

INQAAHE newsletter

Edition 1, May 2023



President's Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I'm pleased to introduce the first INQAAHE Bulletin for 2023. In this edition, you will find news from the INQAAHE Secretariat, focusing on benefits and opportunities for network members. From the INQAAHE Funding Scheme awards to various knowledge sharing events, we hope to provide many avenues towards capacity building, continuous education, and professionalization of our members. In particular, please note the upcoming INQAAHE Conference in Astana, hosted by the Independent Agency for Quality Assurance in Education. We hope you will be able to join us to benefit from the forward-looking program, the events planned to enjoy the local culture, and the many opportunities for socialization with other QA professionals.

I am particularly impressed with the news from INQAAHE member organizations. In this Bulletin, you will see the fine work being done by colleagues across the world; work that is receiving international acknowledgement and accolades. Most notable, however, are the many collaborations, international engagements, mutual project activities, and MOUs. We see this happening between agencies and between countries from different regions. As evidenced by the growing international network around Academic Integrity (GAIN), we can achieve more together when we share a common challenge or goal. It demonstrates the importance of the INQAAHE value of inclusiveness and the power we have when we work together towards common aims.

Thank you all for the work you do. As we look forward to the challenges of ensuring quality in increasingly diversified education opportunities, you are the visionaries, missionaries, and agents of change in the work to ensure students and societal stakeholders are well-served. Your efforts are essential and we are proud to engage with you in the Network.



Deborah Adair
8th President of INQAAHE

Funding Scheme calls 2022-2023

Submissions for 2022-2023 call of INQAAHE's Funding Scheme were welcome until November 14. This year, 13 applications were received for the Capacity Building funding, and 6 for the Research and Innovation one. These project proposals were externally reviewed by professionals and on **January 18, 2023**, applicants were notified on the results of this review.

The granted proposals for the Research and Innovation Call and the Capacity Building Call were the **Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)** and the **VNU Education Accreditation Center, Vietnam National University**, respectively.

[Further information](#) about the projects is available on our website.

Call to host INQAAHE Conference 2025

The Board of Directors sought expressions of interest from member agencies to host this event. preferences for hosting the INQAAHE Conference 2025 will be given to the following regions: East and Southeast Asia; South America and the Caribbean; North America; and Francophone Africa.

The Secretariat received five preliminary proposals coming from all regions of the world. The Board then reviewed them and informed the selected applicants of its willingness to entertain submission of a full application. The Secretariat has received **four final proposals**, which will be presented at the General Assembly Meeting in Astana.

[Call for Proposals](#)

INQAAHE Conference 2023



17th Biennial Conference

Roadmap to Enabling Quality in Tertiary Education 2030

May 29-June 1, 2023 | Astana, Kazakhstan

Sponsored by



Proudly hosted by the [Independent Agency for Quality Assurance in Education \(IQAA\)](#), the website for INQAAHE's 17th Biennial Conference is now available! As always, on the Conference website you will find the official and latest information and details regarding the Conference, program, speakers, workshops and sessions, venue and much more.

The Conference will be held **from May 29th to June 1st**, 2023, in person, in **Astana (Kazakhstan)** at the **Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC)**. More information on the venue is available [here](#).

Registration for INQAAHE's 17th Biennial Conference is open. Different registration options are available. Check the Conference website to decide which one best suit you. Please, keep in mind that your participation in the Conference will be confirmed upon payment. For more details and to register for the Conference, please visit the official event website

[Official website](#)

[Register](#)

INQAAHE organizes annual events for QA community and HE at large. It invites sponsors for investment in exchange for marketing at its events. INQAAHE welcomed the Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC), as gold sponsor; Astana Invest, as bronze sponsor, and Kazakh Tourism. More information about the [sponsorship](#) is available here.

We look forward to meeting you in Astana in May!

INQAAHE Talks

During Q1, the sixth and seventh INQAAHE Talks sessions of 2022 were scheduled. On January 24, INQAAHE had a unique opportunity to reflect on the changing paradigm of tertiary education and the role of the INQAAHE new [International Standards and Guidelines for Tertiary Education Quality Assurance \(ISGs\)](#).

