



INQAAHE

International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

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News from the Secretariat

INQAAHE 2011 Conference Website online

The conference website for the INQAAHE Conference of 2011 is online.

The conference will be held in Madrid, Spain from 4 till 7 April 2011, and is hosted by ANECA.

You can consult the pre-Conference workshops, the programme and register yourself at <http://www.inqaahe.org/madrid-2011>



Call for nominations for the INQAAHE Board

Nominations are called for the INQAAHE Board. The terms of the current members end in April 2011, and an election will take place of directors to serve for two years to 2013. The election will be in two parts, namely for President and for other directors. Full and Associate Member organisations may submit nominations of candidates associated with Full and Associate Members of INQAAHE. The nominees must signify their willingness to serve if elected, must indicate their interest in the position and what ideas they would bring, and must be able to dedicate adequate time to the task.

Nominations must be received by the INQAAHE Secretariat not later than Monday, 3 January 2011. Full and Associate members have recently received an e-mail about how to nominate directors.



Best wishes!

The INQAAHE Secretariat wishes you all the best for 2011!

Leendert Klaassen
Mark Frederiks
Esther van den Heuvel

Secretariat Closed

Please note that from December 24th till January 3th the INQAAHE Secretariat will be closed.

INQAAHE membership mutations

INQAAHE welcomes the following new members and affiliates:

Full member: Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Research of Andalusia, Spain

Associate: College of Dentistry, University of Dammam, Saudi Arabia





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President's Report

1. Small states internships.

In September, I reported that six internships had taken place or were planned. All have now successfully taken place despite the visa difficulties experienced by various interns.

One agency complimented the internship experience as follows: "I just can't thank you enough for facilitating XXX's internship. He has matured and is much more knowledgeable about quality assurance. QA is an art one learns on the job and he has done that. This will strengthen our operations in our effort to bring our quality assurance up to international standards. Our motto is to make our institutions "Internationally credible", and this internship experience will certainly contribute to this effort."

INQAAHE is seeking funding from GIQAC to support more interns in 2011, and is also budgeting INQAAHE funds to support at least one more internship.

2. Scholarships

We received funds from GIQAC to support students of the QA programs at New York University or the University of Melbourne. Six half scholarships were given, five taken up at Melbourne and one at New York.

3. Member Survey

In Namibia, we agreed to survey members about the services that INQAAHE provides. The survey will be finished in January and will be sent to you.

4. Accreditation Mills

INQAAHE is working on a project to combat accreditation mills or bogus quality agencies by creating an authoritative list of credible agencies. This project is moving rather slowly. I am planning to meet the Project Researcher and others in January (in the context of the CHEA conference in Washington DC) to consider whether the project is really feasible, and if so to discuss the next stages.

5. ICDE

The International Council for Distance Education (ICDE) sought bids for a project to map national regulations on DE. INQAAHE, in collaboration with some Australian and New Zealand bodies, put in a very thorough proposal and won the bid. (This is not costing INQAAHE any money – just the application of some time of some members.) I was part of a project design meeting in Sydney, Australia, but subsequent progress has been slow due to slow responses from ICDE itself.

6. GIQAC

2011 is the third year of the GIQAC grant, and the World Bank expects that it will be the final year. GIQAC (the joint World Bank / UNESCO committee) called a meeting in Paris in December, funding two people from each network, to discuss the past and the future.



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6 December: Networks reported actions with GIQAC money (through the period of the grant) and future plans, in the presence of some potential donors. If GIQAC is able to generate support from other sources, they might continue as the mechanism for distribution and co-ordination.

7 December: Networks reported in detail actions taken in 2009 on GIQAC money. It is evident that INQAAHE is in a position to offer significant assistance world-wide, although it does not have a specific regional base. INQAAHE should use its global reach to:

1. work with the regional networks to facilitate sharing of good practice across the regions, and collaboration of the networks on common projects;
2. facilitate interaction between agencies across regions; and
3. facilitate 'south/south interaction'.

8 December: The networks present had a very interesting all-day meeting, discussing topics suggested by each network. These discussions will feed into a networks meeting at the Madrid conference (on 8 April 2011). An agenda will be circulated soon.

