

June 2005

# AUQA News

A Quarterly Newsletter on the Activities of AUQA

Australian Universities Quality Agency

## 1. Audit Activity

All audit reports from the 2004 cycle are now available on the AUQA website.

The 2005 audit schedule is now in full swing, as below:

<b>Audit Visits completed and reports being prepared:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Queensland University of Technology</li><li>• University of Wollongong</li></ul>
<b>Performance Portfolios submitted:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charles Darwin University</li><li>• University of Melbourne</li><li>• University of Tasmania</li></ul>
<b>Performance Portfolios due for submission to AUQA in June or July:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Melbourne College of Divinity</li><li>• Accreditation functions of the Queensland Office of Higher Education</li><li>• Accreditation functions of the Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training</li><li>• Central Queensland University</li><li>• University of New South Wales</li></ul>

Audits for 2006 and 2007 have been approved by the AUQA Board and auditees notified. The 2006 audits are:

<b>Auditee</b>	<b>Portfolio Due</b>	<b>Audit Visit</b>
WA Department of Education Services	November 2005	February 2006
University of Technology Sydney	February	May
Murdoch University	February	May
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	March	June
Flinders University	May	August
Monash University	June	September
University of Western Sydney	June	September
Victoria University	July	October
University of the Sunshine Coast	July	October
Melbourne University Private	August	November



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The following organisations will be audited in the first half of 2007: The Australian National University; Australian Film, Television, and Radio School; Department of Education (Tasmania); and, The Department of Education, Science, and Training (Commonwealth).

First audit cycle progress reports from the following institutions are now available: University of Adelaide; Australian Catholic University; Australian Maritime College; University of Ballarat; University of Canberra; Victorian Office of Higher Education. Progress reports are located on each auditee's website and can be accessed from the following URLs on the AUQA website:

**Self-Accrediting Institutions:**

[http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/sai\\_reports/index.shtml](http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/sai_reports/index.shtml)

**Accrediting Agencies:**

[http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/aa\\_reports/index.shtml](http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/aa_reports/index.shtml)

## 2. AUQF 2005 – Registrations Now Open

This year's Australian Universities Quality Forum will be held at the InterContinental Sydney from 6-8 July. The Joint Steering Group is delighted to announce that the keynote speakers this year include Perth magistrate **Dr Sue Gordon AM**, Chair of the National Indigenous Council, and **Dr Barbara Holland**, Director of the National Service Learning Clearinghouse (USA). Other Forum highlights include: a debate on the use of plagiarism detection software; a panel of senior university and student and government representatives discussing voluntary student unionism (VSU); a panel of university leaders discussing community engagement strategies; and a closing address from renowned American educationalist **Professor Judith Ramaley**.

An exciting innovation at AUQF2005, and one in keeping with its Engaging Communities theme, is that delegates are able to influence the plenary sessions by posting questions for keynote speakers and panels on the AUQF website. Questions can be posted until Friday 24 June, and will be responded to during the plenary sessions at AUQF.

To register online for AUQF2005, and to view the preliminary program, visit the website [www.auqa.edu.au/auqf](http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf). For further information, email Fiona Gunn: [f.gunn@auqa.edu.au](mailto:f.gunn@auqa.edu.au)

## 3. AUQA Board News

The AUQA Board held its first meeting for 2005 on 24 March. An important item discussed at the AUQA Board was the report of the Strategic Assessment Group looking at strategic options for the future development of AUQA.

AUQA's Annual General Meeting was held on 20 April. At the AGM, the Members approved the appointment of **Mr Terry Werner** as a Director nominated by the States and Territories. Terry is the Director of Higher Education and Legislative Review in the Western Australian Department of Educational Services and AUQA welcomes him to the Board.

**Ms Leigh Tabrett**, also a nominee of the States and Territories, recently resigned from the AUQA Board to take up the position of Deputy Director, Arts Queensland. Leigh was one of the original AUQA Directors and Deputy Chair of the Board. We would like to thank Leigh for her outstanding contribution to AUQA, and heartily congratulate her on her new appointment. MCEETYA is yet to announce the nominee of the States and Territories for the position on the AUQA Board vacated by Leigh.

## 4. International Visitors to AUQA

AUQA has received visits from a number of international delegations in recent months, including: the Malaysian Minister of Higher Education (see photograph and caption below) and the Director of the Quality Assurance Division of the Ministry; a delegation from the Mexican Minister for Education; a delegation from the Canadian Universities Quality Network; a delegation from the China Scholarship Council; a delegation from several Korean universities; and, as a direct result of the visit by the Malaysian Ministerial delegation, a Malaysian 'Benchmarking and Good Practice' delegation. Following the INQAAHE conference in New Zealand in April, a number of the international delegates also visited AUQA on their way home. These included delegates from the following countries: China; Iran; South Africa; United Kingdom; and, Vietnam.



