



## **INQAAHE Bulletin December 2011**

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## News from the Secretariat

### Membership Mutations

INQAAHE welcomes the following new members:

Full Members:

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) - USA

Agency for Quality Assurance Through Accreditation of Study Programmes (AQAS) - Germany

Associate Members:

Khyber Medical University - Pakistan

College of Dentistry, University of Dammam (CoDUoD) - Saudi Arabia

Institute of Management Sciences - Pakistan

National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences - Pakistan

Mehran University of Engineering & Technology - Pakistan

Affiliates:

Khalid Sarairah - Jordan

### Best Wishes!

The INQAAHE Secretariat wishes you all the best for 2011!

Guido Langouche

Mark Frederiks

Esther van den Heuvel



### Secretariat Closed

Please note that from December 23th till January 3th the *INQAAHE Secretariat will be closed.*

### INQAAHE Forum 2012

The INQAAHE Forum of 2012 will be held on Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 April in Melbourne, Australia. The overarching theme of the Melbourne Forum is "The future of external quality assurance".

The venue of the Forum will be Novotel St. Kilda. All INQAAHE members will be informed when the forum website will go online. This will happen within a few weeks.

### INQAAHE-ENQA Seminar

From 30 November to 2 December the joint INQAAHE-ENQA Seminar “Internationalisation and QA: Connecting European and Global Experiences” took place in Brussels, Belgium.

Over 130 participants from more than 40 different countries participated in this seminar. During the first day various representatives from professional accreditors gave presentations. The European Association for Public Administration Accreditation (EAPAA), The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAE) and the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) presented their work. Bethany Jones paid a tribute to the work of Dr. Marjorie Peace Lenn with the presentation “Quality Assurance in Teacher Education: Lessons from Marjorie Peace Lenn.” Dr. Hans de Wit, lector Internationalisation from Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences talked about how to measure and assess the quality of internationalisation in HE programmes.

During the second day internationalisation trends within the QA of Higher Education were discussed. Patricia Pol from the International Association of Universities (IAU) illustrated the report “Internationalization of Higher Education: Global Trends Regional Perspectives – the IAU 3rd Global Survey Report”. This report includes detailed information concerning the worldwide growing importance of internationalisation in higher education. In addition presentations about mutual recognition in Europe, Latin America and Asia, transnational education in Hong Kong and Ethiopia were given. Also OECD presented its AHELO project which involves the development of a tool to measure the achieved learning outcomes in Higher Education worldwide.

On the third day the relation between European Quality Labels, European Quality Assurance were topics of discussion. The labels for engineers, informatics, geologists, musicians and chemists were presented. Also the role and impact of these labels have been discussed. The presentations can be found online at: <http://www.inqahe.org/internationalisation-and-qa/presentations>





## President's Message

Dear friends,

This time of year makes us look back and see what we have achieved during the year, and what we have failed to do as well as we would have wanted. It is also a time for planning and for making new resolutions about the year that is about to begin.

We would like to hear from you, so our review is based on what you think about the work the Network has been doing, and our planning feeds on your needs and interests. Please, write to us (either to the Secretariat, or directly to me – [mariajoselemaitre@gmail.com](mailto:mariajoselemaitre@gmail.com)) and let us know how you see us, and what you would expect from INQAAHE in the following months.

I would like to share with you the experience of our last meeting, in Brussels at the end of November. As you may recall, we had planned this seminar as a tribute to Dr. Marjorie Peace Lenn, one of the founders of INQAAHE and a driving force behind many of the Network's activities. She brought the issue of internationalization to the forefront of our discussions long before it became fashionable, and saw the professions and the assurance of their quality as an especially important field for it. Therefore, a seminar on internationalization and quality assurance was a fitting occasion to remember her and her contribution to our work.

The seminar was really an exciting opportunity to learn and exchange views with people from all over the world. Some of you were there, and we thank you for your contributions; for those of you who could not attend, I will try to summarize what I saw as significant outcomes and ideas for our future work.

First, the issue of internationalization. It has been defined as the integration of an international or intercultural dimension in the purpose, functions or provision in higher education. This is often restricted to mobility, but the presentations at the seminar looked at many other implications, such as mutual recognition and the role that quality assurance can play to make it easier; transnational education; learning outcomes and their assessment. Quality assurance is about developing trust about the quality of institutions, the quality of teaching, the meaning of degrees, across institutions and across national borders.

