

The INQAAHE Newsletter is your International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies information hub. This publication aims to provide the latest in Quality Assurance Agencies and industry trends and news to our subscribers. Contributions are most welcome – please email [secretariat@inqaahe.org](mailto:secretariat@inqaahe.org).

## Message from the President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,



Welcome to the first issue of the INQAAHE 2019 Newsletter!

In this issue, we are happy to share the news and achievements of our global members. The developments in QA worldwide are diverse both in the nature of activities and the pace of developments.

In the first quarter of 2019, we have seen a diversity of events taking place globally, ranging from capacity building on innovative approaches to quality assurance and the application of more conventional QA mechanisms to tackle quality aspects of HE provisions.

One of the key events in global QA was the INQAAHE 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in March, 2019 proudly hosted by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka. The lead topic of the Conference was the theme all of us genuinely care about – trust in tertiary education provisions. The sub-themes looked at how trust is built in this increasingly globalized context; what makes trust such a powerful asset; how to measure it and how to demonstrate the true value it brings. Contributions also considered how to develop a suite of powerful, analytical tools and services to help tertiary education institutions manage their trust capital among the stakeholders. The attendance of around 300 delegates from more than 57 countries around the world – is a clear demonstration of genuine commitment to the quality cause. The INQAAHE Global Enhancement Platform provided a unique opportunity to bridge the diversity of systems globally to discuss, explore and create solutions to quality assurance issues. The pre-conference workshops successfully covered the needs for capacity building in an era of disruptive changes and innovative technologies.

This issue of the newsletter offers updates on the significant changes at legal and regulatory levels in the different contexts many systems undergo as new approaches to QA are introduced.

As always, in this issue, we are happy to share highlights of our members' activities and information on current and upcoming quality assurance events worldwide, which will help you prioritise the role of each in the enhancement of your quality assurance systems.

We hope you find the information useful.

Sincerely,

Susanna Karakhanyan,  
7<sup>th</sup> President of INQAAHE

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All INQAAHE members are invited to contribute articles for the next issue of the Newsletter. All submissions and accompanying photographs should be sent to: [secretariat@inqaahe.org](mailto:secretariat@inqaahe.org).

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The content of this Newsletter is compiled by the INQAAHE Secretariat and reviewed by the INQAAHE Communication and Outreach Committee (COC).

While the responsibility of the content and its accuracy remains with members and networks, the INQAAHE COC reserves the right to edit, correct, revise or omit any submitted article as required for consistency and appropriacy.

If major revisions are required, the INQAAHE COC may contact the member or network before accepting or publishing the content.

## News from Secretariat

### New INQAAHE members

INQAAHE welcomes the following new members:

- Board of Quality Standards (BQS), Associate member, Benin
- University of Malakand, Associate member, Pakistan
- Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune, Associate member, India
- Ahmed AlKuwaiti, Affiliate member, Saudi Arabia
- Accreditation of Chinese Collegiate School of Business Center (ACCSB), Associate member, China
- International School of Medicine, Associate member, Kyrgyz Republic
- VNU Center for Education Accreditation (VNU-CEA), Full member, Vietnam
- University of Kelaniya, Associate member, Sri Lanka
- University of the Visual & Performing Arts, Associate member, Sri Lanka

### INQAAHE Funding Scheme 2018-2019

#### results

Successful and unsuccessful applicants of [INQAAHE calls for Research and Capacity Building proposals 2018-2019](#) were notified on **February 18, 2019**.

Organisation	Country - Region	
Ontario College Quality Assurance Service (OCQAS)	Canada - Northern America	Capacity Building project
Unibasq - Agency for Quality of the Basque University System	Spain - Western Europe	
National Agency for Accreditation of Higher Education (ANEAES) and Centro Interuniversitario de Desarrollo (CINDA) on behalf of Red Iberoamericana para el Aseguramiento de la Calidad en la Educación Superior (RIACES)	Paraguay and Chile - Latin America and the Caribbean	
National Council for Higher Education (NCHE)	Namibia - Africa	Research and Innovation project
Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT)	Taiwan (China) - Asia Pacific	