On March 29, the topic [Academic Integrity: Safeguarding Trust in Higher Education](#) was tackled. This session focused on developments in IT that are bringing new challenges to academic integrity, ranging from the proliferation of online academic writing services to innovations in AI such as ChatGPT, as well as increasingly sophisticated diploma mills and certification frauds. This INQAAHE Talk will explore today's growing challenges to Academic Integrity from different perspectives: quality assurance bodies, universities and credential evaluators' perspective.

Recordings of all past INQAAHE Talks sessions are available on a [dedicated YouTube playlist](#).

International Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (ISGs): towards diversification, relevance, transformation, and recognition

The ISGs are a suite of standards and guidelines for external quality assurance bodies that embrace the ever-increasing diversity in tertiary education (formal and non-formal) and empower the enhancement capacity of QA providers in their quest for diversification, efficiency, relevance, and transformative power. Reflecting INQAAHE's values of inclusion, diversity, and collaboration as well as our mission of advancing QA practice, the [INQAAHE International Standards and Guidelines of Tertiary Education Quality Assurance \(ISGs\)](#) are the result of a broad participatory process including the rich expertise of tertiary education providers and their external quality assurance bodies globally.

On November 30, 2022, a webinar with the developers of the ISGs was organized to introduce the new standards and guidelines and the benefits of the revised approach. The [recording](#) of this session is available on INQAAHE's YouTube channel. A copy of the [presentation](#) is also available on INQAAHE's website.

[More info](#)

Call for nominations to the INQAAHE Board of Directors 2023

INQAAHE announced its 2023 round of Board Directors election as per its Constitution in early February 2023. From February 6 to March 5 nominations from around the globe were submitted forming a strong pool of candidates, eligible for election. The candidate pool of 15 nominations covered both membership type, gender, and geographical outreach requirement – in line with the INQAAHE key principles.

From March 7 until March 20, 2023, an online voting system was set up and the General Assembly was invited to elect up to 2 candidates to fill in the vacant positions. The election was closed on March 20 with 47% participation rate. The [results](#) and number of open positions showed a tie between T. Chan Basaruddin and Mary Catharine Lennon for the second position. This tie was broken by the Board through an internal voting from March 31 until April 5, 2023. INQAAHE Board agreed the following: T. Chan Basaruddin will serve as an elected Board Member (second position) and Mary Catharine Lennon will continue in the Board as a co-opted member.

INQAAHE welcomed nominations for the three open co-opted positions from Africa, Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean, to be in line with the Network's principle of geographical coverage. Elections are currently taking place through internal voting.

New members

INQAAHE welcomes the following new members:

Full members:

- [National Entity for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education \(NEAQA\)](#), Serbia

Associate members:

- [COLLEGIUM HUMANUM - Warsaw Management University](#), Poland
- [European Council of Leading Business Schools \(ECLBS\)](#), Latvia

Affiliate members:

- Nibal Sabri, Palestinian Authority

INQAAHE

Asia-Pacific Region

Mongolia

Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA) signs MoU with Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA)

Bolor Buyandelger

On March 28th, 2023, the Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA) established a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA) for a period of five years with the potential of an extension. The MoU was signed by Mr. Ariunbold Jaaljav, Deputy Chair of the Governing Board and Director of the Secretariat of MNCEA, and Dr. Chi-Yeh Yung, Chairman of TWAEA. The signing ceremony was held virtually and hosted by Dr. Bolor Buyandelger, Foreign Affairs Officer of MNCEA.

Under the terms of MoU, MNCEA and TWAEA will work to enhance their understanding of each other's approach to quality in higher education, exchange policy documents and relevant operational information, support the development of their staff, share each other's expertise to strengthen the international dimension of institutional audits, university accreditation and other equivalent operations, recognize each other's quality assurance system, and implement collaborative projects in relation to the quality assurance and accreditation activities in Mongolia and Taiwan.

MNCEA has recently joined the 2023 International Survey Project on Learning Outcomes and Satisfaction in Higher Education at the invitation by TWAEA. In his speech delivered at the ceremony, Mr. Ariunbold Jaaljav noted that the project marked the beginning of many more collaborations and shared projects between the two organizations.