One of the ways in which we can increase trust is precisely through the quality assurance of the professions, which places different requirements on agencies and on institutions. How to agree on the basic contents of the curriculum, so that we can trust professionals who come from different contexts? How to ensure that learning will travel well, and make it possible for a graduate from one country to perform effectively in another one? There are important developments in this area, and I invite you to look at the presentations of the seminar, in order to discuss these issues within your own agencies and institutions and among ourselves next time we meet.



The seminar led me to understand that internationalization is a significant dimension of quality in the provision of higher education, both at the institutional and professional education levels. This means that we need to find adequate mechanisms for assessing internationalization processes and their impact. This should become evident in terms of value added to the student experience and awareness, to the academic and professional competencies of academic staff, to the organization of curricula, to the employability of graduates.

At the same time, I think that we should not assess internationalization as a separate or specialized aspect of higher education, but rather use an integrated approach which would thus enrich our definition of quality by making it more comprehensive and linked to current developments.

Regarding the professions, the seminar made it clear to me that we need to maintain and strengthen the dialogue with those agencies and organizations working in the accreditation of programs leading to professional degrees. This is a common practice in my part of the world, where higher education is highly professionalized, but has not been as yet a priority in our discussions within INQAAHE, and maybe we should make it so. We heard about interesting initiatives leading to the harmonization of standards, core learning outcomes or specific requirements for the QA of the professions; these issues need to be discussed and integrated in our discussions, and they may provide an effective way to the re-invention of quality assurance!

Finally, I would like to mention that there was a very interesting topic that emerged in the discussions, but was totally unanticipated: that of the pedagogical training and/or support needed by academic staff. The expansion of higher education systems and the diversification of students make increasingly necessary to develop teaching and assessment competencies in the teaching staff ... but we have not addressed what this means in terms of quality criteria or assessment methods.

As you can see, it was a very interesting opportunity, and the beginning of a significant dialogue that we need to keep up.

Let me finish with the hope that in your New Year resolutions, you will include one referring to your active participation in the network, and that you will act upon it, both by attending our events, but most of all, by sharing with us your concerns, your questions, and your good practices.

We wish you a merry Christmas and hope that the peace and good will of the season will bring you a wonderful new year.

Maria José Lemaire  
INQAAHE President

### **APQN-INQAAHE Workshop on Good Practices**

The workshop was a members-only event, where 15 participants from 12 APQN members of 10 countries or territories gathered with 26 practices in total. Dr. Séamus Puirseil, on behalf of INQAAHE, and NIAD-UE's Vice-President Kazuo Okamoto, on behalf of the Board of APQN, were responsible for planning and organizing the workshop and also served as coordinators during the workshop. During the program, each participant presented their practices at either of two parallel working sessions. In the last part of the parallel sessions, each group had a discussion to find advanced practices or practices which could be particularly transferable to other QA agencies. At the final plenary session, participants shared a few cases that were recognized as an advanced/particularly transferrable practice.

The practices presented at the workshop comprised a variety of topics coming from QA agencies with a wide range of expertise in quality assurance from beginners to those having over 20 years of experience. It was a useful and valuable opportunity for the participants in tracing the development of the quality assurance systems and tools as well as learning how to proceed in the future.

Those practices are submitted to INQAAHE for review to be listed in the INQAAHE Database on Good Practices in Quality Assurance (GPOA Database). The presentation materials at the workshop are available at APQN's website see:

<http://www.apqn.org/events/past/details/?id=405>



### **Expansion of consultants database**

APQN and the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) have jointly launched the new round of expansion of the Database from 1 September 2011. The heads of quality assurance agencies of the two networks are requested to nominate experts for the Database. Up to the deadline, 58 nominees have been received. The following experts will review these nominees:

- Dr Jagannath Patil, Vice-President of APQN and Deputy Advisor of National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India (facilitator of the review process),
- Mrs. María José Lemaitre, President of INQAAHE, Vice President of Centro Interuniversitario de Desarrollo (CINDA) , and
- Prof. Badr Aboul-Ela, Board member of INQAAHE, Director of Commission for Academic Accreditation, United Arab Emirates

## News from other networks

### CANQATE's New Board of Management



President, Dr. Yvonne Marshall, Executive Director of the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ)



Vice President, Dr. Eduardo Ali, Manager, Quality Assurance, Research & Effectiveness at the Council of Legal Education, Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad & Tobago