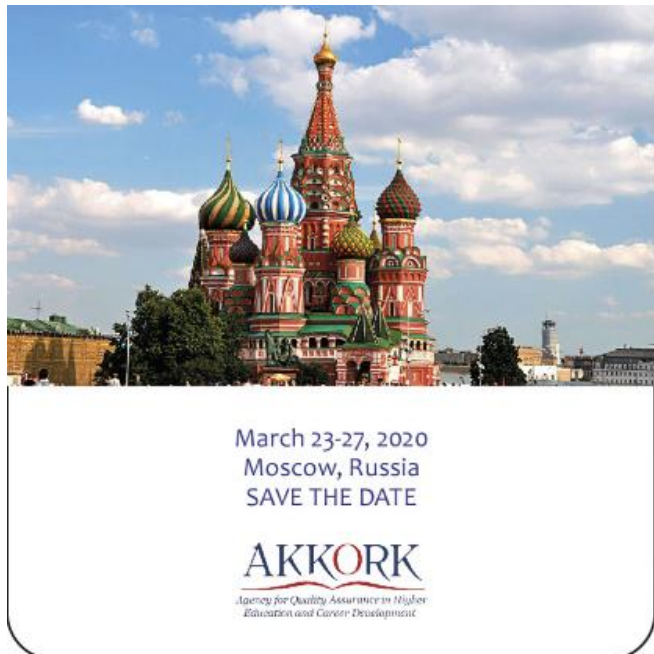
## INQAAHE Conference 2019

Proudly hosted by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, the INQAAHE 15th Biennial Conference was held in Colombo, **Sri Lanka**, from **25th to 28th March 2019**. The theme of this year's conference was *Quality Assurance, Qualifications, and Recognition: Fostering Trust in a Globalised World*. Around 300 representatives from 57 countries attended the Conference. Detailed information on the event will be provided in the next issue of this Bulletin.



## Save the date! INQAAHE Forum 2020 in Moscow

Proudly hosted by AKKORK, **INQAAHE 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Forum 2020** will take place in Moscow from **23 to 27 March 2020**, under the title *Quality, Competences and Learning Outcomes: how to be fit for Generation Z employability*.



### Tribute to Richard Lewis

Richard Lewis, past President of INQAAHE (2003-2007), sadly and unexpectedly passed away last December.

Richard was very much involved with the Network since its establishment in 1991, serving as Treasurer and a Board member.

May he rest in peace.



## News from Members

### AFRICA

#### Aga Khan University celebrates Advance HE accreditation

AKU is one of the developing world's leading sources of health and education research, and is looking to support its teaching staff through Advance HE's Fellowship scheme.

In January of this year AKU became the first strategic partner of Advance HE in the developing world. In order to benchmark their educational development efforts, AKU was seeking accreditation necessary to award Fellowships across their campuses. The CPD scheme, TEACH, is the first accredited staff development programme for East Africa and Pakistan, where AKU's largest campuses, faculty and students are based.

Becky Smith, Associate Head of Global Partnerships at Advance HE, presented the certificate to AKU President Firoz Rasul and commented on the importance of AKU's achievement: "Excellent teaching is an essential component in the creation of outstanding student learning experiences. I am absolutely delighted to support AKU tomorrow as well as today, in its journey towards enhancing teaching excellence in order to inspire learning. AKU Staff who have gained Fellowships now have access to a global community. Advance HE has over 103,000 Fellows globally – all of them passionate about teaching – that's some community!"

Underlining the importance of teaching to the University, AKU Provost Dr Carl Amrhein commented: "Accreditation by Advance HE is a singular achievement of our institution... to achieve this status in so short a time, across six countries, is nothing short of remarkable. One very important outcome for AKU is that our teachers are also leaders in civil society. And one of the key expectations of our Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan is to achieve impact and relevance. This work strengthens both our student and faculty experiences ensuring we deliver an integrated experience.

He added: "Our vision for AKU's teacher academy is to provide an environment that is of, by and for our



faculty where higher education professionals mentor each other and in so doing these Fellows also pursue Senior Fellowship, and in turn these Fellows will form a community of best practice. This will enable AKU to form the very first Teacher's Academy in the developing world."



*President Firoz Rasul of AKU receiving the certificate of Accreditation from Advance HE (UK)*

Dr Tashmin Khamis, PFHEA, Associate Vice Provost and Founding Director of AKU's Networks of Quality Assurance and Improvement (QAI\_net) and Teaching and Learning (TL\_net), led this work from its inception. She paid tribute to the role Advance HE has played in developing AKU's practice and spoke of the need for faculty to receive support and mentoring as they develop their teaching skills:

"We are humbled and proud to be the first accredited scheme in the developing world," she said.



*LR: Dr Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice President, Academic, AKU; Ms Becky Smith, Associate Head of Global Partnership, Advance HE; Dr Tashmin Khamis, Associate Vice Provost and Director of Network for Quality Assurance and Improvement, AKU and Mr Firoz Rasul, President AKU*

"Faculty across the world come to their universities with their PhD content, experience and expertise, but not necessarily any teaching qualification or experience or expertise, so we decided to learn from

others to engage with faculty. We wanted to ensure our work was following good practice and making an impact, build a sustainable resource base and support our faculty. This led us to our search for best practice to ensure that we were really world class, and that's how we came across the HEA Fellowships at Advance HE."

## ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

### Reformation to Higher Education Bureau and the Establishment of the Quality Evaluation Panel

The enactment of the Higher Education Regime in August 2018 offers greater autonomy and flexibility to Macao's higher education institutions and , strengthens and enhances their level of internal governance. It also provides the resources essential for the stability and sustainable development of higher education and establishes a quality assurance system to promote continuous improvement in education quality. In order to carry out the requirements of the new higher education system, the Tertiary Education Services Office has re-formed to become the Higher Education Bureau (DSES) in February 2019.



Under the new system, the Quality Evaluation Panel (QEP) will provide valuable advice on quality assurance and related matters to the Macao SAR Government. The QEP is a consultative panel of seven experts, experienced in the field of higher education quality evaluation. It aims to promote sustainable improvement of higher education quality in Macao and to seek international recognition and greater internationalization.

The appointment ceremony of QEP was held on 15 February 2019 in DSES office. Cheung Po Tak, former President of Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and Former Executive Director of Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) has been appointed QEP Chairman. QEP members include Carol Lynn Bobby, former President of International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAHE) and former Chief Executive Officer and President of Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP, USA); Ji Ping, former Director-General of Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (HEEC, China); Alberto Manuel Sampaio Castro Amaral, President of Agência de Avaliação e Acreditação do Ensino Superior (A3ES, Portugal); Aileen Mary Ponton, Chief Executive Officer of Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF); Chong Siong Choy, Chief Technical Officer (Quality Assurance) of Finance Accreditation Agency (FAA, Malaysia) and Dorte Kristoffersen, former Commissioner of Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA, Australia).

To create the environment for exchange and communication on higher education quality assurance issues, DSES organized an exchange session, followed by the appointment ceremony. With the participation of representatives from Macao higher education institutions, Ji Ping and Carol Bobby shared views on “Development Trend of Higher Education Quality Assurance in Mainland China” and “Higher Education Quality Assurance Systems in the United States: A Focus on the Structure and Role of the Specialized and Professional Accrediting Organizations”. The exchange session also provided opportunities for participants to learn about the latest development and trend of higher education quality assurance in different countries and regions.



For information about the quality evaluation system and the evaluation Guidelines, please visit: <https://www.dses.gov.mo/eng/institutions/qualityassurance-en>

### HKCAAVQ Student Engagement



In 2017-18 HKCAAVQ conducted its first student liaison meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to inform student representatives about the work of HKCAAVQ and to provide an opportunity for discussions between students and HKCAAVQ around developments in the higher education sector. Institutions were very supportive of the initiative and nominated students to attend these meetings.

Three Student Liaison Meetings, which were well-received by students, took place in 2017-18. At the end of 2018, a “VQ Club”, with its logo designed by students, was formed to facilitate communication and foster long term relationships between HKCAAVQ and student representatives.

Encouraged by these positive responses, HKCAAVQ continues to hold similar student liaison meetings and

organise activities for students with a view to broadening their knowledge and understanding of QA processes in higher education in 2018-19. Planned activities include themed workshops, “Dialogue with an HKCAAVQ Specialist”, and summer internships which will provide opportunities for students to work in the HKCAAVQ office. HKCAAVQ is committed to providing a platform to engage students and enhance their quality assurance knowledge.

### HKCAAVQ New Accreditation Service for Collaborative Programmes

After extensive dialogue with operators who have indicated their intention to jointly offer QF-recognised programmes, and with the approval by the HKCAAVQ Council in January 2019, HKCAAVQ is pleased to announce that the provision of an accreditation service for collaborative programmes will be launched in October 2019. This service is aimed at both local and non-local learning programmes seeking recognition under the Qualifications Framework (QF).

Collaborative programmes may lead to different awards such as single, joint, dual and multiple awards. Initially, the accreditation scope of the programmes will be confined to programmes which lead to single and joint awards.

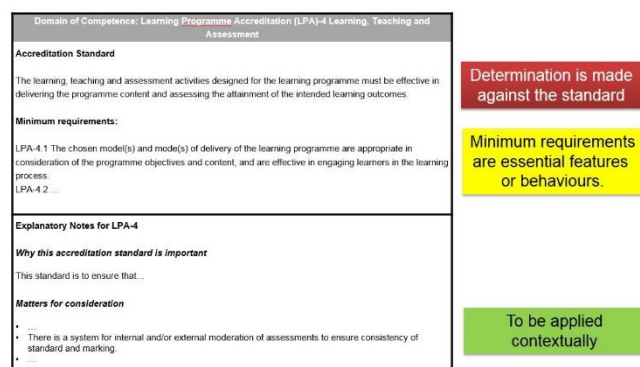
The revised accreditation standards under the fourstage Quality Assurance Process of HKCAAVQ will take effect from 1 April 2019. The provision of this service has broadened HKCAAVQ’s QA activities in the education and training sector.

