centrality of the HE institution in the quality of education, and the increasing number of identifiable quality units and quality managers within institutions that are carrying out roles very akin to those of external QA agencies. In some areas, particularly in small states, there are institutions that provide a service akin to that of a quality agency.

All current higher education institution members of the Network will be identified and notified before their transfer to this new category.

Other changes include the introduction of a Vice-President position to take account of the heavy workload on Board members, and an increase in the number of co-opted positions to ensure that the Board can call on the expertise it needs in various areas.

In approving the changes to the Constitution, some Members mentioned other possible improvements. These will be considered in the 2008 review of the Constitution.

The revised Constitution is available on the membership section of the network's website or here... [Constitution](#)

Guidelines for Good Practice (GGP)

This document, which was approved by the Members at the 2003 Conference, is based on work done in 1999, since when it has been incrementally amended. The Board decided it should have a thorough look at the Guidelines, and then let them stand for a five-year period so Members can use them without finding that the work is constantly superseded by new versions.

The GGP is available in the working groups section of the website or here... [GGP August 07](#). Members will note that the structure has been strengthened, and advice on how to use them has been included. Increasingly, QA agencies are themselves being reviewed, and often they opt to be checked against the GGP. In recognition of this, INQAAHE will list on the website, at the respective agency's request, agencies that have been found by an independent review to be acting in alignment with the GGP.

A hard copy version will be produced before the 2008 Forum.

INQAAHE Report

The INQAAHE 2007 Report will be sent to you within the next few days. This report, which was in draft form at the time of

the Toronto Conference, includes reports from the regions. INQAAHE will produce an annual report in the future, but for cost considerations we will only occasionally produce and mail a hard copy version. (Note that the version of the GGP in this report is the version that was current at the time of the Toronto Conference, and it has now been superseded by the version mentioned above.)

Global Initiative for QA Capacity-Building (GIQAC)

This initiative of the World Bank, in partnership with UNESCO, and with the support of INQAAHE, was reported to the Members at the Toronto Conference. Discussions on organisation have been taking place since then, UNESCO is drawing up draft procedures and the GIQAC Board will meet for the first time on 19 November, in Paris, with INQAAHE as a member.

As soon as possible, Members will be given further information, including how the fund will operate.

INQAAHE Website

The Board has recognised for some time that the INQAAHE website is not very functional. It was built single-handed in the early internet days and now needs a complete revision. The Secretariat is working with an internet host, and some initial ideas for re-design have been put forward.

Members are urged to inform the Secretariat at once of any criticisms of or suggestions for the website by e-mail to inqaah@hetac.ie

2009 Conference

After extensive discussion and investigation, the Board confirmed Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates as the venue for the 2009 Conference. The Conference will be early in March 2009.

Members are invited to suggest a title, theme and topics for the Conference. Please email the Secretariat.

The Chair of the Local Organising Committee is Dr Badr Abuella, who has joined the Board as an observer.

The Board will now appoint a Program Committee to develop the content and structure of the Conference program. Anyone interested in being on the Committee should inform the Secretariat.

2007 Budget

A budget for 2007 has been approved [2007 Budget](#)

Conferences

On behalf of the President, Board member Mr Peter Cheung, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation, attended a conference in Bonn on the role and development of the regions. His attendance was paid for by the Conference organisers, and will inform the Board's work on developing its relations with regional networks.

Membership

Since the beginning of June 2007, INQAAHE is pleased to welcome the following three Full Members:

- CINDA, Chile;
- National Council for Higher Education, Rwanda; and
- China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre

Projects in an advanced state, which will be reported to Members before the end of the year, include:

- A strategic plan
- A position paper on the respective roles, responsibilities and relationships of INQAAHE vis-à-vis regional networks and other communities of interest in QA
- A database of Good Practices in Quality Assurance

Projects at an early stage of thinking, on which the Board hopes to be able to report to Members by the time of the 2008 Forum, include:

- A Clearinghouse of Members' procedures and policies
- A database of consultants and reviewers
- Establishment of Special Interest Groups (eg QA in small states, professional accreditation, etc)

David Woodhouse
President
6 September 2007

Items of Interest

- The Proceedings from the Australian Universities Quality Forum 2007 (AUQF2007): Evolution and Renewal in Quality Assurance, Hobart, Australia, 11-13 July 2007, is now available. See the Publications section of the AUQA website at <http://www.auga.com.au/qualityenhancement/publications/occasional/publications/index.shtml>

- Joint Statement of the European Networks for the Accreditation of Chemistry-, Engineering-, Informatics- and Medical Study Programmes is available to download in pdf format here... [Joint Statement](#)
- The August 2007 edition of the NVAO newsletter is available on line at <http://www.nvao.net/newsletter/2007/22>
- From September 2007 onwards the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies of the University of Twente in the Netherlands is offering a special track Higher Education Policy in a one year master Public Administration for further details please contact the please contact the PA programme information desk by e-mail at master@utwente.nl or by phone on +31 (053) 489 5489. You are also welcome to contact the HEP education coordinator, Dr. Harry de Boer: h.f.deboer@utwente.nl, tel. + 31 53 489 3263.
- [ENQA seminar - Current trends in the European Quality Assurance and the situation in the SEE region. Friday 9 November 2007. Sofia, Bulgaria](#)
ENQA will organise, in cooperation with the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA), a seminar on current trends in the European Quality Assurance and the situation in the SEE region. The event will be hosted by NEAA, which is a candidate member of ENQA.
- [ENQA seminar - Current trends in the European Quality Assurance. Wednesday 14 November 2007. Holy See, Vatican City.](#)
ENQA will organise, in cooperation with the Quality Assurance Agency of the Holy SEE, a seminar on current trends in the European Quality Assurance. The event will be hosted by the Holy See.
- [The Second European Quality Assurance Forum, 15-17 November 2007 "Implementing and Using Quality Assurance: Strategy and Practice" \(University La Sapienza, Rome\)](#)
Following the success of the first European Quality Assurance Forum (QAF) organised in Munich in 2006, this second Forum, funded by the Socrates Programme and co-organised by ENQA, ESIB, EUA and EURASHE, will explore progress to date in implementing the Standards and Guidelines in higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies. It aims at developing a common understanding of ways to develop further a European dimension for quality assurance.
- Details of forthcoming APQN events are available from the networks website at <http://www.apqn.org/events/>