Secretary, Mrs. Nicole Manning, Actg. Director, Quality Assurance at the National Council on Technical Vocational Education and Training (NCTVET) in Jamaica



Treasurer, Mr. Mervyn Extavour,, Board Director, Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT)



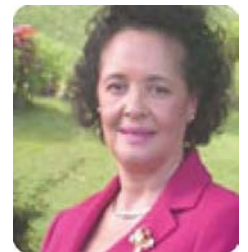
Ex-Officio (Immediate Past President), Mrs. Valda Alleyne, Executive Director of the Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC)



Floor Member, Ms. Pamela Dottin, Quality Assurance Officer at the The University of the West Indies, Open Campus



Floor Member, Mr. Curtis Floyd, Actg. Director, Accreditation and Quality Enhancement at the Accreditation Council of Trinidad & Tobago (ACTT)



Floor Member, Dr. Beverley Lansiquot, Principal, Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, St. Lucia

The 2011 CANQATE Conference was hosted by the College of the Bahamas under the theme, Enhancing Access to Tertiary Education in a Globalized Environment. **Dr. David Woodhouse**, former INQAAHE President was the guest speaker who encouraged that institutions should endeavor to maintain quality while increasing access. He also reminded Quality Assurance Agencies to guide institutions in the right direction and establish the appropriate mechanisms and policies. **Dr. Ethley London** a stalwart in Quality Assurance was acknowledged and in her honor it was announced that the Ethley London Foundation would be established.

The Conference of 2012 will be held in Jamaica during the period October 30 -November 2012. More details will soon be available at <http://www.canqate.org>

## CANQATE builds capacity in Peer Review Training

Branded as the 'best training programme ever' by the facilitators, The Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE) successfully conducted the first Peer Review Training Workshop for External Quality Assurance Agencies (EQAA) of the region.

The workshop, held at PomMarine Hote from July 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2011, attracted sixteen (16) representatives from CANQATE member countries: Antigua, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Guyana, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago. In her Welcome Remarks, Ms Valda Alleyne, (former) President of CANQATE remarked, "Globally, higher or tertiary education as it is commonly called within the Caribbean is undergoing transformation as a result of globalization which has resulted in the liberalization of the sector and facilitated cross border education so that there are diverse providers and programmes of study."

"External Quality Assurance Agencies (EQAAs) are therefore being challenged to think *"outside the box"* by developing quality assurance frameworks that are robust enough to deter **"diploma mills"** and other scrupulous providers from fraudulent practices; but conducive enough to encourage genuine investors in quality tertiary educational provision."



Ms Alleyne advised that institutions should "ensure that their commitment to quality is signalled through the implementation of internal quality assurance systems that meet standards/criteria established by external quality assurance agencies" as "citizens are becoming cautious about their investment in time, money and effort to attain higher level qualifications." The President also urged the EQAAs to form strong partnerships with the tertiary/higher education educational providers.

Ms Alleyne continued to highlight the achievements of CANQATE over the past 2 years, which included the launch of the new website at <http://www.canqate.org> that allows for social interaction amongst members; the awarding of scholarships to the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) Conference which was held in Spain, April 2011; and this Peer Review Training Workshop.



The workshop was developed and delivered by consultants Dr Ruby Alleyne and Mr Jason Stafford. Dr Ruby Alleyne was the founding Executive Director of the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) and is presently Vice-President, Quality Assurance and Institutional Advancement of the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). Dr Alleyne is a leading Quality Assurance (QA) practitioner who has worked throughout the CARICOM region in higher education quality assurance for over a decade.

Mr Stafford is currently the Manager, Institutional Advancement of UTT and is the former Manager, Institutional Advancement of ACTT. Mr Stafford has worked in the area of higher education quality assurance, institutional research, planning and policy development for the past six years.

The highly interactive training workshop comprised multimedia presentations, focused discussions, simulations, and an intensive writing laboratory. In her closing speech, the President outlined the next steps; and the participants were presented with their certificates in a short closing ceremony. Dr Francis Severin, Head, UWI Open Campus, Dominica delivered the Vote of Thanks.

It is anticipated that the competencies gained by the participants will be realized through the transfer of knowledge in their home countries and through the offer of skills in regional peer review activities.



### **APQN receives additional GIQAC Funding**



APQN receives additional GIQAC funding for the following two projects:

1. Quality Information Systems (QIS) Toolkit: This Project aims to map practices of quality assurance agencies and other bodies in spreading quality information among stakeholders in general and students in particular. Based on the mapping of practices it is proposed to conduct a workshop to identify good practices and develop a toolkit for Quality Information system, which can be piloted and promoted among the members of APQN.