INQAAHE received a very positive GIQAC audit report on our work for this year.

7. Professional Associations

As I was visiting Paris at GIQAC's expense, INQAAHE convened a meeting of European professional associations. Given the short notice, this was well-attended and well-received. The discussions will be followed by a meeting in Madrid in April.

We are coming to Christmas on the calendar of many people and the end of 2010 on the calendar of many people. Even those who are of other persuasions and keep other calendars are aware of these markers of the passage of time. So, I wish to all our members, good health and success in what you do. I look forward to meeting you in 2011 – INQAAHE's 20th anniversary year!"

News from other networks

Call for contribution to APQN 2011 Conference & AGM



The APQN 2011 Conference and AGM is to be held in Bangalore, India (2-4 March 2011). The Office of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore, India is hosting this event. The Chair of the Organizing Committee is Prof. H. A. Ranganath, Director of NAAC. The main theme of the 2011 Asia-Pacific Quality Network Conference is: Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Expectations and Achievements.

Following is the indicative list of sub-themes for conference:

1. Quality Assurance and Diversity of Higher Education Systems
2. Issues of Quality and Access in Higher Education
3. Multiple QA Agencies: Prospects and Problems
4. Mutual Recognition
5. Quality Assurance in India



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6. QA Cycles and Building on Successive Cycles
7. Ranking of Higher Education Institutions: Issues and Concerns
8. Ensuring synergy between IQA and EQA
9. Research on QA and IQA
10. QA of cross-border higher education
11. What Next for APQN?

The target audience for the APQN Conference and AGM is primarily those associated with quality agencies in the region. This includes APQN Members and Observers, the APQN Board, Committees and Project Groups. In addition, others working in the area of quality assurance and improvement in higher education and government agencies are welcome to attend the conference days that are open to non-members. You are invited to present a paper on a topic of your choice related to one of the sub-themes above.

The program for the next APQN Conference and AGM will be available at www.apqn.org/events/ and www.apqn2011.com upon completion of the call for contributions and selection processes.

Curriculum development workshop for joint quality assurance capacity building project in ASEAN countries



The ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) had the pleasure to host the Curriculum Development Workshop for Joint Quality Assurance Capacity Building Project in ASEAN Countries from 3 to 4 November 2010 at the Malaysian Qualifications Agency, Petaling Jaya.

The project which is a joint effort between German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) - ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) - Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO-RIHED) and ASEAN University Network (AUN) was attended by the respective partners' representatives as well as key experts from German, Indonesia, Singapore and Spain. The two-day workshop discussed on the design of the three-phase capacity building project in terms of sequencing, contents and specification of the target groups. The first phase of the project is expected to start in August 2011.



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New Agencies applied to ENAAE to join the EUR-ACE accreditation system

ENAAE (European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education), runs since 2007 EUR-ACE, a decentralized Europe-based accreditation system of educational programmes as entry route to the engineering profession (“pre-professional accreditation”). A common quality label (“EUR-ACE® label”) is awarded to programmes that comply to a common basic set of standards (“EUR-ACE Framework Standards for the Accreditation of Engineering Programmes”) and are accredited by an agency fulfilling appropriate quality assurance rules, in particular the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ESG).

EUR-ACE is currently implemented by seven Agencies throughout the European Higher Education Area, namely:

- CTI (Commission des Titres d’ Ingénieur), France;
- ASIIN (Accreditation Agency for Study Programs in Engineering, Informatics, Natural Sciences and Mathematics), Germany;
- Engineers Ireland;
- Ordem dos Engenheiros, Portugal.
- RAEE (Russian Association for Engineering Education);
- Engineering Council, United Kingdom;

More than 700 EUR-ACE labels have so far been awarded. EUR-ACE has been quoted by the European Commission as an example of good practice in their “Report on progress in quality assurance in higher education” (September 2009) and mentioned also in the publication “The EU contribution to the European Higher Education Area”, issued in March 2010.

