

May 2008

# AUQA News

A Quarterly Newsletter on the Activities of AUQA

Australian Universities Quality Agency

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Welcome to the second edition of AUQA News for 2008.

## 1. Audit Update

### 2008 Audits

Audit Visits have been completed for the following 2008 university audits: Southern Cross University; University of Newcastle; Swinburne University of Technology.

The following other audits are in progress: College of Law; Griffith University; Australian Catholic University.

### Progress Reports

The following Progress Reports are now available on the AUQA website:

- Department of Education Services, Western Australia  
<http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/agencies/>
- University of New South Wales  
<http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/universities/>.



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## 2. AUQA Board News

The next AUQA Board meeting is on 3 June. Other meeting dates for 2008 are 19 August and 25 November. The Annual General Meeting of AUQA's members was held by teleconference on 15 April 2008.

The 2007 AUQA Annual Report was released in April and is available on the website at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/aboutauqa/annualreports/>.

## 3. AUQA Staff News

On 2 April 2008, Ms **Karen Treloar** joined AUQA as an Audit Director from the position of Manager, Strategic Planning and Review, at the University of Technology, Sydney.

## 4. AUQF2008 Quality & Standards, 9–11 July, Canberra

AUQF2008 commences immediately after the Auditor Meeting and will be held at the Hotel Realm. The Forum Dinner will be held in the Great Hall at Parliament House.



Keynote speakers include Sir **John Daniel** and Professor **Trudy Banta**.

Early Bird Registrations are now open [www.auqa.edu.au/auqf](http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf). The closing date for the Early Bird discount is 1 June.

### **AUQF2008 Pre-Forum Workshop** (concurrent with AUQA Auditor Meeting)

This year's Workshop aims to share and **discuss learning from Cycle 1 AUQA audits** with an emphasis on preparing for Cycle 2. Feedback from last year's pre-Forum workshop suggests that there is a continuing desire by quality practitioners to discuss their experiences in connection with AUQA audits, especially about the ways to address the new emphases of Cycle 2, including the formal requirements for auditees to report on 'Outcomes since Cycle 1' and against selected themes.

It is anticipated that there will be about 40 participants, who will be surveyed prior to the Workshop in order to identify Cycle 1 audit preparatory strategies that worked well and advice for those preparing for an audit in Cycle 2. The data collected from participants will be reported and discussed during the Workshop, which will be co-facilitated by Professor **Geoff Scott**, PVC Quality, UWS, and **Rob Carmichael** of AUQA.

## 5. AUQA Projects and Activities

AUQA's project for the National Education Reform program in Bahrain has been completed, as has the joint AUQA/NZUAAU audit of the University of the South Pacific. AUQA thanks all auditors who contributed to the success of these projects.

In April 2008, Dr **David Woodhouse** chaired an international review panel of the Swiss federal technical university ETH-Zurich on behalf of the Swiss quality agency (OAQ). Panel members were from Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland.

In May, Audit Director Dr **Mark Hay** presented at a Mauritian Quality Assurance Seminar and chaired the audit panel for Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Mauritius.

The DEEWR-funded project to develop Good Practice Principles for English Language Proficiency for Australian Universities has entered its consultation stage. Letters have been sent to vice-chancellors and a wide range of other stakeholders seeking information and views on current practices and potential good practice principles. The next meeting of the Steering Committee, which is convened by Dr **Jeanette Baird**, will be held on 30 May.

AUQA has been awarded an **Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship** for a senior member from the Indonesian National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (BAN PT), who will visit AUQA in August 2008 to study institutional accreditation processes.

## 6. Visitors to AUQA and Other Meetings

### Visitors to AUQA

Since February, AUQA has received a range of international visitors, including:

- A delegation from the Ministry of Education Centre for International Education Study at the Shanghai Academy of Educational Sciences
- Mr Ed Wong of the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce
- Dr Kazuhiro Sugimoto and Dr Atsushi Hamana of NIAD in Japan.



*Delegation from NIAD at AUQA. Left to right: Mr Rob Carmichael (AQUA); Dr Kazuhiro Sugimoto (NIAD); Dr Atsushi Hamana (NIAD); Dr Jeanette Baird (AUQA).*

Other visitors were:

- Ms Tess Goodliffe, Quality Audit Coordinator at the Oman Accreditation Council
- A delegation from Chilean universities in regard to a project to develop institutional research into universities in Chile (*see photo below*)
- A delegation from Nanjing Agricultural University in China
- A delegation from National Center for E-Learning and Distance Learning (NCEL) in Saudi Arabia regarding the development of quality assurance indicators for e-learning.



*Delegation from Chilean universities at AUQA. Left to right: Dr Rodrigo Fernandez Donoso (Pontificia Universidad Catolica of Chile); Mr Alonso Matta (AUQA); Directora Olaya Ocaranza Manterola (Pontificia Universidad Catolica De Valparaiso); Director Arturo Mora Cerna (Universidad de Concepcion); Dr Rudi Lidl (AUQA)*

### International Visits and Presentations made by AUQA

As part of AUQA's Bahrain project, Emeritus Professor **Mairéad Browne** and Dr **Jeanette Baird** facilitated a workshop for all universities in Bahrain to reflect on lessons learned from the two pilot quality reviews conducted in 2007.

Dr **David Woodhouse** presented at the International QA Conference in Chennai, India at the invitation of the British Council and AEI. Dr **Antony Stella** also gave a presentation.

In May, Dr **David Woodhouse** visited the Israeli quality agency, addressed Council and staff, and visited the Hebrew University and one other institution.

## 7. Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

<http://www.apqn.org/>

Arising from a workshop on the Brisbane Communiqué Initiative held in Japan earlier this year, a document called *The Chiba Principles*, which includes QA principles for higher education institutions and quality agencies, is expected to be released in the near future.

APQN has made a successful submission to UNESCO and the World Bank for funding under the Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC). The funds will be used for specific projects, including: development of an international database of reviewers and consultants in cooperation with INQAAHE, led by Dr **Antony Stella**; translation of documents into Chinese; development of a members-only website for APQN; continuous development of the website; moderated online discussion fora; introduction of an internship program; and development of training packages for reviewers and external quality agency staff.

An online moderated discussion forum on Internal Quality Assurance was launched in April and is currently underway. The forum was organised at the request of APQN members who have shown keen interest in professional development on 'internal QA'.

An APQN-sponsored workshop hosted by BAN-PT and entitled 'Perspective and Evaluation of the Institutional Accreditation' was conducted in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 24–25 March.