



MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION

between the
National Assessment and Accreditation Council

and the
Australian Universities Quality Agency

January 10, 2006

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The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is the national quality assurance agency that has the mandate to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in India.

The Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) carries out and reports publicly on quality audits of the universities, state and territory accrediting agencies, and other higher education institutions in Australia. It is the national higher education quality assurance body.

There is a history of interaction and co-operation between NAAC and AUQA. The two agencies participated in the establishment of the Asia Pacific Quality Network in January 2003. Dr. David Woodhouse, Executive Director of AUQA and Professor V S Prasad, Director of NAAC as office bearers of APQN have been promoting cooperation in quality assurance in the region.

This memorandum of co-operation between the two agencies establishes objectives, parameters, and resourcing of future co-operation.

The memorandum of co-operation covers the following areas. The two agencies will:

1. Exchange of information

exchange non-confidential policy documents and relevant operational information to enable staff from the two agencies to support and learn from each other.

2. Mutual Understanding

work to enhance their understanding of each other's approach to ensure quality in higher education and the respective systems in place for quality in higher education.

3. Quality Systems

aim to enhance awareness in India of the existence of the Australian higher education quality assurance system, its role in ensuring the quality of transnational activities, and the specific role and capabilities of the quality audit system; and aim to ensure that the role of NAAC in quality assuring higher education institutions in India is fully understood within Australia.

4. Emphases

ensure that AUQA fully understands which quality issues are of greatest importance to India, advising the Australian higher education sector on this, as appropriate. Conversely, ensure that NAAC fully understands which quality issues are of greatest importance to Australia, advising the Indian higher education sector on this, as appropriate.

5. Staff Exchange

when appropriate and possible, support staff from the two agencies

- o to spend time in each other's offices
- o to participate as observers in institutional audits
- o to be involved in training activities

so that staff are acquainted with systems processes and other relevant matters.

6. Use of Each Other's Reviewers

where appropriate and possible, draw on auditors or accreditors or other specialists from each other's systems to strengthen the international dimension of institutional audits.

7. Collaboration

where appropriate and possible, collaborate in relation to the quality of Australian educational activities in India.

8. Mutual Recognition

where appropriate and possible, in operations relating to quality assurance of higher education within one party's jurisdiction but originating from the other party's jurisdiction, have due regard to the relevant decisions and judgements of the other party.

9. Good Practice Database

where appropriate and possible, include the good practices of higher education institutions accredited by NAAC in the AUQA Good Practice Database, adhering to the protocols already established by AUQA.

Duration of the Memorandum

The memorandum will take effect from January 2006 for a period of three years. The memorandum may be altered at any time with the consent of both parties.

Resources

For two staff from each side local hospitality will be provided by the host agency every year for up to one week, with travel costs borne by the home agency. For other activities, unless a specific contract is agreed, the two agencies will normally cover their own costs. For particular co-operation areas, donor funding could be sought.

Agency Officers responsible for managing the Agreement

The Executive Directors of NAAC and AUQA will have responsibility for managing the memorandum of co-operation. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of their staff in relation to particular areas of co-operation.



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