Dr. Chi-Yeh Yung, Chairman of TWAEA and Mr. Ariunbold Jaaljav, Director of MNCEA at the virtual MoU signing ceremony

Australia

Generative AI in focus at new TEQSA webinar series

Thousands of people have participated in TEQSA's new webinar series exploring generative artificial intelligence in higher education.

TEQSA, Australia's higher education quality assurance and regulatory agency, has partnered with Deakin University's Centre for Research in Assessment and Digital Learning (CRADLE) for the series, which explores what is known about generative AI, implications for learning, teaching and assessment and how such technologies might transform higher education into the future.

The first webinar was held on 15 February, while webinar 2 was held on 1 March 2023. Further sessions are planned for April. TEQSA Chief Commissioner, Professor Peter Coaldrake AO, said the advancement of AI applications such as ChatGPT presented both a risk and an opportunity for the sector, and TEQSA wanted to ensure providers and academics were supported in adopting best practice approaches.

"The rapid enhancement in AI presents significant opportunities to support learning and increase efficiency in a range of ways, but universities and colleges need to balance this with the risks that generative AI presents to academic integrity," Professor Coaldrake said.

"This requires a deep rethink of approaches to teaching, learning and assessment practices and how higher education institutions are ensuring that students have attained the skills and knowledge they need to graduate with their awards."

"This is a challenge facing the whole sector, and that's why TEQSA is partnering with Deakin University on this webinar series to bring together experts to share best practice, helping to strengthen the higher education sector's capacity to respond to generative AI."

The webinars build on TEQSA's partnership approach to building capacity within Australia's higher education sector and working collaboratively to address emerging risks.

Recordings of the webinars can be viewed on YouTube. Information about future webinars will be available on TEQSA's website.



Taiwan

Towards a New Era for Quality Assurance: TWAEA's "Higher Education Quality Certification Project"

The Ministry of Education in Taiwan has announced the "Regulations for Subsidizing Colleges and Universities' Self-initiated Quality Assurance on Departments and Institutes" five years ago, and the next evaluation cycle is continued for another five years, starting from 2023. On January 10th, 16th and 18th 2023, three institutional briefing sessions on the "Higher Education Quality Certification Project" organized by the Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA) were held in the northern, central and southern regions of Taiwan.

These events were hosted by the project director, Chancellor Chaur-Shin Yung, and the co-hosts, Chair Professor Tsan-Der Chou and Professor Kuo-Pao Chang. The topics focused on the explanation of the project and the core competencies of quality assurance. During the exchange time, the participating institutions had the opportunity to share opinions and communicate with the project team. Every institution also stated that in addition to the context of the project itself, through the implementation of this briefing session, they also reached a better understanding about the administrative processes involved.

TWAEA, as a professional quality assurance agency, hopes to provide practical and constructive suggestions to the evaluated institutions through a solid quality assurance framework, so as to continuously assist the teaching units of each institution to foster teaching quality and self-improvement, and create a more sustainable future for higher education in Taiwan.



TWAEA's Briefing Session on the 2023-2027 "Higher Education Quality Certification Project"

Russia-China

Database of educational programmes and institutions accredited by APQR-registered agencies (DAQAR): Joint Russian-Chinese accreditation

The [Moscow State University of Psychology and Education](#) became the 7th Russian university, which underwent joint accreditation by the [National Centre for Public Accreditation](#) (Russia) and the [Education Quality Evaluation Agency of the Ministry of Education](#) (China). Accreditation Committees of both agencies have confirmed the positive decision for a full term of six years and have issued the certificates of joint accreditation to the university.

According to EQEA Deputy Director General, Zhou Aijun, the development of the mobility of students and teachers is one of the leading aspects of international cooperation, which is currently becoming a trend around the world. The joint international accreditation conducted by NCPA and EQEA creates an ideal platform for mutual international recognition of the education systems of the two countries.

