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.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/default.asp