Oman Quality Network: Evaluating Effectiveness

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Sultanate of Oman

Earliest independent Gulf State; current ruler, HM Sultan Qaboos since 1970

Population 3 million (current estimate, with approx 1 million expatriates)

Almost 50% of the population under 18
In 1970, there were just three boys’ schools in the whole of Oman
In 2011, there are over 1300 schools and over 60 public and private institutions offering post secondary education leading to degrees and diplomas.
The higher education sector in Oman

- The public sector
- The private sector
- Quality assurance and the OAC/OAAA
- Quality enhancement and the OQN
Members
Higher Education Institutes
2 representation per Institute
MoHE and OAC are ex officio members

Representatives
Attend annual general meeting and events organized by Executive committee

Annual Subscription
RO 250 per Institute

Executive Committee
7 members elected at AGM of which a minimum of 3 must be Omani. Can co-opt members. Minimum of 6 meetings per year.

Biennial Conference
Together with ad hoc workshops/seminars

Administrative Assistant
Provided by OAC on part time basis

Web site
Hosted within OAC web site

OQN current structure
(Wilkinson and Aspey, 2010:19)
OQN: challenges

The nature of the HE sector in Oman

OQN structure

OQN status

Communication
The evaluation process

Why evaluate?

Evaluation process

Evaluation report
OQN Evaluation – Final Report
An Evaluation – March 2010
David Wilkinson and Philip Aspey

The report findings

Mission and purpose of the OQN
Membership
Structure
Representation
Leadership
Knowledge assets
Website
Executive Committee
Minimum of 6 meetings per year
(Including AGM)
Biennial conference.

Executive Officer +
2 x part time Admin Assistants

Workgroups
Issue or task specific

OQN proposed structure
(Wilkinson and Aspey, 2010:42)

HEIs
2 representation per Institute

Representatives
Local meetings based in defined geographical areas

Annual subscription

MoHE – matched funding
The way forward

Measuring effectiveness: celebrating achievements

Reviewing structure, status and funding

Regional outreach

Clearly defining the OQN’s role in supporting quality assurance and quality enhancement in Oman

Learning from a critical friend
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