Moreover, in order to provide to a wide public the results of external review procedures and to facilitate academic recognition in the future the [Asia-Pacific Quality Register](#) has initiated the creation of a single data storage of educational programmes and higher education institutions accredited by APQR-registered agencies ([DAQAR](#)). The main mission of the project is to provide reliable information on the external review results and to raise awareness, trust and competitiveness of educational programmes on the national and international levels. DAQAR will provide free, direct and open access to quality assurance reports and decisions on HEIs and programmes externally reviewed by APQR-registered agencies for all interested stakeholders. The database prototype is done and is now tested and filled in with necessary information by APQR-registered agencies.

Pakistan

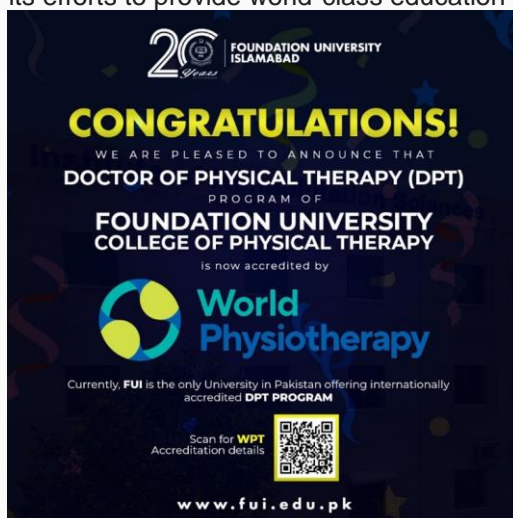
Foundation University Islamabad (FUI), Pakistan Successfully acquired program accreditation for Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree by World Physiotherapy

Mr. Amir Sajjad Khan

On February 16, 2023, Foundation University Islamabad (FUI) announced that it had successfully acquired program accreditation for its Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, which is offered at its constituent college - Foundation University College of Physical Therapy (FUCP). This accreditation has been granted by World Physiotherapy, a global organization that represents over 670,000 physiotherapists worldwide.

The accreditation of the DPT program at FUCP by World Physiotherapy is an important milestone for the university and its physical therapy students. It serves as a recognition of the quality of education provided by FUCP and assures students, faculty, and employers that the program meets international standards for physiotherapy education. This accreditation also demonstrates FUI's commitment to academic excellence and continuous improvement, and it positions the university as a leading institution for physical therapy education in the region.

Overall, this accreditation by World Physiotherapy will help FUCP graduates to better compete in the global job market, and it will give them access to new opportunities for career growth and development. It also represents a significant achievement for FUI and its efforts to provide world-class education and training to its students.



WCPT Accreditation of Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program

Pakistan

Report of Program Review: Self-Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) - 2023

Mr. Omer Shahzad

The Department of Quality Assurance (DQA) has a crucial responsibility of implementing the Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) mechanism developed by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) of HEC effectively. To ensure compliance with this mechanism, the DQA recently conducted a Self-Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) of Foundation University Islamabad from March 14 to 16, 2023. The IPE is a comprehensive evaluation process aimed at assessing the university's performance effectiveness based on the 11 Quality Standards defined in the IPE Manual of HEC. These standards highlight key areas that higher education institutions must prioritize to ensure good governance and provide high-quality education to their students.

To ensure the thoroughness of the evaluation process, the DQA invited Mr. Fazal Wahab, Director Quality Assurance at Bahria University Islamabad, as an External Reviewer. Additionally, the DQA appointed a team of Internal Reviewers that consisted of Prof. Dr. Huma Musarrat, HoD Anatomy, Dr. Ayesha Janjua, Prof Pharmacology, and Dr. Muhammad Naeem, Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Management Sciences. The DQA facilitated the review panel in coordinating with all the academic and administrative departments of FUI.

At the conclusion of the IPE, the panel members shared their recommendations with the DQA. The DQA will use these recommendations to prepare compliance reports for the university to ensure that the university meets the established Quality Standards.



Team Visit for the Evaluation of Self-Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) - 2023

Pakistan

First External Self-Assessment Report (SAR) review of the MS MSKPT

Ms. Noor UI Haya

The Department of Quality Assurance (DQA) at Foundation University Islamabad has recently conducted a successful review of the First External Self-Assessment Report (SAR) for the MS MSKPT program at the Foundation University College of Physical Therapy (FUCP) on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. Dr. Hafiz Manan, Associate Professor DPT at Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University (STMU), was invited as an External Subject Expert. He conducted a thorough review of the SAR for the program based on 8 criteria and 31 standards, as prescribed in the Self-Assessment Manual of HEC. During his visit, he also interacted with the Faculty and Students of the FUCP and visited FUCP's resources, including the library, labs, faculty offices, and lecture halls.