### The New Presentation Structure of the Revised Accreditation Standards under the HKCAAVQ’s Four-stage Quality Assurance Process

The Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) was launched in 2008. After extensive research and consultation with our stakeholders, HKCAAVQ completed a revision of the accreditation standards that underpin the HKQF in 2018. This revision was the result of ten years experience applying the standards, as well as future-proofing the standards for the coming ten years. The revised accreditation standards will take effect on 1 April 2019.

HKCAAVQ is quite unique in the quality assurance community in that its purview covers higher education, vocational education and training, as well as continuing education. As part of the revision, significant attention was given to ensuring that the accreditation standards apply to a diverse range of providers and learning programmes. A key feature of the revised accreditation standards is the new structure that allows for contextual considerations, while maintaining the overall principle that the HKQF is underpinned by one set of accreditation standards in the non-self-accrediting sector.

The new structure has three key elements. Under each domain of competence, the Accreditation Standard describes the standard to be demonstrated by a provider. The accreditation standard is accompanied by a set of Minimum Requirements which describe the essential features or behaviours to be demonstrated by all providers or learning programmes. There are also Matters for Consideration which will be applied contextually to different providers or learning programmes. The structure is illustrated below:



The revised accreditation standards can be found in the Manual of the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process, providing a single point of reference for operators and accreditation panels: <https://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/files/services/accreditation/academic-accreditation/Four-stage Manual English full V1.0.pdf>.



## **QEC at Jinnah Sindh Medical University Organizes Orientation for JSMU Senior Management**

The Quality Enhancement Cell at Jinnah Sindh Medical University in Pakistan organized a grand orientation session on 'The Role of Senior Management in the Effective Functioning of the QEC'. The Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Tariq Rafi introduced Dr. Abdul Wahid Usmani, Director QEC and Ms. Suraiya Khatoon, Additional Director, QEC.



The purpose of the session was to enlighten the participants on the responsibilities and functions assigned by the Quality Assurance Agency, HEC to the QEC and how senior management can play a role strengthening the QEC at JSMU. Dr Usmani discussed the QEC Scorecard parameters and their requirements in detail, stressing the support needed from all relevant departments.

The session was attended by Prof. Dr. Lubna Baig, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Heads of all constituent institutes and colleges, Heads of Basic Medical Sciences Departments, SMC, Head of all support departments including Registrar office, HR, Finance, IT, Audit, Project & Development, Library, Professional Development Centre, Examination, Admission, Research, Medical Education, Publication and General Administration.

## **Japan University Accreditation Association held the 6th Presidents' Seminar**

As Japanese higher education faces a range of challenges, Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) has come to play an important role. JUAA seeks to help Japanese colleges and universities meet new

challenges by regularly disseminating vital information and offering opportunities to address and discuss various topics concerning higher education. One such opportunity was to hold the JUAA Presidents' Seminar.



The 6th seminar was held on March 3, 2019, with the theme: "Values: the President leads the university". Three notable lecturers attended, along with approximately 140 Japanese university presidents and vice-presidents.

The first lecturer, Dr. Juichi Yamagiwa, the President of Kyoto University, presented a lecture, entitled "The future of National Universities", based on his experiences as a president of leading national university in Japan. e.

Dr. Osamu Murata, President of Kwansei Gakuin University Haruaki Deguchi, President of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, made presentations.

Following the lectures, panel discussion was held, entitled "What should university presidents do to harness the attractive strengths of universities?" moderated by Dr. Shinichi Yamamoto, Professor of J. F. Oberlin University, prompting lively discussions and exchanges of views.

## **LUMS Becomes the First Business School in Pakistan to Earn AACSB International Accreditation**

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) is pleased to announce that the Suleman Dawood School of Business (SDSB) has achieved AACSB International accreditation, the first business school in Pakistan to



attain this prestigious recognition. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) was founded in 1916 as a non-profit organization. It has since become the most significant accreditation body for business schools, connecting students, educators, and businesses worldwide.



AACSB Accreditation provides a framework of 15 international standards against which business schools around the world assess the quality of their educational services. These standards ensure continuous improvement and provide a focus for schools to deliver on their mission, innovate, and drive influence. AACSB-accredited schools have successfully undergone a rigorous review process conducted by their peers in the business education community, ensuring that they have the resources, credentials, and commitment needed to provide students with a first-rate, future-focused business education.

