

## Quarterly Communiqué to the General Assembly

Quarter 4, 2016

This period has been marked as one with substantial changes to INQAAHE operations and major revision of plans for the next two years in order to meet the strategic objectives outlined in the INQAAHE Strategic Plan 2013-2018.

### ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

To enhance INQAAHE Board operations, the following major activities have been undertaken:

- **Development, approval and implementation of the Activity Plan 2016-2018:** Based on the invaluable input of GA members in Fiji, and considering the Strategic Priorities 2013-2018 as well as the recent developments in higher education and quality assurance, the Board engaged in the development of Activity Plan 2016-2018. This Activity Plan is intended to take the current Strategic Plan to its successful completion and to lead on to the new Strategic Plan 2018-2023 in the 2018 GA. The Plan was approved by the Board during the Board meeting in July and is currently being implemented (see the [Activity Plan per WorkPackages](#)).
- **Restructuring of Committees and Working Groups:** Based on the principle of efficiency and the need for operational management, the structures of Committees and Working Groups have been revised. Committees are permanent units within the INQAAHE Board and majority of the Board's functions are operationalised through Committees. On the other hand, Working Groups are established for the implementation of one-off projects. The revision, which was based on the efficiency analysis, resulted in the restructuring of Committees according to functions as opposed to activities. The revised and approved Committees with their respective functions, and Working Groups with their respective activities are as [per link](#).
- **INQAAHE Funding Scheme:** INQAAHE, in the pursuance of its capacity building mission, has been offering grants for research projects, scholarships for the Quality Assurance Programme, as well as internships. Having analysed the current state of affairs of those activities as well as considering the GA request on the increase of capacity building opportunities, the Board has developed the INQAAHE Funding Scheme, the implementation of which is spelt out in the Operational Manual. The latter is intended to promote transparency in our operations and expenditures whilst setting the stage for such capacity building measures as:
  - **Capacity building window**
  - **Research and innovation window**
  - **INQAAHE Board initiatives window**

- The call for proposals for all the three (3) windows are currently on and we expect to receive proposals that will further enhance our operations.
- **Elections:**
  - **Presidential election:** Due to the resignation of the former President, the INQAAHE Board, in line with the Constitution, announced a new and special round of elections culminating in the election of the new President, Susanna Karakhanyan.
  - **Vice-President election:** The inauguration of the new President was followed by the Board’s election of the new Vice-President. Nominations were made by the Board and Pauline Tang, who secured the majority of the votes, was appointed as the new VP.
  - **Board member replacement:** Due to the changes in a position held, an INQAAHE Board member, Yvonne Marshall, had to resign. As per the Constitution, the Board replaced the Board member by inviting an INQAAHE member to serve on the Board. Criteria such as geographical coverage, qualifications and gender (to ensure gender balance on the Board) were considered. There were four (4) nominations and Franz Gertze from the National Qualifications Authority of Namibia, who had the majority of the votes, was invited to serve on the Board.
- **Collaboration with other regional networks and quality assurance bodies:** This involves the establishment of ties with key QA organisations to explore possible avenues for collaboration.
- **INQAAHE corporate matters:** A major revision of the approach to communication and outreach was undertaken. As a result, the following corporate materials have been developed and put into practice:
  - **Communication and Outreach Operational Manual:** A set of corporate templates including the new newsletter template and other promotional materials have been developed and adopted. Other collaterals such as corporate flyers are currently being developed.
  - **Guidelines on the use of the INQAAHE logo:** These have been uploaded to the INQAAHE website.
  - **INQAAHE new website:** The new INQAAHE website is being finalised and the new website will be launched before the end of 2016. Amongst other things, it will provide a platform for discussions among INQAAHE members.
- **Financial audit:** Based on the GA meeting feedback, as well as in line with the Activity Plan 2016-2018 and procedural provisions of INQAAHE, INQAAHE is initiating a financial audit of its activities and financial operations for the last two to three years.

## NEW MEMBERS

- INQAAHE is pleased to welcome the following new members who joined us between **May-December 2016**:
  - Quality Matters (QM), United States (Associate Member)
  - University of Buraimi (UoB), Oman (Associate Member)
  - Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan (Associate Member)
  - Education Quality Accreditation Agency (EQUAA), Peru (Full Member)
  - Agencia Nacional de Evaluación y Acreditación de la Educación Superior (ANEAES), Paraguay (Full Member)
  - Balochistan University of Engineering & Technology, Khuzdar (BUETK), Pakistan (Associate Member)
  - Mohammad Ali Jinnah University (M.A.J.U), Pakistan (Associate Member)
  - Universidad Andrés Bello (UNAB), Chile (Associate Member)
  - Yvonne Marshall, Jamaica (Affiliate)
  - Fiji National University (FNU), Fiji (Associate Member)
  - Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) (Associate Member). Pakistan
  - Gulf College (GC) (Associate Member). Oman
  - International Association for Management Development in Dynamic Societies (CEEMAN) (Full Member). Slovenia.