At the exit meeting chaired by Prof. Dr. Furqan Ahmed Siddiqui, Dean-Foundation University College of Physical Therapy FUCP, the Subject Expert praised the efforts of Program Team (PT) members for preparing a comprehensive SAR. Additionally, he shared his recommendations to further improve the Department.

The review conducted by the DQA, and the External Subject Expert has provided valuable insights that can help the MS MSKPT program at FUCP enhance its educational quality, which will ultimately benefit its students.



Assessment Team (AT) visit for the External Evaluation of MS-MSKPT program

Europe

Russia

The International Accreditation Board of Russian Register

The International Accreditation Board held its first meeting in 2023 as an announcement of final outputs of 2022 and start-ups of 2023.

On January 27, 2023, Russian Register carried out the meeting of the International Accreditation Board (IAB) on the quality of education. The event was opened by Arkady Vladimirtsev, General Director of the Russian Register, Head of the Agency for Evaluation of the Quality of Education. In his welcoming speech he addressed the members of the Board and outlined the main directions of the internationalization of Russian education. Russian Register keeps the second position in the national rating for Quality Assurance Agencies, placed at www.best-edu.ru. The quantity of accredited educational programs has increased at 155 programs in 2022 and consists of 737 programs totally.

At the meeting, Alexandra Zvezdova, the Secretary of the IAB shared the information about the establishment of the Eurasian Network University, a research and academic consortium. In May 2022, in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic), within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Forum, the representatives of the leading universities of the EAEU countries discussed the mechanisms for creating the Network University and signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the creation of a Eurasian Network University. The purpose to create this single educational space is to provide equal opportunities for students from all countries of the EAEU. Sergey Glazyev, Chairperson of the IAU, a member of the EEC Board on Integration and Economics, scientific director of the University at the IPA EurAsEC, believes in the filling of the common economic space with common content, its improvement, as well as the promotion of advanced scientific achievements.

The development of methodological foundations and mechanisms for accreditation of degree programmes implemented by such innovative scientific and educational structures as the above-mentioned consortium is one of the priorities of the Russian Register.

Spain

The university guidance at a click: ACPUA+Students programme: the creation of a new infographic

Serrano Valenzuela, M^a Belén (Quality and Internationalisation Technician)

ACPUA launches a new infographic within its ACPUA+Students programme, which is part of the Strategic Line L6 (Openness to Stakeholders).

University guidance is conceived in the higher education student Statute as a desire, a need and a right. According to data from the latest ACPUA reports, there is an increase in the number of students who say they would not return to their chosen degree (24.5%) and besides, the need to improve the psychological care systems has been detected.

The main goal is to inform students, in a comprehensive way, in order to promote an adequate transition to higher education in Aragon, through the creation of a useful, truthful, simple and visual technological tool. Under the slogan "Inform yourself and decide your education!", updated links to 5 relevant topics, carefully selected by public and private stakeholders from Aragon and the rest of Spain, are detailed in both Spanish and English. The content is mainly focused on supporting students in their decision making process in the following areas: choice of higher education studies in Aragon and Spain, available degrees, resources for employability and entrepreneurship, opportunities for free counselling and emotional support, and other options related to vocational training.

With this infographic, set up on ACPUA's website and disseminated through social networks, teachers, students and families can easily find and access resources to facilitate decision-making, with a simple click. Should QA reports from the agencies advice on students' decision-making process?

Do you consider that QA agencies should make efforts in order to support students' psychological wellbeing?



Ukraine

NAQA Takes Action to Promote Academic Integrity: GAIN and ENAI Membership



The National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance has been enhancing its efforts to uphold academic integrity. Recently, NAQA presented a draft law “On Academic Integrity”—a big step towards ensuring integrity from a legislative perspective. However, NAQA’s activity is not limited internally; the agency is also looking beyond borders and learning from the best practices of other countries to combat violations of academic integrity. That is why we are delighted to announce that NAQA has become a member of the Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN) and the European Academic Integrity Network (ENAI).