### **External Program Review of LUMS Graduate Programs**

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), a division of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) visited LUMS on January 25, 2019 for an external program review of MS/MPhil and PhD programs offered at the university. The Higher Education Commission reviews the graduate programs to promote and enhance quality of the degrees offered at the institution. The purpose of the HEC review visit was to ensure that LUMS is offering all the graduate degrees in compliance with the HEC minimal criteria.

The QEC at LUMS worked with all academic and administrative departments over a six to eight month period and gathered the data required by the HEC for

program review. The updated data sheets including information on enrolled students, graduated students and faculty were shared with the HEC prior to the visit.

The one-day external review visit of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) was centered around the program review data that was collected and shared by the QEC. The Dean and Director of Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, Dr. Farrukh Iqbal headed the activity, backed by a panel of three education specialists.

The QEC successfully executed the program review process and welcomed the panel, escorting them to the venue. The QEC Manager made the introductory presentation to the panel along with a summary of program review data. Afterwards, the panel comprehensively went through the program review sheets and checked the evidence presented. QAA representatives met deans, administrative head of departments, faculty members and students (Graduate and Postgraduate) representing each degree program to assess the quality of academic and administrative processes at LUMS. The panel then met the Vice Chancellor along with QEC Dean to discuss the programs and their observations.



At the end of the visit, panel thanked the team for their efforts and advised all stakeholders to continue their work maintaining and enhancing the quality culture at LUMS.

HEC shared an official report with LUMS highlighting the observations and comments. The report noted all graduate programs offered at LUMS that meet the minimal requirements as per HEC criteria and may be continued accordingly. The report also commended the number and quality of PhD faculty hired at LUMS from across the globe.

## NIAD-QE has Released English Translations of Principal Documents for its Quality Assurance of Japanese Universities, Effective April 2019

NIAD-QE is pleased to announce that it has online access to English translations of the General Principles for Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation of Universities and Standards, which outlines quality assurance activities for universities beginning in April, 2019. It is hoped that the translations will be useful references for its overseas partner organizations and interested parties working in the field of quality assurance of higher education.

The General Principles outline the basic policy for NIAD-QE's institutional CEA of universities, which evaluate the general state of education and research activities in universities.

The Standards consist of the requirements NIAD-QE deems necessary for universities to fulfill, focusing on educational activities for degree programs (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral and Professional degrees), with due reference to compliance with Japanese laws and regulations including the Standards for the Establishment of Universities. NIAD-QE's institutional CEA for universities decides on whether each of these standards deemed to be met.

Pdf versions of these documents can be downloaded here:



[Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation of Universities, General Principles: 2019-2026](#)

[Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation of Universities, Standards: 2019-2026](#)

## SIBAU Holding a Winter Seminar on Quality Assurance



Thursday 24th January 2019, Sukkur IBA University (SIBAU, Pakistan) in pursuit of its goal to promote quality culture, held a winter seminar on quality assurance entitled "Quality as a Process" which was arranged by the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC). The event was conducted by Professor Paolo Bottoni from Sapienza University, Rome (Italy) who emphasized the need to incorporate quality practices by focusing on the mission of the university to better serve the community. The seminar was attended by the top-management of the university who resolved to embed quality throughout the university.

## QEC at Sukkur IBA University presents Vision-2030

Saturday 6th October, 2018, the spearhead of Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) – Sukkur IBA University, Dr. Sher Muhammad Doudpota, presented the Strategic Plan (2018-2030) of QEC to the management of the university. The purpose behind the session was to realize the significance of quality in every dimension of academic practice and to promote a culture of quality among all stakeholders of the university by the year 2030. The strategic plan contained three main goals: Better Student Experience, National and International Ranking and Stakeholder Confidence which will ultimately contribute to the achievement of the mission and vision of Sukkur IBA University. A detailed discussion took place based on the following themes with a view to achieving these strategic goals i.e. 1) QAA-HEC Standards Satisfaction, 2) Student Learning Experience, 3) National and International Ranking, 4) The University's Continuous Performance Assessment,

5) Stakeholder Satisfaction (Faculty, Staff, Employer, Alumni), and 6) Community Service. “People & Technology” were identified as “Enablers” to reaching the ultimate goal. The session ended with a mutual vote of thanks.

## TEQSA Student Expert Advisory Group

TEQSA recently hosted its fourth meeting of the Student Expert Advisory Group in February. TEQSA welcomed new members from the National Union of Students (NUS), National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Association (NATSIPA), Independent Higher Education Australia (IHEA) and the Australia Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET). The Group discussed topics such as sexual assault and sexual harassment, sector-wide assessments and thematic reviews. TEQSA looks forward to continue working with this Group in 2019.