2. Publication of an Electronic Package for Reviewer's Training: The project aims to publish the Training Package for Reviewers on the APQN website as well as in the form of CD and a Print version, to be circulated among members.

## 2011 AQAN Seminar and Roundtable Meeting

The 2011 ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) Seminar and Roundtable Meeting, held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei from 5th to 6th October 2011 was organized by the Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council (BDNAC). The annual gathering themed - *'Building Regional Confidence towards Harmonizing ASEAN Higher Education'*- was attended by the representatives of AQAN member agencies and AQAN partners as well as local participants from the higher education institutions. The two-day program was officiated by the Honorable Acting Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Mulia Dato' Seri Setia Haji Awang Yusoff bin Haji Awang Ismail. Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, the former Director of Southeast Asian Ministries of Education Organization Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED) delivered a keynote address on the theme of the Seminar. This was followed by three plenary sessions addressing the three subthemes of the Seminar: *"An ASEAN Quality Framework: Promises and Perils"*, *"A Common Quality Assurance for Public and Private Higher Education?"* and *"Challenges in Quality Assuring the Highly Diversified Post Secondary Education System"*. A total of eight presentations were made by the representatives from AQAN member agencies. The seminar was continued with a special session to further discuss on the ASEAN Quality Assurance Principles and Standards. The special session made three recommendations to the Roundtable Meeting which were as follows:

- i. AQAN to embark on a project to develop the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework;
- ii. AQAN to form a task force for this purpose; and
- iii. AQAN to engage with relevant parties in Southeast Asian region including SEAMEO RIHED and the ASEAN University Network during the development process of the Framework.



The 2011 AQAN Roundtable Meeting was held on the second day of the program. During the Roundtable Meeting, the AQAN Constitution was tabled and adopted by all members. The adoption of the Constitution leads to the fresh election of its Executive Committee. The MQA was re-elected as the President of AQAN and to lead the Executive Committee. The ONESQA was elected as the Vice President. The Meeting elected other three members of the Executive Committee made up of representatives from Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council (BDNAC), National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (NAAHE), Indonesia and General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation and Ministry of Education and Training (GDETA MOET), Vietnam. The MQA was selected to continue to be the Secretariat of the Network and Prof Zita Mohd Fahmi, MQA's Deputy Chief Executive Officer, was also reappointed as the Executive Secretary. The Roundtable Meeting also agreed to extend the invitation to SEAMEO RIHED, ASEAN University Network (AUN) and SEAMEO Regional Training Center (SEAMEO RETRAC) to be the associate members of the Network. The Meeting ended with all members agreeing to play their roles in facilitating the Network's initiatives on ASEAN QA Principles as well as its strategic direction in areas of mutual interest.

## **DIES ASEAN-QA Training Course – Internal and External Quality Assurance Track (Phase 1), 17-21 October 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand**

The first phase of the ASEAN-QA Training Course – External Quality Assurance (EQA) Track was held at the Siam City Hotel, Bangkok from 17-21 October 2011. The training was co-hosted by the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) and ASEAN University Network (AUN). The training brought together a group of 17 quality assurance officers from agencies and ministerial bodies in charge of external quality assurance in the Southeast Asia.

The Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) Track was also held concurrently at the same venue with participation of 24 university officers in the South East Asian region. Participants of both tracks have attended the sessions on the generic theme of quality assurance as part of the training's emphasis in strengthening the synergy of EQA and IQA.

The DIES ASEAN-QA Training Course is jointly conducted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), and the University of Potsdam, Germany together with partners from Southeast Asia and Europe, i.e. the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN), the ASEAN University Network (AUN), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), and the Southeast Asian Ministries of Education Organization Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED). The training course aims at developing capacity in the field of quality assurance in the ASEAN region. The participants and experts are looking forward to meeting each other again in March 2012 in Potsdam/Germany for the second phase of the training course.



## APQN 2012 Conference and Annual General Meeting(AGM)

The 2012 Conference and AGM will be held in Siem Reap Angkor Kingdom of Cambodia from 29 February to 2 March 2012. The Accreditation Committee of Camodia will host this event. The Chair of the Organizing Committee is Mr. Vicheanon KHIEU, ACC, Cambodia. The target audience for the APQN Conference and AGM are primarily those associated with quality agencies in the region. This includes APQN Members and Observers, the APQN Board, Committees and Project Groups. In addition, other people 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.