We are sure that the exchange of experience with foreign colleagues in the promotion of academic integrity standards, joint initiatives on combatting integrity threats and preventing the promotion of academic misconduct will have a positive impact on the academic community and the quality of scientific works in Ukraine, regionally and globally.

Ireland

Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN) aims to combat contract cheating and academic fraud

Mairéad Boland, Senior Manager, Academic Integrity Regulation & Strategic Partnerships, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

Contract cheating and other forms of academic fraud have the potential to cause significant damage to our national qualifications systems. These are global issues that require a collaborative, cross-jurisdictional approach to combat. In recognition of this, the Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN) was co-founded by [Quality and Qualifications Ireland \(QQI\)](#) and the [Australian Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency \(TEQSA\)](#) and launched by Simon Harris, Irish Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in October 2022.

This collective of regulators and quality and integrity agencies aims to maintain existing connections between regulators and to establish new ones. Through the network, members disseminate new developments and research on contract cheating and academic fraud across jurisdictions, and plan to develop and implement common, global approaches to combatting these challenges.

GAIN currently has 26 members from across the globe who aim to disrupt the business models of contract cheating service providers and other bad actors and thereby protect learners, education providers, and national qualifications systems.

Countries represented include Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Kenya, Lithuania, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK and Zambia. The network is endorsed by the European Network for Academic Integrity (ENAI), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the Council of Europe.

GAIN meets online, once per quarter. The most recent meeting took place in February, with representation from 14 jurisdictions across three continents, as well as from UNESCO. Key points of focus for the meeting were the business models of large-scale cheating services and the implications of ChatGPT for academic integrity. Interested in finding out more about the network or joining us? Visit <https://globalacademicintegrity.network/>



Latin America and The Caribbean

Jamaica

The University Council of Jamaica Hosted its 18th Annual Quality Assurance in Higher Education Week

The University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) celebrated its 18th Annual Quality Assurance in Higher Education Week (QAW) under the theme, "Strengthen Quality in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education." from March 13-17, 2023.

Approximately 150 daily participants, including Presidents, Principals, Administrative personnel responsible for academics, Registrars and Quality Assurance personnel, members of the Private Sector and representatives from the Ministry of Education and Youth, participated in the activities that explored the strengthening of Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

The week of activities commenced with an opening ceremony on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, utilising the Zoom platform. The Minister of Education and Youth, the Honourable Fayval Williams, opened the week's activities by reiterating the ministry and the government's commitment to quality higher education in Jamaica.

The week boasted a workshop surrounding 'A Renewed Focus on Curriculum Mapping' on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, and a webinar covering the 'Graduate Effectiveness Imperative' on March 16, 2023. Both events sought to inform stakeholders in higher education, locally, regionally and internationally, about the changes, issues and improvements in the higher education sector.

Mrs Althea Heron, the Executive Director of The UCJ, expressed her pride in the organisation's leading role in promoting and improving the quality of higher education in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean region.

Mrs Heron says, "Through a range of workshops, webinars, and other activities, The UCJ aims to create an environment that encourages excellence and innovation in higher education and quality assurance. Their ultimate goal is to facilitate dynamic and engaging learning experiences".

The workshop was led by an experienced educator and curriculum specialist, Dr Gloria Rodgers, who shared her expertise on curriculum mapping and imparted to the participants the requisite knowledge needed to develop and implement effective curriculum mapping strategies in their institutions.

Dr Michaela Martin, Programme Specialist and Interim Deputy Director, International Institute for Educational Planning-UNESCO, Professor Shermaine Barrett Dean, Faculty of Education & Liberal Studies, University of Technology, Jamaica, Mr Lenworth Kelly, President, The Incorporated Masterbuilders Association of Jamaica and Mrs Carla McIntosh Gordon Group Chief Strategy Officer, VM Group pooled their expertise as members of the private sector and internal and external quality assurance professionals to deliver the webinar focused on 'The Graduate Effectiveness Imperative', which explored the importance of measuring and enhancing the effectiveness of graduates in the workplace after receiving quality assured education and training.

