

# Partnership Project Agreement of Quality Assurance: Internal and External Quality Assurance Landscape

This Partnership Project Agreement (this “Agreement”) is:

**BETWEEN:** The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), a world-wide association of near 300 organizations active in the theory and practice of quality assurance in higher education in the world.

**AND:** The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), a non-governmental and non-profit network of 204 members in the theory and practice of quality assurance in higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region

**INQAAHE and APQN Parties now wish to lay down in writing the terms and conditions for the execution of the Partnership Project Proposal.**

**HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

## **1. Background**

As part of INQAAHE strategic priorities, with a view of enhancing quality provisions of higher education systems worldwide, INQAAHE is currently undertaking scoping studies in different parts of the world to better understand the landscape for external and internal quality assurance of higher education to be better positioned to contribute to the enhancement of quality assurance in a diversity of HE systems. INQAAHE is inviting the regional networks to conduct the study collaboratively in each of the regions in the world:

- To strengthen collaboration between the international and regional networks;
- To enable deeper insights into the particularities of each region;
- To enable a holistic approach to understanding the current issues in HE internationally and look for potential solutions.

In 2017, INQAAHE has already conducted a Scoping study in the Arab Region in cooperation with ANQAHE and a study in the Latin America was launched early in August 2017.

The regions to be covered are as follows: Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Caribbean, Africa, Asia-Pacific region and Northern America.

## **2. Objectives**

The specific objectives are:

- To conduct an in-depth study on the HE landscape and state of affairs of internal and external quality assurance in different regions all over the world;
- To better understand the trends, challenges and needs peculiar to each region;
- To produce a synthesis report on each of the identified regions and worldwide, in general;
- To produce recommendations on future investments.

## **3. Content and description of the tasks**

Overall the tasks evolve around the following:

- Identify the team of experts for conducting the study and report production for each region;

- Conduct policy analysis for each region;
- Based on the existing questionnaires collect data on
  - ✓ external quality assurance;
  - ✓ internal quality assurance;
- Based on the preliminary policy review and analysis of the survey results, conduct follow up interviews to get deeper insights into the peculiarities of each region;
- Analyze the data per each theme;
- Produce a Scoping study report for each region;
- Produce an overall report on the international trends in EQA and IQA.

#### 4. Expected input from APQN

Collaboration with APQN in the current project is highly important to INQAAHE to ensure the links between the networks are strengthened and the efforts are joined to resolve problems, which otherwise risk to be resolved in a fragmented manner. A holistic approach to understanding the trends in HE quality assurance has potentials to unveil the tacit forces driving the changes in HE and offer prospects for tangible solutions. The expected tangible contribution from APQN are as follows:

1) APQN team is made up of the following 3 persons who join the INQAAHE team to conduct the study:

Team	Organization	Contact
Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang	APQN President; Chief Expert of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center, China	948661302@qq.com
Ms. Malini Nair	APQN Board Member; Quality Assurance Policy & Planning Analyst, Fiji Higher Education Commission, Fiji	mcnayar11@gmail.com
Ms. Guo Qun	Graduate Student from Research Institute of Higher Education of Yunnan University, China	425927866@qq.com

2) APQN has the right to revise the survey instruments and propose adjustment to the needs of the Asia-Pacific Region needs.

3) APQN support INQAAHE in data collection from external quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions, as well as the data analysis and report production;

4) APQN has the right to publish the research result of APQN team on its website and relative booklets, but always citing the collaboration with INQAAHE.

**INQAAHE and APQN have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.**

Signed on behalf of INQAAHE,  
 Mari C. Madanos  
  
 Place: Philippines  
 Date: September 18, 2017

Signed on behalf of APQN:  
   
 Place: China  
 Date: September 16, 2017