### Conference themes and sub-themes

The main theme of the conference is:

#### **External Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific: What has changed over a decade?**

The two sub-themes are:

- Building Quality Culture within Institutions: Role of External Quality Assurance
- QA of cross-border higher education

In addition, a number of topics will be covered in the workshops and parallel sessions. Following is the indicative list of the topics that will be of interest to the APQN members:

- Quality assurance in Cambodia
- Mutual recognition
- QA of distance education
- Qualifications framework
- Quality literacy
- Benchmarking
- Standards
- Research on external QA and internal QA
- Capacity building of the QA agencies

### More details

More details of the event are available at: <http://www.apqn.org/events/>

## ANQAHE Update

ANQAHE organized its first conference from 13-15 December 2011 in Abu Dhabi, hosted by the Commission of Academic Accreditation. The Conference has been attended by many QA professional in the region. ANQAHE is also planning the organisation of a Joint Workshop with the DAAD on Joint Accreditation Catalyst or Challenges in Quality Assurance in Cairo from 28-29 January 2012. ANQAHE has been invited to give a key note presentation in the Forum and Exhibition on Higher Education Services in the OIC Member State in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus from 28 November – 1 December 2011.

## CANQA and ENQA signed Memorandum of Understanding

On 14 and 15 November the international seminar: “Kazakhstan’s Education on the way to European quality standards through the accreditation of educational programs” took place in Shymkent, Republic of Kazakhstan. The seminar was organised by The Central Asian Network on Quality Assurance and Accreditation (CANQA) and the Education Network Association of Central Asia (<http://www.ednet.edu.kg>)

During the seminar, the Memorandum about mutual understanding and partnership between the European network of quality assurance (ENQA) and the Central-Asian Network of quality assurance (CANQA) has been signed. The purpose of this memorandum is to develop and strengthen the cooperation in the field of quality assurance in higher education and in the distribution of the European Standards and recommendations for the higher education quality assurance in the Central Asia.

Also the European standards and guidelines for internal and external quality assurance, the requirements and criteria for program accreditation were discussed during the seminar. The experiences of Kazakhstani universities in international accreditation were also presented. At the end of the seminar, representatives of the Central Asian Network (CANQA) and European quality assurance agencies held consultations for higher educational institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding programme accreditation.

Also accreditation agencies that are a member of the CANQA Network are planning to carry out the first pilot accreditation in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan in the following universities:

### **Kyrgyz Republic:**

- Kyrgyz Economic University
- Osh State University

### **Republic of Tajikistan:**

- Khujand state University
- Tajik State University of Commerce

### **Republic of Kazakhstan:**

- South-Kazakhstan State University
- Kazakh National Pedagogic University



These universities have submitted applications and reports for self-evaluation to start with the accreditation program by Accreditation Centers on Quality Assurance and Accreditation (CQTE, EdNet). The first pilot accreditation will be in December 2011 - February 2012 and will be carried out within the framework the Tempus project.



## News from Members

### First Annual Report Ontario Universities Council on QA

The Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance (the Quality Council) is pleased to provide you with the Quality Council's first Annual Report for 2010-2011.

The Quality Council was established in 2010 by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) as the body that oversees the quality assurance of undergraduate and graduate programs offered by the publicly assisted universities in Ontario. While rigorous quality assurance has long been a priority for Ontario's publicly assisted universities through OCGS and UPRAC, there has now been an alignment of the quality assurance processes that apply to **both** undergraduate and graduate programs and oversight is provided by an agency at arm's-length from universities and government.

The annual report can be found here: <http://www.cou.on.ca/related-sites/the-ontario-universities-council-on-quality-assura/resources/annual-reports.aspx>



### New CONEAU Publications available

Between 1998 and 2004, CONEAU had published 21 reports framed into the "External Evaluations Collection". This task has been reintroduced in occasion of the Bicentenary Celebrations and CONEAU has edited 15 new titles since then. There was a large distribution of books among ministers, legislators and libraries that ensure the accomplishment of the 44th article of Superior Education Law, which establishes the public character of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the agency that are the outcomes of the evaluations and which are aimed for institutional improvement. All the reports are also available on our institutional website. Besides these editions, by the end of this year two new titles are published.