The webinar also featured the launch of the 'Hire Higher Me!' campaign, highlighting the benefits of quality assurance in higher education for students, employers, and institutions. The Hire Higher Me! campaign is twofold. It focuses on the achievement and personal and professional growth that higher education provides and, two, the employability it affords individuals through earning qualifications in programmes and institutions that have been quality assured.

The week's activities culminated with a virtual Awards Ceremony on Thursday, March 16, 2023, in which 39 programmes across ten institutions were awarded programme accreditation/reaccreditation for this financial year 2022-2023, also four certificates of candidacy of registration for stage one and two. Other honourees included assessors who contributed to the UCJ's Quality Assurance Process from April 2018 to March 2023 and Eighty-one Standard Development Committee members who contributed to completed standards from April 2018 to March 2023.

For more information and to register, please visit the UCJ's website at www.ucj.org.jm.

Argentina

CONEAU has completed its third external review process and is certified as Aligned with INQAAHE Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP)

The INQAAHE Board, on its meeting of 28th of February 2023, approved the recommendation of the INQAAHE GGP Recognition Committee on recognizing CONEAU as fully aligned with the INQAAHE Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP) for a five-year term.

This process was the result of its third external review which in this opportunity has been conducted by INQAAHE and an external review panel from Ecuador, Mexico and Spain.

As such, CONEAU will be enlisted in the list of the INQAAHE GGP aligned agencies on the INQAAHE institutional webpage.

In CONEAU, the institutional evaluation was coordinated by the Quality Unit for Continuous Improvement which will also carry out the Strategic Plan for institutional quality improvement. This Plan will consider the challenges identified in the self-evaluation and the recommendations of the external report as well.

Find more: <https://www.coneau.gob.ar/coneau/coneau-obtuvo-el-certificado-de-cumplimiento-de-directrices-de-buenas-practicas-de-inqaahe/>



Africa

Namibia

Participation in NCHE's 11th Public Lecture

INQAAHE's Immediate Past President, **Dr. Susanna Karakhanyan**, supported a system wide stakeholder consultation in Namibian higher education as the country develops minimum standards allowable in the system in the promotion of inclusion and access to quality education.

During her visit, Dr. Karakhanyan along with the staff of the [National Council of Higher Education \(NCHE\)](#) under the leadership of Prof. Samuel John (Chairperson of the Board), Mr. Hannu Shipena (Executive Director) and Ms. Sylvia Demas (Deputy Executive Director) had a series of meetings with policymakers, regulators, professional associations (subject matter accreditors) and higher education key stakeholders as the second version of the minimum standards was rationalized in preparation for a validation phase. Within the frames of the visit to Windhoek, Namibia, Dr. Karakhanyan delivered a public lecture on *Enhancing HE Performance and Efficiency through Minimum Standards* on the **9th of March**, which brought together 110+ participants (regulators, policymakers, educationalists, and HE providers) locally (face-to-face) and internationally via ZOOM. The lecture was supported by the Ministry of HE, Technology & Innovation and its HE Executive Director Dr Alfred van Kent.

Close to the end of 2022, the NCHE, an INQAAHE long-time dedicated and proud member, approached the INQAAHE for support in providing an expert opinion on the first draft of the minimum standards developed locally based on the needs of the HE system identified throughout the years of operations. Dr. Karakhanyan was nominated for the mission and after a rigorous selection procedure, NCHE Board invited Dr. Karakhanyan to conduct the expertise of the first draft of standards. The current new standards lay firm grounds for ensuring equal access to quality education, safeguarding students, promoting trust & credibility of HE through consistency, reliability and validity in external evaluations of higher education providers and provisions, enhancing potentials for recognition of qualifications, and last, but not least, ensure the Namibian HE system sets robust grounds for greater international comparability and competitiveness.

The new minimum standards complement and supplement the existing QA mechanisms by providing measurable metrics that matter most for the system enhancement and have found initial approval from the national regulators and key stakeholders. Followed by a second round of stakeholder consultation, calibration and hence validation, the new standards will become effective and open a new page for HE development in the country.

