

2017 CIQG Annual Meeting

Memorandum of Affiliation Signing Ceremony CHEA/CIQG and NAAC

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Address

By

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Former Vice Chancellor

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Dear Judith, Dear Nadia, Friends from different countries representing Quality Assurance Networks and Agencies, Universities, other Institutions and Organisations.

Please accept my warm greetings from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) of India. NAAC is a premier national accreditation body of a country, which has one of the largest and fastest growing higher education systems in the world. NAAC was established in the year 1994. Currently, NAAC is the only national body in India which does institutional accreditation. Another

organisation, i.e., NBA (National Board of Accreditation) is mandated for Programme Accreditation of professional institutions.

It is our great pleasure to sign this Memorandum of Affiliation (MoA) between NAAC and CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG) to promote International Quality Principles 2015, aimed to establish and promote partnerships with quality assurance/accreditation bodies, higher education providers, higher education associations and governments world-wide, with a view to encouraging the use of the Principles as a foundation of shared understanding about quality at an international level.

We believe that 2015 CIQG seven international quality principles can provide a framework for quality to inspire and improve national, regional and international developments. As signatory to this MoA,

- We will strive to reflect these principles in our standard, reviews and processes.
- We will work with and other-higher education stakeholders to promote a shared understanding of quality based on the seven Principles,
- Share information regularly on the promotion and implementation of the Principles
- Engage, when feasible, in joint activities with a view to share effective policies and practices in areas of common interest, based on the Principles.

I compliment the CHEA International Quality Group for this initiative to promote cooperation and partnership in the pursuit and strengthening of academic quality in higher education worldwide. On this occasion, I also wish to share with you our own humble efforts in contributing to this global spirit of partnership.

Strengthening the Global Connect:

Friends, we are aware that Assessment and Accreditation has a lot of significance

in terms of International student mobility. Hence, similar to other Accreditation agencies abroad, NAAC also tries to align its process with international standards and guidelines prescribed by global networks and bodies. NAAC has strengthened its global connect. NAAC is a founder member of Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), which is a network of quality assurance agencies in 60 countries of Asia and Pacific. NAAC is also a founder member of International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) which is a global network of Quality Assurance (QA) bodies from different countries in the world. We are closely associated with CHEA and its International Quality Group (CIQG), which has the membership from 45 countries including NAAC from India.

In order to strengthen its global partnership, the NAAC organized a Global Summit on “Quality Higher Education: Sharing Values and Fostering Trust Beyond Borders” on 16-17 September 2016 at Bengaluru in collaboration with Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN). Over **120** delegates including **24** representatives **of 20 countries** attended the Summit. The key quality networks and agencies from Asia, Europe, America and Africa joined hands to be the partners of Summit.

The most important aspect of Global Summit was to have the key players of global higher education and quality assurance system on one platform for sharing vision and commitment. The participation of three biggest higher education systems in the world namely United States of America (USA), China and India apart from key international players like United Kingdom (UK), Australia, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia UAE, Mauritius and also representations from European network and Arab network provided a strong setup for global policy dialogue. They shared their national, regional and global perspectives and contributed in developing a common agenda for the international quality assurance community. The Global Summit provided a

strong setup for global policy dialogue which culminated in the release of 'Bengaluru Statement – 2016 on Next Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education'. I am happy to inform you that Judith, the President of CHEA, actively participated in the Global Summit and played a key role in framing the Bengaluru Statement.

Re-affirming previous relevant commitments such as Nagoya Declaration on Higher Education for Sustainable Development-2014, Incheon Declaration-2015 "*Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all*". The Bengaluru Statement – 2016 expressed intent and aspirations for:

- Cooperation among quality assurance networks and organizations.
- Endeavour to Foster Trust Beyond Borders in higher education quality assurance.
- Sharing global information resources and good practices.
- Promoting values and ethical practices in quality assurance.
- Strengthening of capacity building.
- Developing strategies and resources for next generation quality assurance in age of technology.
- Resource mobilisation for quality assurance.
- Strengthening professionalism in quality assurance.

Bengaluru Statement – 2016 called upon quality assurance networks, organizations and stakeholders of higher education to join hands and commit to work together to enhance quality in higher education in service of students and society. I feel the Bengaluru Statement has reinforced the spirit of global cooperation in higher education quality assurance scenario.

I hope the initiatives such as “*CHEA International Quality Principles 2015*” and “*Bengaluru Statement-2016 on Next Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education: A shared vision and commitments for fostering partnership beyond borders*”, are the kind of efforts that all of us belonging to higher education quality assurance community should be contributing so as to make this world a better place for next generation of students and society.

With these words, I sincerely thank Judith and Nadia for organising this signing ceremony. I thank you all for your encouraging participation.
