



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

Between

**Australian Universities Quality Agency**

**Melbourne, Australia**

and

**Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education**

**Beijing, People's Republic of China**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the Australian Universities Quality Agency, at Level 10, 123 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia (hereafter referred to as AUQA) and the Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education, at No.4 Dewai Street, Xicheng District, Beijing 100120, P. R. China (hereafter referred to as HEEC)

### **Recitals**

#### **Whereas:**

AUQA, which was established by the Ministerial Council of Education in March 2000, is the principal national quality assurance agency in higher education with the responsibility of providing public assurance of the quality of Australia's universities and other institutions of higher education, and assisting in enhancing the academic quality of these institutions.

HEEC, which was established in August 2004, is a public body under the auspices of the Ministry of Education. The main responsibility is to organize and implement the evaluation of baccalaureate degree programs and associate degree programs offered in the higher education institutions, carry out the study of the theory and policy of quality assurance, develop cooperation and exchange with quality assurance agencies abroad and in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan regions, and enter agreements, as is authorized by the Chinese government, with non-governmental organizations in the areas of quality assurance in higher education.

### **AUQA and HEEC**

Having similar missions and institutional objectives in the advancement of quality assurance in higher education, now wish to establish closer relations as equal partners for the purpose of creating cooperative and collaborative mechanisms for the mutual benefit of both parties.

## **Article I: Aims of Memorandum of Understanding**

AUQA and HEEC agree hereby to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate for the benefit of all two parties and to work towards establishing amicable collaborative fellowship to enhance the operation of external quality assurance in all two jurisdictions and improve the quality of higher education in Australia and P. R. China.

## **Article II: Areas of Co-operation and Collaboration**

AUQA and HEEC will work together:

1. To exchange unclassified information in terms of quality assurance.
2. To collaborate on quality assurance projects and disseminate excellent educational resources which are recognized by each party.
3. To collaborate in joint research of mutual benefit, promote academic exchanges periodically and share the outcomes and introduce them to the world.
4. To provide developmental opportunities as appropriate for staff of both parties.
5. To exchange experts who would take part in the evaluation on HEIs of the other party as observers when appropriate.
6. To co-operate in any other mutually agreed activities related to quality assurance for the benefit of both parties thereto.

## **Article III: Alteration of Memorandum**

This Memorandum is signed by the two parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be altered with the consent of both parties.

## **Article IV: Officers responsible for managing the Memorandum**

The Executive Director of AUQA (at the time of signing Dr. David Woodhouse) and the Director-General of HEEC (at the time of signing Mrs. Ji Ping) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

## **Article V: Resources**

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, normally the two agencies will bear their respective costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation, donor funding may be sought from other sources.

#### **Article VI: Schedule of projects and activities**

Specific details on any projects or other activities that are entered into under the terms of this Memorandum shall be negotiated and agreed by both parties and will be described in administrative schedules to be annexed to the Memorandum.

#### **Article VII: Validity of Memorandum**

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for five years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' written notice by either party. It may be extended on mutual agreement of both parties.

This Memorandum will be written in English and Chinese and both versions are equally valid.


Australian Universities Quality Agency  
(AUQA)  
Australia



David Woodhouse  
Executive Director

Date: 1 November, 2010

Higher Education Evaluation Center  
of the Ministry of Education (HEEC)  
P. R. China



Ji Ping  
Director-General

Date: 1 November, 2010



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