The **recording** of the session is available [here](#).

Prof Jairos Kangira, professor of English at the University of Namibia, participated in the Namibian stakeholder consultation and attended the Public Lecture. He has shared his reflection on NCHE improving higher education through minimum standards, claiming that "the NCHE has contributed hugely to the quality and growth of higher education in this country. The lecture, titled 'Enhancing Higher Education System Performance Through Minimum Standards' and delivered by Susanna Karakhanyan, generated live debates on the overarching topic of minimum standards for quality assurance in higher education. Karakhanyan brought a wealth of experience of quality assurance in higher education, having served as the seventh president of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE). What carried the day for everyone was that constructive comments and discussions on the status of higher education added to the huge success of the NCHE's 11th lecture."

You can read the full article [here](#).



Arab Region

Dr. Ahmed Al Kuwaiti represents IAU at QS Higher Ed Summit 2023 as Panelist on Data Analytics in Higher Education



We are delighted to announce that Dr. Ahmed Al Kuwaiti, Associate Professor and Supervisor General of the Deanship of Quality & Academic Accreditation at IAU, was selected as a Panelist for the QS Higher Ed Summit: Middle East and Africa 2023. The summit was hosted by the American University of the Middle East in Kuwait and brought together esteemed professionals in the higher education field.

During the summit, Dr. Kuwaiti participated in a session titled "QS Analytics - Good practices in Middle East & Africa: Lessons from the universities in the region". He shared valuable insights and best practices from universities in the Middle East and Africa on utilizing data analytics to drive improvements in higher education.

Dr. Kuwaiti discussed several strategies related to using data analytics to improve ranking performance, creating a data-driven culture on campus, utilizing predictive analytics to anticipate and address student needs, and engaging faculty and administrators in data-driven decision making. The session also provided best practices for implementing data analytics systems and tools in the region.

We are immensely proud of Dr. Kuwaiti for representing our university and making a positive impact on the higher education landscape in the Middle East and Africa. We are confident that the insights shared during the summit will be beneficial to universities in the region, helping them to make informed decisions.

We extend our gratitude to the QS Higher Ed Summit: Middle East and Africa 2023, hosted by the American University of the Middle East, Kuwait for providing this incredible opportunity to our university. We are certain that this experience will further strengthen our commitment to advancing higher education in the region.



S Summit Venue - Cultural Center, American University of the Middle East (AUM), Kuwait

United Arab Emirates

IAU wins the Zairi International Award for Excellence in Higher Education - 2023

Dr. Ahmed Al Kuwaiti

We are delighted to announce that Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (IAU) has been selected as the winner of the “Zairi International for Excellence in Higher Education for Outstanding Not-for-Profit Contribution to the Community”, administered by the Center for Learning Innovations and Customized Knowledge Solutions (CLICKS). The award recognizes the exceptional work of higher education institutions that engage with the community in meaningful ways, and IAU has truly made a difference in their target community through their volunteerism, community-based learning or research, outreach, and fostering community partnerships.

The entry was evaluated based on the following selection criteria: Stakeholders’ Engagement, Significance and Needs, Impact and Sustainability, Institutional Culture, and Community Partnerships. IAU’s submission demonstrated outstanding achievement in each of these criteria and have set a high standard for other HEIs to follow.

As the winner of the Award of Excellence for Outstanding Not-for-Profit Contribution to the Community, IAU was recognized during the MENA Higher Education Leadership Forum, held on 9th March 2023 in Dubai, UAE. The management of IAU feels proud on this well-deserved achievement and their commitment to serving the community and creating a positive impact. This award is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the faculty, staff, and students, who have all contributed to our institution's success.



From left to right: Dr. Ahmed Al Kuwaiti (Supervisor General, Deanship of Quality & Academic Accreditation), Dr. Nuhad Abdullah Alomair (Vice President for Development and Community Partnership), Ms. Najah S. Al Mohaimeed (Director of Social Responsibility & Community Partnership) and Dr. Narimane Hadj Hamou (Founder and CEO – CLICKS)



The gathering at the award function held on 9th March 2023 at The Address Boulevard, Dubai – UAE

INQAAHE

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