At the closure of the EC-supported project EUR-ACE SPREAD project (2008-2010), ENAAE has received applications to be authorized to award the EUR-ACE label by several other accreditation Agencies, based in Belgium, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Switzerland. It is hoped that within a few months these agencies will be able to join the EUR-ACE system.

More information can be found at: <http://www.enaee.eu/>



CANQATE’s 7th Annual International Conference

The Caribbean was at its best during November 23rd - 26th when the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) hosted the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE) 7th Annual International Conference Meeting at the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA) in Trinidad and Tobago. The theme of this year’s conference “**Continuously Enhancing the Quality of Higher Education for Global Competitiveness**”, generated lively discussions as presenters shared valuable information on best practice in quality assurance and tertiary education, while creating a nexus with academic trends globally.

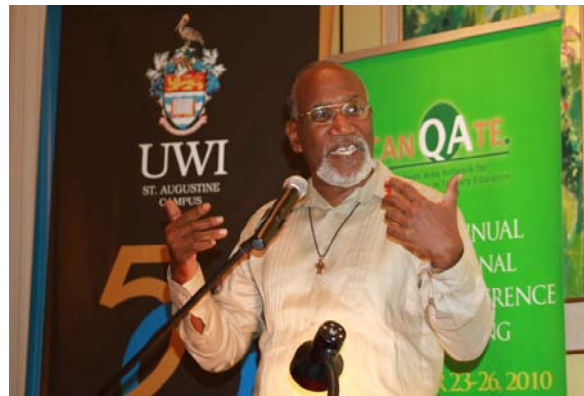


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“Anxious”, “Excited”, and “Eager” were some of the adjectives that can be used to describe the feelings of participants during the Pre-Conference Workshop facilitated by Dr. David A. Wissman. Participants were thrilled to hear from an expert on **“Effective Governance and Administration at Higher Education Institutions.”**

The Conference also feature Institutional workshops entitled “After Self Study, What Next?” and **“Big Quality for Small Institution”**, which were led by Dr. Sandra Gift, Senior Programme Officer of the University of the West Indies, and Dr. Ruby Alleyne, Vice President Quality Assurance and Institutional Advancement of the University of Trinidad and Tobago, respectively. These two workshops were designed institutions to examine their operations with a view to improvement.



Each day of the Conference and Meeting introduced participants to innovative ideas for bringing about positive changes in the management of Tertiary Education Institutions and Programmes. Many were confident that such ideas could be adapted an improved upon at their organisations.

Also during the Conference the ‘new’ CANQATE website funded by GIQAC was launched.

The Conference ended with the much anticipated Student Forum which was attended by both secondary and tertiary students across Trinidad and Tobago. This was conducted as two concurrent panel discussions on **‘What Role Should the State Play in Determining the Direction of Education?’** and **‘The Role of students in Decision Making in Higher Education Institutions?’** Panellists included practitioners in the field as well as student body representatives.

At the end presenters and participants agrees that the Caribbean region has the capability and capacity to develop a competitive education system. All look forward to the 8th Annual CANQATE International Conference and Meeting to be held in the Bahamas in 2011.



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Chinese Association for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CAQAA), China

The Inaugural Conference and the Symposium of the Chinese Association for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CAQAA) was hosted by the Higher Education Evaluation Center (HEEC) of the Ministry of Education, China and held in Beijing from 1st to 2nd November 2010. It was attended by over 30 international and domestic special guest speakers and up to 470 participants from 222 CAQAA member organizations from all over the country. The theme of the conference was: *Improve the Quality: Quality Assurance Framework, Evaluation System Operational Mechanism*. Dr. Jiang Yanqiao, the Secretary/Treasurer of APQN represented the network and delivered the congratulatory remarks at the opening ceremony.



CAQAA is a non-profit national association of 14 external QA agencies and 208 internal QA departments, among which HEEC is the lead agency. The objective of CAQAA is to improve the information-sharing and promote the good practices in quality assurance, as well as to enhance the self-regulation and self-management of the QA organizations. CAQAA has showed keen interest in establishing a kind of exchange and mutual cooperation with APQN.

News from Members

Accreditation results of JUAA published

The Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) has published and translated its accreditation results online.