*Braedyn Edwards UATSIS, Brendan Moore TDA, Bijay Sapkota CISA, Lulu Thornley ASQN, Tess Bourguignon IHEA, Desiree Cai NUS, Natasha Abrahams CAPA, Rosie Arcadi ACPET, Gina Masterton NATSIPA.*

## Recent Visitors to TEQSA

TEQSA recently welcomed delegates from the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA). This delegation provided TEQSA the opportunity to discuss the risk based approach to regulation and provide advice for developing approaches to the accreditation of courses and qualifications. Staff involved were able to gain a stronger understanding of higher education systems in Japan.



*Mr Tomoyuki Arahari JUAA, Hayata Yukimasa Chuo University, Emily Goode and Carl Messerschmidt from TEQSA.*

TEQSA is also pleased to announce the deployment of staff on short term international exchanges in March 2019. Bill McKernan and Dr Maren Klein attended the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) professional training workshop in quality assurance. The program will provide staff with the know-how and know-why of quality assurance.

## New CEO for THE-ICE



Dr Craig Thompson, former Director of Stenden Hotel Management School, NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, has commenced his appointment as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of THE-ICE.

Craig is well-versed in leading and undertaking internationally significant quality assurance procedures, complemented by a solid grounding in the tourism and hospitality industry. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Hospitality and also of the Higher Education Academy, and a member of the Editorial Boards for the Journal of Research in Hospitality Management and Journal of Tourism Futures. As a valued Auditor of the independent THE-ICE Assessment Panel since 2012, Director on THE-ICE Board from 2015 to 2016, and Deputy Chair since November 2016, Craig is no stranger to THE-ICE. He has worked in hospitality and tourism education across the globe for more than twenty years, during which time he has become increasingly committed to quality,



internationalisation, and to collaboration. It was therefore a revelation, he said, to 'discover' THE-ICE and experience the benefits of working with leading institutions and great people towards a mutual goal of 'doing things better'. Craig believes that THE-ICE has a significant and necessary role to play in the future of tourism and hospitality education and, as CEO, he is determined that this potential will be realised.

Craig added that he is deeply indebted to previous CEO Ms Pauline Tang, who retired on 31 December 2018, for her leadership and development of THE-ICE. "On the foundations laid I believe we can and will expand and enhance THE-ICE for the benefit of existing and future members and, in turn, to the virtue of our students, our industry and wider education," he said.

As an educational management and quality assurance expert with proven and unique experience leading public and private institutions across some six (6) national standards, THE-ICE is delighted to welcome Craig to lead THE-ICE Executive Team.

### **Taiwan – Japan International Joint Accreditation Project and Interagency Staff Exchange among Taiwan, Japan, and Thailand**

The International Joint Accreditation Project was set up as a partnership between the Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA) and Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA). These two quality assurance agencies began providing joint accreditation services in 2018 for HEIs in Taiwan and Japan with the aim of promoting the internationalization of academic development. Taiwan and Japan each had one university take part in the first phase of this project. The committee members, composed of experts from both sides, are now set to undertake on-site evaluations and visits at the respective HEIs in February and April of 2019.



*Dr. Shen-Li FU (left), the chairman of Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA), signed MoU with Dr. Kyosuke Nagata (right), the president of Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA)*

In addition, the International Joint Accreditation Project, TWAEA, JUAA and the Thai Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) have since 2017 exchanged staff among the three organizations. Staff exchanges continued in 2018 with seminars and discussion forums. The first two exchanges were hosted by JUAA and TWAEA, and in February 2019 ONESQA organized an interagency exchange for the first time in Thailand. This year's theme is "Preparedness of EQA Agency in a Disruptive World." In addition to attending seminars and discussion forums, participating staff visited Thailand's Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC, Ministry of Education) and the campus of Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok. The three sides are expected to benefit from continued exchanges and increase their professional expertise by strengthening their understanding of different education systems and international evaluation mechanisms.



*The staff of JUAA and TWAEA attended the interagency seminar of exchange hosted by the Thai Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA)*

## ARAB REGION

### **BQA holds a training workshop for all higher education institutions**

The Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA) held a training workshop for 12 higher education institutions across the Kingdom of Bahrain to familiarize them with the updated Cycle 2 of the academic Programme Reviews Framework. The workshop tackled some major themes including standards and performance indicators of the new reviews framework.



