ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

The Dodowa Declaration on African Quality Assurance Network (AFRIQAN)
15th – 17th April 2009

Background

The Association of African Universities (AAU), established in November 1967, serves as the apex organization and a strategic forum for consultation, exchange of information and co-operation among institutions of higher education in Africa, and represents the voice of the African higher education community. The AAU prioritizes the promoting of quality higher education towards Africa's development. Mandated by the African Union to implement activities leading to the harmonization of African Higher Education, the AAU, under its *"Quality Assurance Support Programme* facilitates networking and information exchange between and among African Quality Assurance agencies towards establishing regional and continental networks in higher education.

One component of the AAU QA Programme is support to national quality assurance/accreditation agencies in developing strong external evaluation and monitoring systems as key strategy for the development of credible and effective education and training systems in Africa. From 15th to 17th April 2009 at Dodowa, Ghana, the AAU organized a capacity building workshop, the first of its kind to bring both emerging and existing national quality assurance agencies in Africa together. Following intense discussions,

Preamble

WE participants at the AAU Capacity-Building Workshop for Quality Assurance/Accreditation Agencies in Africa held at Dodowa, Ghana, from 15 to 17 April 2009

Noting the need to:

- provide capacity building input to national quality assurance agencies with quality fundamental concepts, effective external QA approaches, methodological options, and practical considerations in developing monitoring and evaluation systems

- facilitate information exchange and experience sharing on quality assurance mechanisms and accreditation practices in Africa
- raise awareness on continental framework towards harmonization and a quality rating mechanism
- reinforce cooperation between national QA agencies and promote the establishment of an African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN)

Acknowledging
- the goodwill of the African Union towards the harmonisation of higher education in Africa through its Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education in Africa (2006 – 2015)
- the effort of the AAU in facilitating networking of national External Quality Assurance Agencies (EQAAs) in Africa, and in promoting Quality Assurance in higher education in Africa

And aware of

- the increased social demand for quality education for increased participation in the knowledge-based global economy
- the challenges posed by the commodification of higher education under the terms of WTO/General Agreements on Trade in Services (GATS), leading to the proliferation of cross-border provision
- the membership of some EQAs in Africa to the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)
- the importance of an African network of quality assurance in higher education to complement INQAAHE
- the potential of an Africa-wide network for African EQAAs in addressing the challenges posed by information and communication technologies, commercialisation, massification and globalization towards the development of higher education on the continent

Hereby agree to

- promote a continent-wide network for national EQAAs, the African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN), to pursue the following objectives:

  1. share experiences and resources with network members and with other regional networks in Africa (such as CAMES and IUCEA) and beyond
  2. facilitate the engagement of African peer reviewers in higher education
  3. synchronize and co-ordinate higher education provision in Africa
  4. facilitate processes that assist higher education systems in Africa to inter operate more effectively
  5. collect and collate data relevant to higher education in Africa
  6. promote the establishment of EQAAs in Africa (where they do not exist)
  7. Facilitate research into the practice of quality management in higher education and apply the outcomes into improving the quality of higher education in Africa

- nominate the following as members of an interim committee to spearhead the activities of the Network:

Prof. Mayunga H.H. Nkunya	Executive Secretary, Tanzania Commission for Universities	(Chair)
Mrs Florence J. Asemadahun	National Universities Commission, Nigeria	Member
Monsieur Abdou Lahate Cisse	Ministère de l'Enseignement Secondaire, des Centres Universitaires Regionaux et des Universites, Senegal	' '
Mr. Theo Bhengu	Council on Higher Education, South Africa	' '
Ms Adwoa Sey	Project Officer, Quality Assurance Project, AAU	(Secretary)
Representative from AArU	(To be nominated)	' '

Dodowa, Ghana
17th April 2009

<u>List of participants</u>

1. Mrs Florence ASEMADAHUN
2. Mr. Ransford BEKOE
3. Mr Theo BHENGU
4. Mr James CHIRIA
5. M. Abdou Lahate CISSE
6. Mr Kwame DATTEY
7. Mr Emmanuel Kwadwo DUKU
8. Mr George EBINE
9. Mrs Gabrielle HANSEN
10. Mrs Vejanda KAUARIA
11. Professor Chiedu Felix MAFIANA
12. Professor Goolam MOHAMEDBHAI
13. Mrs Joyce Mwikali MUTINDA
14. Professor Mayunga H.H. NKUNYA
15. Ms Theresa Udumaga OKAFOR
16. Mr Stanley Mutunda SIMATAA
17. Dr Michael P. SLAWON
18. Professor Everett Maraka STANDA
19. M. Ranaivomahasetra RAJAOARISOA
20. Mr Philemon Phemba RAMATSUI
21. Mr Alfred SAHN
22. Miss Adwoa SEY
23. Dr Yohannes WOLDETENSAE'