They can be consulted at:

http://www.juaa.or.jp/en/images/index/fy2009_results_of_aaccreditation.pdf





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Upcoming events



Bologna Seminar Budapest, January 20-21, 2011

„Embedding Professional Short-Cycle Higher Education in the (Higher) Education System”

Short Cycle Higher Education (SCHE) is a sector of higher education which has started a rather dynamic development in a number of European countries within the recent decade. It seems to be a response to changing requirements for qualified skills and manpower flexibility at the European labour market. Governments of a number of countries are running a discussion on role, position and arrangements of the sector which has been recognised as a part of higher education system, yet indicates some specific characteristics.

The upcoming Bologna seminar on SCHE will offer to participants to learn about a complex situation of SCHE throughout Europe and will provide insights into cases from the U.S.A. and Canada

More information can be found on the seminar website:

<http://www.eurashe.eu/RunScript.asp?Page=145&p=ASP\Pg145.asp>

CHEA Annual Conference and International Seminar 2011

“The evolving role and responsibilities of Accreditation” January 24-27 2011, Mariott Hotel, Washington, DC



In just a few weeks, leaders from U.S. and international higher education institutions, accrediting organizations, government and higher education associations will converge in Washington to attend the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) 2011 Annual Conference and International Seminar. Please register now for this unique event.

The conference offers sessions covering a wide variety of issues, including:

- The impact of the 2010 elections on higher education and accreditation.
- The future of for-profit higher education.
- States and accreditation.
- Accreditation and accountability.

Please visit the Conference website:

http://www.chea.org/2011%20Annual%20Conference/2011_ACIS_FINAL.asp for more information.



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ACA's 29th European Policy Seminar
Brazil, Russia, India, China. Key points on the European higher education compass?
Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)
18 March 2011, Brussels, Belgium



ACA happily announces that its 29th European Policy Seminar event will be dedicated to the topic *Brazil, Russia, India, China. Key points on the European higher education compass?* Our speakers will present current and comprehensive information on trends in higher education in these “BRIC” countries (as they are often collectively known), providing insight into what developments in these four countries might mean for higher education practitioners and decision makers in Europe. Also on the agenda are examples of European initiatives focused on these parts of the world. This will encompass specific institutional efforts as well as a broader discussion of the European Union’s external strategy for higher education.

More information can be found at: <http://www.aca-secretariat.be/index.php?id=494>

EUA's Annual Conference
“Investing today in talent for tomorrow”
April 13-15 2011, Aarhus University, Denmark



The European University Association’s Annual Conference 2011 at Aarhus University, Denmark marks the 10th Anniversary of the EUA.

The anniversary provides the opportunity to take stock and consider where to go next. The EUA Annual Conference 2011 will launch discussions of future priorities and the most important milestones for EUA in the next decade.

The theme of the conference is talent development – a topic of high relevance for the future competitiveness of Europe. We face the challenge of making the European area for higher education and research an attractive destination for the best researchers and students in the world without, however, compromising the provision of mass education. With the Bologna Process a united Europe has already demonstrated that the European model is extremely competitive and durable. Now it is time to identify ways of using this position to attract and develop the bright minds of tomorrow.

For more information visit the Conference website at: <http://www.eua.be/aarhus.aspx>



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3rd Annual Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance in Europe 2011

14 April 2011

Hotel Silken Berlaymont Brussels, Belgium

Recognising the need for clarity to address the growing number of university ranking systems, the European Commission launched an initiative "for the design and testing of a new multi-dimensional university ranking system with global outreach" that is also independent from public authorities and universities. It is hoped that through its emergence as a top priority on the EU higher education agenda, a new comprehensive ranking system will facilitate not only greater transparency and accountability of universities but also help policymakers to develop longer term strategies.

This annual Symposium, now in its third year, will analyse the latest findings of the U-Multirank project and consider the challenges that lie ahead in creating a comprehensive system that encompasses rankings, quality assurance systems and standards. Participants will explore the barriers that must be overcome in order to achieve the vision of creating a European Higher Education Area with a robust framework to improve the comparative quality of universities across Europe and their ability to compete in a global market.

<http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/BD14-PPE2.php>