### **BQA holds its directorate forums to exchange experiences and to be an interactive scientific platform on performance enhancement and quality assurance topics**

The Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA) held a number of specialized education and training forums through its directorates intended as a platform for exchanging experiences with education and training institutions and providing opportunities for dialogue between strategic partners, relevant parties and related stakeholders of quality of education and training in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

This is done through interactive discussion of various topics and issues tackling the latest developments in the field of quality assurance and the best international practices related to the education and training sector, which can be used to achieve the objectives of the development of education and training and provide a knowledge environment, targeting development and quality.



Therefore, within one year, a number of forums had been organized including, the Directorate of National Examinations Forum under the title: 'National Examinations: Reading of the Data and the Effect'. The events were held with the participation of more than 120 participants, including teachers, middle and senior leadership in government schools, together with several advisors and educators, education and assessment experts and international and local experts in the education quality assurance sector.

Further, the Authority held the Directorate of Higher Education Reviews Fifth Forum in collaboration with the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP-UNESCO) under the title: 'Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions for Quality Enhancement and Employability' with the participation of approximately 100 experts and specialists in the field of the quality of higher education, including university presidents and internal quality officers, as well as an elite of academics, representatives of higher education institutions, and local and international experts in the quality assurance of higher education.

The Authority also organised the DVR Fifth Forum under the theme: 'Assessing and Monitoring Learners' performance – a Holistic Perspective' with the participation of approximately 120 local participants and experts from VET institutions, non-compulsory private education institutions, licensing authorities and related stakeholders.

Finally, the Authority through the Government and Private Schools Directorates held the DSR Fifth Forum under the title: 'Standards and Mechanisms of School Reviews: Reality and Aspirations' attended by more than 120 participants, professionals, specialists, middle and senior leadership, government and private school teachers, together with advisors, educators, school performance improvement experts and education quality assurance experts to express their views and

suggestions on the latest developments in the school review framework and highlight the challenges related to review mechanisms.

## EASTERN EUROPE

### News from the evalag-led Erasmus Projects IMPALA and SQELT

The Special Issue "Impact Evaluation of Quality Management in Higher Education" of the European Journal of Higher Education (Vol. 8, Issue 3; 2018) has been selected by Routledge for the Special Issues as Books programme. The publication emerged from the evalag-led Lifelong Learning project "Impact Analysis of External Quality Assurance Processes of Higher Education Institutions" (IMPALA). The hardcover book will be published in July 2019.

The first three transnational project meetings of the evalag-led ERASMUS+ project SQELT ("Sustainable Quality Enhancement in Higher Education Learning and Teaching", <https://www.evalag.de/sqelt/>) took place in Mannheim (Germany), Aveiro (Portugal) and Krakow (Poland). A preliminary version of a comprehensive set of performance indicators for learning and teaching has been developed, and data and information on the usefulness and actual use of performance indicators at the six partner universities in Aveiro, Birmingham, Ghent, Krakow, Krems and Milan have been collected. The performance data management systems of the partner universities are currently subjected to a comparative SWOT analysis, including benchmarking. From 1-2 July 2019, the SQELT "International Evaluation Workshop" will be held as a public event at the Danube University Krems (Austria) (<https://www.evalag.de/en/research/sqelt/public-events/>). A first publication on the project will soon be published in Quality in Higher Education.

## WESTERN EUROPE

### AQU Catalunya training course on QA in higher education, a meeting point for student representatives

AQU Catalunya, together with CEUCAT (the Student Council for Catalan Universities/Consell de l'Estudiantat de les Universitats Catalanes), organised a course for university students on QA in 17 November.



The main objective of the course was to provide student reps with the necessary tools and training to participate in internal and external QA procedures in higher education institutions in Catalonia.

The course, which dealt with both theoretical and practical aspects in all of the sessions, provided an overview of the latest developments in quality assurance from both international and local perspectives, together with an in-depth look at the procedures used in programme review and evaluation. It also included the participation, as facilitators, of students with a wide range of experience in QA procedures and positions of representation at international level, as well as QA experts from AQU Catalunya. The presentations made during the course were as follows:

- [Quality assurance within the context of the European Higher Education Area](#) [ca], by Oriol Rivera
- [Student participation at the international level](#) [es], by Kenji Muro
- [Quality assurance and programme enhancement](#), [ca] by Albert Basart
- [Information for decision making](#), [ca] by Sandra Nieto



## Unibasq presents its Observatory to the Berritzegune (educational innovation and training support centres)



On November 2018, Unibasq started a round of visits to the Berritzegune centres of the Basque Country (educational innovation and training support centres) in an effort to open up to the university students of the future, and to present their [Observatory of the Activity of the Basque University System](#).

The Observatory provides detailed information about each of the study programmes taught in the three universities of the Basque University System, namely, UPV/EHU, Deusto University and Mondragon University.