*From left to right:*

*David Woodhouse greets **Dato' Dr Haji Shafie Bin Haji Mohd Salleh**, Malaysian Minister of Higher Education*

## 5. News of Auditors

Professor Sue Johnston, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) at the University of Tasmania, will join the education consultancy PhillipsKPA in September 2005.

## 6. AUQA Occasional Publications (AOP)

AUQA is keen to further develop its Occasional Publications series and, to this end, has established an Editorial Board for the series, to allow a wider group to have input into the series and to oversee the quality and relevance of the publications.

Membership of the inaugural AOP Editorial Board is:

- Dr Jeanette Baird, AOP Series Editor, AUQA
- Professor Joan Cooper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Flinders University
- The Rev. Dr Mark Harding, Dean and CEO, Australian College of Theology
- Dr Colleen Liston, Director, International Quality and Enterprise, Curtin University of Technology
- Professor V Lynn Meek, Centre for Higher Education Policy and Management, University of New England

Further information on the aims of the series and the Editorial Policy will be available from the AUQA website shortly. The series will continue with a mixture of commissioned works and submitted manuscripts. If you would like further information or wish to topics or submission of papers, please email Jeanette Baird: [j.baird@auqa.edu.au](mailto:j.baird@auqa.edu.au).

## 7. Updated AUQA Audit Manual (Version 2.1)

A new version of the AUQA audit manual is now available on the AUQA website.

AUQA is issuing this slightly revised version of the Audit Manual to ensure that auditors and auditees have ready access to the most up-to-date information. The changes in Version 2.1 reflect a small number of policy changes and clarifications approved since Version 2 were issued in April 2004, including revised requirements for Progress Reports. Version 2.1 will only be available on the AUQA website.

## 8. Asia-Pacific Quality Network

The APQN held its first Annual General Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand on Thursday 31 March, 2005, in conjunction with the annual INQAAHE conference. Four additional Board members were elected - **Ms Varaporn Seehanath**, **Mr John Jennings**, **Dr Takahiro Saito**, and **Dr Antony Stella**.



The newly elected APQN Board at the AGM in Wellington

*From left to right: Ms Varaporn Seehanath (Thailand), Dr David Woodhouse (Australia), Mr John Jennings (New Zealand), Mr Peter Cheung (Hong Kong), Prof. VS Prasad, (India), Dr Takahiro Saito (Japan), Dr Antony Stella (India)*

On 17 May, 2005 Mr John Jennings resigned as a Board Member. **Professor Muhammad Kamil Tadjudin** (Indonesia) has been appointed by the APQN Board to replace Mr Jennings.

APQN is currently assisting the following agencies to host workshops:

- **How to Conduct an External Institutional Accreditation/Audit**  
Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCCUP),  
Philippines  
Trainers: Emeritus Professor Phil Meade and Dr MS Shyamasundar
- **Quality Management of Quality Assurance Agencies**  
National Council for Education Accreditation (NCEA), Mongolia  
Trainers: Ms Jean Morse and Dr David Woodhouse
- **Training of External Reviewers**  
Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC), Cambodia  
Trainers: Dr Antony Stella and TBA

## 9. AUQA 'Quality Contacts' Discussion List

AUQA has established an email discussion list for anyone interested in discussing quality and quality enhancement within the Australian higher education sector.

Membership of the list is open to anyone. In joining the list, members agree to their name and email address being shown on the membership list that is available to all other members. AUQA will act as the administrator of the list but does not intend to moderate message content.

If you wish to join the AUQA Quality Contacts list:

1. Go to <http://lists.auqa.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/quality-contacts>
2. Complete the subscription form, which requires your name, email address and the selection by you of a password. Once this step has been completed, your request will be processed by the list administrator.

## 10. Gateway to Good Practice in Higher Education

The AUQA Good Practice Database now contains **70 good practices** from institutions and agencies in Australia and New Zealand.

On 24 March 2005, seven new entries from the University of Western Australia were published online. These good practices, commended through AUQA's audit process, include strategies for developing fledgling research centres, supporting Indigenous students, and the use of budget incentives for behavioural change.

The good practices in the AUQA Good Practice Database are freely available at [www.auqa.edu.au/gp](http://www.auqa.edu.au/gp). Since it was launched eighteen months ago, entries in the database have been accessed over 15,000 times.

New entries from Charles Sturt University, Edith Cowan University and the University of South Australia will be added in June and July 2005, with the addition of further good practices from New Zealand by the end of 2005.

## 11. Contacting AUQA

Further information about any items in this newsletter or about AUQA more generally may be obtained from:

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The AUQA website provides background information about all areas of the Agency's activities, including the AUQA Audit Manual and Audit Reports ([www.auqa.edu.au](http://www.auqa.edu.au)).