

International quality assurance: what in the world's going on?

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Hot topics: the three 'Rs'

- | Ranking
- | Regulation
- | Reform

Ranking

- | Institutional brand and reputation
- | National aspiration
- | Outcome of national quality assurance system
- | Revenue generating prospect for media and marketeers

Ranking: stakeholder responses

- | More rankings.....
- | Let a thousand flowers bloom!
- | Improve the data and processes
- | Explore the alternatives
 - | Promotion of typologies and classification of institutions – European Commission
 - | International benchmarking feasibility study – OECD's AHELO project
- | World class universities or world class education system?

Ranking: a QA response?

- | Transparency
- | Better information
- | Accessible information
- | Engagement with stakeholders in higher education outside the context of accreditation/review/evaluation events
- | Student engagement

Regulation

- | Re-defining and describing academic standards
 - | Learning Outcomes
 - | Credit
 - | Qualifications Frameworks
- | Benchmarking against shared expectations and external reference points for quality and standards
- | Re-defining roles and responsibilities

Reform: some drivers of reform

- | The significance of higher education to national economic and social welfare as well as personal development
- | Modernisation of higher education system
- | Enhancement of quality
- | Responding to and supporting internationalisation

Reform: different focuses and strategies

- | Australia: the 'Bradley Report' a holistic review including funding, internationalisation, quality assurance and accreditation and access;
- | Europe: at European level the Bologna process and Lisbon agenda which cascade into national reforms
- | UK: review of nine different aspects of higher education including internationalisation, part-time students and the relationship between academia and policymaking.

The 'S' word

- | Sustainability

and

- | The spreading role of quality assurance agencies

Implications for US HE and accreditation?

- | Addressing the changing lexicon of the language of quality assurance
- | How and with whom can we have conversations about this in the US?
- | How will efforts for greater internationalisation of US higher education take account of the changing international QA landscape?

A sample of 3Rs resources

- | www.oecd.org search on AHELO
- | <http://www.dius.gov.uk/policy/he-debate.html>
- | <http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-07/AAAI-07-Program-Information/AAAI-07-Program-Information.html>
- | <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/default.asp>
- | <http://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/en/main.asp>
search on qualifications register
- | <http://www.cmec.ca/postsec/qa/QA-Statement-2007.en.pdf>