

# **African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN) General Assembly**

**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

The AfriQAN General Assembly opened at 9.am. Opening remarks were made by AfriQAN Coordinator, Prof. Jonathan Mba, who welcomed all AfriQAN members as well as observers to the gathering.

The AAU Secretary General, Prof. Etienne Ehile, in his goodwill message gave a brief background of AAU's Quality Assurance programme in general and AfriQAN in particular.

Ms Dierdre Lennan in her remarks, talked about how happy and easy it was to help Africa at all levels including the institutional level. She recalled the first meeting with colleagues from Europe after the quality assurance and AfriQAN meeting in Gabon in 2013. The discussion with stakeholders had centred around ranking and accreditation. European Commission, she stated, was committed to support African quality assurance and Pan African Quality Assurance Framework (PAQAF) for the next 3 years. Africa should therefore showcase what was being done in this area to improve quality assurance.

Dr. Yohannes Woldetensae from the African Union Commission, holding an observer status at the AfriQAN Executive Board, urged all to be part of AfriQAN and advocated for quality assurance units at various African universities. He suggested the need to sensitize national agencies to join AfriQAN for those that were not members already. He also encouraged AfriQAN to do more in attracting members and to be more visible.

In the remarks of the AfriQAN President, Prof. Chiedu Mafiana, he noted that not many universities were members of AfriQAN and payment of membership fees has also not been too encouraging. He thanked AAU for hosting AfriQAN, the African Union Commission for its support to AfriQAN activities and European Union Commission for its financial support to AfriQAN. He mentioned the special GUNi-Africa 2015 award given to AfriQAN Members and other individuals such as Prof. Mayunga Nkunya, the Executive Secretary of IUCEA for his commitment to quality assurance in higher education in Africa; the awards given to IUCEA and NUC for their contribution to Quality Assurance in Africa.

## **2013-2015 Report**

The report of activities of AfriQAN was presented by the President. He emphasized the need for members to pay their dues to help in the activities of AfriQAN. It was observed that only a few members have paid their dues for 2015. He announced that St. Mary's University College, Ethiopia, an associate member, now has a full university status.

## **Discussion**

Membership drive should be undertaken by all and members should participate actively in the activities of the network. AAU was urged to do more to promote the visibility of AfriQAN.

AAU-AfriQAN was also asked to publicize the benefits of being a member of AfriQAN using available database and prepare and disseminate periodic newsletters announcing quality assurance activities on the continent. Importantly, the newsletters should highlight the benefits that would accrue to universities when they join AfriQAN.

There was a suggestion to allow new members to pay half of the membership dues until after two years of membership before paying the full dues to allow many members to join.

It was also suggested to allow corporate members as well as individuals and student bodies interested in quality assurance in general to join AfriQAN.

It was further suggested that national regulatory bodies in Africa should include Membership and Participation at Regional Quality Assurance events as one of the parameters for assessing higher education institutions in their countries. In that way, universities would be compelled to enrol as members of AfriQAN.

## **Election of AfriQAN Executive Board Members**

An election bureau consisting Dr. Yohannes, Wodetensae as Chair, Prof. Etienne Ehile and Prof. Arinze from the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, as members, led the General Assembly to carry out the election of the new AfriQAN Executive Board for the next two years.

The AfriQAN Coordinator reminded the Assembly that in accordance with the AfriQAN Constitution, associate members could observe and make comments, but they had no voting right. He further stated that for the election to proceed, a quorum of one-third of full members must be in attendance. He stated that there were 18 full members, out of whom 10 members were represented at the 7<sup>th</sup> ICQAHEA. He finally informed the Assembly that the outgoing members of the Executive Board could be re-elected for a second and final term if they chose to run.

A motion was moved by members that NUC represented by Prof. Chiedu Mafiana having done very well with the presidency should be allowed to go a second term. This was supported by members who unanimously endorsed NUC to continue with the presidency of AfriQAN.

The following were elected as new members of AfriQAN Executive Board for the next two years:

- |         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| - NUC   | - President (re-elected)      |
| - CAMES | - Vice-President (re-elected) |

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| - Council on Higher Education, Lesotho  | - Treasurer                |
| - ANAQ-Sup, Senegal                     | - Member representing      |
| West Africa                             |                            |
| - Tanzania Universities Commission      | - Member representing East |
| Africa                                  |                            |
| - Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education | - Member representing      |
| Southern Africa (re-elected)            |                            |
| - The Great Lakes Organisation (CEPGL)  | - Member representing      |
| Central Africa                          |                            |

AAU-AfriQAN was asked to write to AArU and Arab Quality Assurance Network to nominate a member to represent Northern Africa

The President thanked all for his re-election and the election of the other members. He promised that he and his board would do all in their power to take AfriQAN to the next level. He requested all those who raised issues that needed constitutional amendment to send these requests to the AfriQAN Secretariat for the necessary action to be taken.

He reiterated the fact that AAU-AfriQAN should write to the appropriate Arab Quality Assurance bodies for the nomination of a member to represent Northern Africa in the AfriQAN Executive Board. He encouraged all the representatives of the sub-regions to sensitize their institutions to join AfriQAN and promised that at the next meeting, a brighter report would be given.

The motion for the adjournment of the meeting was moved by Prof. Arinze and supported by Dr. Mocks Shivute, the Executive Director of the Namibia Council for Higher Education. The General Assembly ended at 11.15am.