



## **A Message to Seek the Members' Input to *the Revision of Higher Education Quality Assurance Principles for the Asia Pacific Region (Chiba Principles)***

### **I. Background**

Inspired by the European Standards and Guidelines and the INQAAHE Guidelines for Good Practice, the Brisbane Communiqué Initiative (<http://www.brisbanecommunique.deewr.gov.au/>) led by the Australian government, developed a set of quality assurance principles for internal and external quality assurance in early 2008.

During the APQN 2008 AGM in Chiba, these Quality assurance principles for internal and external quality assurance were discussed at a workshop and further refined based on the comments. Participants agreed that the principles need to be further revised to fit the context of great diversity in the Asia-Pacific. The revision could most effectively be based on input from each member agency.

During the APQN Conference 2009 in Hanoi, a workshop on the Chiba Principles facilitated by Dorte Kristoffersen was quite constructive and members presented many comments to further adjustments from the points of view such as the national context, the regional context or just their understanding of the value of principles.

In order to speed up and to take this process forward, APQN will seek the input from the members by launching a survey covering some questions to ask and topics to cover on Chiba Principles. It is an opportunity for members to continue the discussions about the principles and organize how the members should approach the revision and report back to the APQN Board in order for the principles to develop into a useful tool for the APQN member quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions.

Your opinions and comments would be essential and we would very much appreciate your contribution to the Revision of Chiba Principles. It should be noted that this project is being financially supported by UNESCO and the World Bank through the Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC)

### **II. Objectives**

The motivation is to finalize the draft of the Revision of Project on Chiba Principles. The principles are envisaged to:

- safeguard and promote public confidence in the quality of higher education in the region;
- assist institutions in enhancing the quality of their provision;
- improve the quality of academic programs for students and other beneficiaries of higher education across the region;
- ensure that there is clarity and transparency in quality assurance processes and outcomes;

- encourage a culture of quality improvement;
- provide a measure of accountability, including accountability for the investment of public and private funding;
- generate reliable public information and reports about the higher education institution, its programs and awards and quality assurance processes that are helpful to potential students, employers, parents, governments, higher education institutions and professional bodies, both nationally and internationally;
- inform and assist the work of quality assurance agencies;
- support and enhance the cooperation of quality assurance agencies and other key players across national borders.

### **III. Tentative Program**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Items</b>
Mid of March	Alert members about this project and the need for their input
End of March	Develop the survey format for the request for information from members
End of March	Circulate the request to members
End of April	Get the feedbacks from the members on the revision of the Chiba Principles
Beginning of May	Analyze the feedbacks and revise the principles

### **IV. Contact Persons:**

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