On the first place, framed into the "Institutional Documents Collection" has been published the book "Avances de Gestión desde la evaluación institucional" that provide a detailed survey about CONEAU's own development and organization. After its auto evaluation, on 2007, CONEAU was submitted to an external evaluation with the highest standards at international level. The recommendations that result from that process were accomplished in depth for the past 4 years. The fruit of this intensive labor is expressed on this book in which directors, coordinators and the technical staff took part, under the coordination of Juan Carlos Geneyro, CONEAU's board member. The publication is also available [online](#).

The other title, "La CONEAU y el Sistema Universitario Argentino", was written for CONEAU's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The purpose of this book is describing the main actions developed since its own foundation and the challenges for the next years.



## NVAO determines frameworks for the assessment of internationalisation

*In the open economies of Flanders and the Netherlands it is self-evident that the graduates of higher education programmes have achieved the right competences for working in a international and multicultural environment. The Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) gives programmes the possibility to assess their internationalisation efforts by means of the distinctive (quality)feature internationalisation.*

In November 2011 the [assessment frameworks for the distinctive \(quality\)feature internationalisation](#) have been determined. Higher Education programmes and institutions can apply for a distinctive (quality)feature internationalisation by using these frameworks. The experiences that were acquired during the pilot (in which the frameworks for assessing the internationalisation were tested) are presented in the evaluation report: [Assessment of Internationalisation - An evaluation of the NVAOs pilot procedures](#).

## Upcoming Events

### IREG-6 Conference

Academic Rankings and Advancement of Higher Education-Lessons from Asia and other Regions  
Taipei, 18-20 April 2012

IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence invites you to the international IREG-6 Conference: **Academic Rankings and Advancement of Higher Education - Lessons from Asia and other Regions**, Taipei, 18-20 April 2012. *The Conference is organized in cooperation with the Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT).* IREG-6 Conference will provide a platform for ranking organizations, experts on quality assurance and academic excellence as well as stakeholders to discuss various topics concerning academic rankings and other forms of assessment of the performance of higher education institutions.

Asia is a region where university rankings found acceptance and have become important for governments, universities and students. Rankings, with all due limitations, are perceived as a "mirror" of university performance. Like in other parts of the world, Asian countries hope that a policy of concentrated funding will lead to creation of several top ranked institutions. Reflections on the ongoing debate over the direct and indirect effects of such policies will surely resonate during at the Conference.

IREG-6 Conference will discuss new developments in university rankings with special attention to rankings' reliability and quality; it will also provide the participants with an opportunity to interact with authors of leading international and national rankings, researchers, university leaders and policy makers. Conference website: [www.ireg-observatory.org](http://www.ireg-observatory.org)



### **EAIE Conference 2012**

Rethinking Education, Reshaping Economies  
11-14 September, Dublin, Ireland

Education is playing an increasingly significant role in maintaining economic sustainability. Higher education institutions are now expected to contribute to economic development in addition to their basic role of education. Greater cooperation between academe and stakeholders both on the policy side and on the employer side is vital for aiding this process. The 2012 EAIE Conference will focus on this changing role of higher education institutions and provide an area for extensive discussions on the challenges and opportunities for all involved in rethinking education, reshaping economies.

The EAIE is now accepting proposals for poster sessions and e-poster sessions to be held at the EAIE Conference in Dublin 2012. The Conference Programme Committee (CPC) invites all those interested in international higher education to become actively involved in the conference programme for 2012.

For more information visit the EAIE Conference site: <http://www.eaie.org/dublin/>



### **OECD IMHE General Conference 2012**

Attaining and Sustaining Mass Higher Education  
17-19 September 2012, Paris, France

Around the world, local, national and regional development policies are emphasising the importance of higher education. Yet the level of participation and access, as well as human and financial resourcing, varies widely.

Different choices are being made about a wide range of issues, such as selectivity, regulation and quality assurance, system diversity, public/private investment, and combinations of education and research. In much of the developed world, sustaining public funding for the mass higher education system and replacing an ageing academic population are reaching a critical point. While at the very same time, investments in research and education are booming in many rapidly growing economies, notably in Asia. However, even for these countries, as for much of the rest of the developing world, major questions loom about quality, accessibility and retaining academic capital.

The conference will seek to identify longer-term trends and will include analyses of national and institutional policies, case studies and the latest research from the OECD and elsewhere. More information can be found here:

<http://www.oecd.org/edu/imhe/generalconference>