Since the aim of the Berritzegune centres is to gather guidance counsellors of Secondary Cycles to share strategies for innovation and gain common knowledge about educational options at the completion of the compulsory cycle of education, Unibasq considered it of great interest to offer the information collected in the Observatory, as a tool to view in one site all the data of the Basque University System.

The initiative was received with great enthusiasm, and 16 meetings were scheduled throughout the Basque territory, all of them attended by an average 12 counsellors.

## News from QA Networks

### Announcing the 9<sup>th</sup> East African Quality Assurance Network Forum 2019

The East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN), in conjunction with the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), extends a warm hand of welcome to members of INQAAHE, and the larger QA fraternity, to the 9th East African Quality Assurance Network Forum that will be held in Kampala Uganda in May 2019.

EAQAN is a network of quality assurance practitioners in the East African Community. The Network was formally established in 2012 and since then holds a quality assurance forum in May every year. The event attracts more than 150 participants from the region and beyond. These are drawn from the more than 130 member Universities of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA). The annual forum, organized with the support of IUCEA, brings together stakeholders in higher education, and quality assurance in particular, to share on common themes related to quality and higher education in East Africa. The stakeholders usually include policy and decision makers in the region and beyond. The forum provides an opportunity for EAQAN members to present papers and share best practices and experiences on key issues of quality assurance, quality enhancement and networking opportunity with other QA practitioners regionally and internationally.



*EAQAN Forum, 7-10 May 2018, Kigali, Rwanda*

Besides conference and dialogue sessions, the forum also provides an opportunity for capacity building on current trends in quality assurance and management of higher education. The sessions are normally

facilitated by experts from the region and invited experts from outside East Africa. During previous events experts were drawn from Europe, Asia, North America, West Africa and South Africa. These forums have had an impact in the region including the institutionalization of quality assurance systems and contributed towards the adoption of a quality culture by higher learning institutions. They have also contributed more broadly to harmonization of higher education in the region.

This year's forum will be held from the 6th to 9th of May 2019 in Kampala, Uganda. The forum will emphasize on issues of promoting Competence Based Learning for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals. It's aimed at supporting the implementation of entrepreneurial, innovative and market driven programmes in Higher Education in East Africa. In addition the Conference will address issues related to sustainability of quality systems and structures for quality education; and monitoring of higher education institution initiatives for sustainable and inclusive development in society. More information can be viewed via the forum website: [www.eaqan.com](http://www.eaqan.com).

## Upcoming Events

### Save the Date: THE-ICE 13th International Panel of Experts (IPoE) Forum 2019



THE-ICE 13th IPoE (International Panel of Experts) Forum 2019 is to be proudly co-hosted by Lyceum of the Philippines University and University of Santo Tomas in Manila, the Philippines, from 14 – 17 October 2019. The theme of the IPoE 2019 is A Quantum Leap in Excellence – Education Without Borders. THE-ICE IPoE Forums, open to members and nonmembers of THE-ICE, are unique events providing participants the opportunity to engage with invited keynote presenters, and discuss key issues and trends with global academics and industry experts.

### TEQSA Conference 2019

After a successful conference in November 2018, TEQSA has begun preparations for the 2019 Conference. The theme of the 2019 conference is; *Partnerships Driving Quality*, and more information will be shared with TEQSA's networks in the coming months.



## **FSTE Conference 2019, Hong Kong**

Professor Bjørn Stensaker, Council Member of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), will be one of the two keynote speakers presenting at the upcoming FSTE Conference 2019, co-organised by the Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education (FSTE) and HKCAAVQ. The conference, also part of the FSTE 25th anniversary celebration, carries the theme of “Developing Higher Education for Next Decade” is set to take place on 20 June, 2019 (Thursday) in Hong Kong. This annual conference is well-attended by representatives of higher education institutions, vocational training institutes, professional bodies as well as quality assurance agencies. Online registration is now available via the conference website.

Professor Bjørn Stensaker is the Professor of the Department of Education at the University of Oslo. He is also a research professor at NIFU, i.e. the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education in Oslo, Norway. Prof Stensaker has a special interest in studies of governance and change in higher education, including studies of how external and internal quality assurance impacts the higher education sector.

Also presenting as a keynote speaker at the conference is Professor Hanqin Qiu from the School of Hotel Tourism Management of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Professor Qiu has been the Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Quality Assurance in Hospitality & Tourism since 2016. Her research interest includes tourism demand analysis, consumer behavior, tourism development and policies in the Asia-Pacific Region, and inbound & outbound travel in China.

**INQAAHE would like to recognise the tremendous work of the Secretariat staff, who work tirelessly to support members and provide services which make INQAAHE a successful global network.**

**Secretariat staff:**

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**Concepción Herruzo Fonayet**