## GUIDELINES OF GOOD PRACTICE ALIGNMENT

- **GGP Alignment Procedures:** We are currently processing two (2) cases of GGP alignment. There are also a number of procedures in the pipeline, which are as follows:
  - Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial (CEEC) - Completed and reviewed positively.
  - National Accreditation Commission of Chile (CNA) - The review service contract has been signed. The next step is to set up the panel.
  - National Accreditation Council of Colombia (CNA) - An official letter for renewing the certificate was received on 27 October 2016. Subsequent steps involve signing the review service contract and setting up the panel.

- **Development of the GGP alignment procedures:** The Recognition Committee is currently developing procedures for GGP alignment. Several options for GGP alignment procedures are offered to lessen the burden on agencies that are eager to undergo a GGP alignment, as well as to ensure that members can avail themselves of the opportunity to be GGP-aligned, thus attesting and reaffirming the credibility of their provisions.

## PROJECTS

INQAAHE is happy to share the projects that have already been launched to benefit our members and to respond to the strategic priorities. The projects are as follows:

- A major study on the global impact of quality assurance is now being designed. The study aims to explore, amongst other things, the impact for the last 25 years, recent trends, and the future of quality assurance;
- Establishment of a Global Register for Quality Assurance; and
- The promotion of GGP.

For each project, a Concept Note is currently being developed. We expect to have broad involvement of our members in the implementation of the projects. Once the Concept Notes are approved by the Board, members should expect invitations to join the projects.

- INQAAHE has been invited to join the following two Erasmus + projects, which were officially launched on 15 October 2016 and will last for three (3) years:
  - **INCLUSION:** It targets Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in partnership with European HEIs and national Ministries and NGOs dealing with social inclusion. It targets the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 and the role of HE and quality assurance within the frames.
  - **3CQA:** It targets quality assurance of cycle 3 doctoral programmes. The project brings together Armenian, Mongolian, Kazakh and Ukrainian HEIs, respective Ministries and QA agencies as well as EU partners.

## EVENTS

- We are pleased to invite you to the 9<sup>th</sup> INQAAHE Biennial Conference which is proudly hosted by the Bahrain Qualifications Authority in Manama from 27 February to 2 March 2017. A lot of effort has been invested to offer you this unique platform for networking with the most prominent experts in the field, where you can exchange and build on the knowledge and experience of best quality assurance practices.
- INQAAHE is organising a series of electronic events – webinars and e-forums – throughout the year.

- For 2016, one webinar is in the pipeline and you should expect an invitation to join this shortly.
  - Plans for 2017 webinars and e-fora will be announced in the next quarterly communiqué.
- **UNESCO/INQAAHE/ICDE/CoL/WB/CHEA/CIQG/DAAD Conference 2018:**

As announced at the Fiji Forum, INQAAHE is co-organising a UNESCO conference with the joint effort of organisations such as ICDE, CoL, WB, CHEA/CIQG, DAAD, amongst others.

- The first Steering Committee meeting was organised in Paris on 25 October 2016 which shed light on further developmental and organisational steps. It provided a clear picture on future steps and INQAAHE's specific contribution.
- Prior to the International Conference on Quality Assurance in 2018, around 10 regional events will be planned under the lead of INQAAHE.
- The event in the Middle East will be organised back-to-back with the INQAAHE Conference in Bahrain.

## MARJORY PEACE LENN CENTER FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

INQAAHE is honoured to be the host of the Marjory Peace Lenn (MPL) Centre.

- The MPL Center for QA in International Education is a functional arm of the INQAAHE that focuses on services such as the following:
  - Offering consultant training and maintaining the INQAAHE Database of Consultants (e.g. how to become an INQAAHE qualified QA consultant in developing countries and in a rapidly globalising world).
  - Developing and scheduling annual sessions of GGP reviewer training (i.e. training that qualifies an individual to serve as an external onsite reviewer for GGP applications).
  - Offering workshops on how organisations can use the GGP (e.g. the workshop conducted by Maria Jose Lemaitre and Carol Bobby in Fiji).
  - Developing and offering the QAP provider (offer workshops on the QAP for developing professionals who can manage QA organisations and processes).
  - Refurbishing and maintaining the Database of Good Practices.
  - Determining one or more areas of need (e.g. East Africa or other regions with developing countries) and developing INQAAHE support mechanisms that create awareness of resources and expert assistance in developing good practices. It may be good to develop themes that can serve as a starting point.



- Creating mentoring models that link QA organisations and/or HEIs. This may include study tours.

Currently, the Working Group of the MPL Centre operationalisation is engaged in determining the top priority project and plan for the launch of at least one training or workshop at the INQAAHE conference in Bahrain. More information on the operations of the Centre will be available at the Bahrain Conference and in our subsequent quarterly communiqués.