MEETING OF NATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE (NQAC)

The 16th meeting of the National Quality Assurance Committee (NQAC) was held on 10th December, 2009 at HEC Regional Centre Lahore. The Committee emphasized on ownership of Quality Assurance System in higher education by the Universities with continued support of HEC. Some important decisions taken were:

- Ethics Handbook for Faculty draft approved. To be shared with stakeholders before finalization.
- Performance Evaluation Standards for Higher Education Institutions approved. To be placed before the Commission for approval.
- Meeting of experts to be organized by Dr. S. Zahoor Husain (LUMS) in consultation with Dr. A. Raouf (UMT) to develop Training Module for HEC approved Supervisors.
- Performance based scorecard to be developed by QAA for Accreditation Councils.
- HEC to support holding of 3rd International Conference on Assessing Quality in Higher Education to be organized by University of Management and Technology, Lahore in 2010. Co-sponsors include UMT, Institute of Quality and Technology Management, National University of Textile Engineering and Mehran University of Engineering and Technology.

NQAC Members

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HEC decides that compliance with Quality Standards would now be a pre-requisite for consideration of any PC-1 to be submitted by Universities.

The provision of quality education to masses is the Government’s top priority. Prime Minister of Pakistan

HEC will focus on relevancy and quality in teaching and research. Chairman, HEC.
QUALITY INITIATIVES

- On the directives of Dr. Javaid R. Laghari, Chairman HEC, the quality assurance teams will soon start visiting the universities to verify the authenticity of submissions made by the Quality Enhancement Cells.
- The implementation status of HEC laid down criteria for M.Phil and Ph.D studies is presently being determined through 3 Ph. D Review Committees. Programs of 34 public and private sector universities have been reviewed so far.
- Commission has decided not to accord recognition to Ph. D degrees that are not fulfilling the HEC laid down criteria.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) held their 4th Council meeting in January, 2010. Council has accomplished assigning rating to 14 programs so far. Dr. M. E. Tusneem, Chairman of the Council informed that another 12 programs will be assessed before June, 2010.

National Business Education Accreditation Council has initiated pilot studies using the SOP’s prepared for the accreditation framework and procedures.

MEETING WITH PAKISTAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL TO STRENGTHEN COORDINATION

Representatives of Pakistan Engineering Council (Engr. Imtiaz Hussain Gillani, Engr. Ejaz Muhammad and Engr. Nasir M. Khan) met the Executive Director and other officials at HEC to discuss ways for further strengthening coordination. ED and VC’s of Engineering Universities will meet soon with officials of PEC to discuss proposed amendments in the PEC Act.

Education does not mean teaching people to know what they do not know; it means teaching them to behave as they do not behave

John Ruskin (1819-1900)
NUST DELEGATION PARTICIPATED IN WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS WORKSHOP & 5TH QS-APPLE CONFERENCE AT MALAYSIA

NUST delegation comprising of Director Academics and Director Quality Assurance participated in workshop on ‘World University Ranking’ organized by THE-QS at Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 23 November, 2009. This was followed by participation in the QS-Apple Conference held on 24 – 26 November, 2009. The key agenda of the QS-Apple Conference was to support the advancement of Asian Universities in their quest for international recognition and globalization.

KEEP AWAY FROM PLAGIARISM

To help remove the menace of plagiarism from scholarly works, HEC has so far provided the plagiarism detection service ‘Turnitin’ to 60 public and 6 private sector universities. For effective use of the plagiarism detection service, two Deputy Directors (Mr. Muneer Ahmad and Mr. Hakim Ali Talpur) of the Quality Assurance Division and Mr. Mohsin Younas Network Engineer at HEC have been provided training in the UK. Universities would now be able to utilize their services in helping to solve problems encountered during the application of the plagiarism detection software.

NEED FOR A INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LOCAL TESTING SERVICE

Quality Assurance Division at HEC organized a meeting in which senior officials of HEC, Lt. Gen (R) S. Shujaat Hussain former Rector of NUST and representatives from the National Testing Service met to explore possibilities for developing tests in subjects that are not covered by the Educational Testing Service. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi said that a local testing service which may offer internationally acceptable tests for admission to students at undergraduate and post-graduate level will not only help in assuring quality in Higher Education but benefit students as the single test would serve the purpose for all the Institutions.

In this regard, National Testing Service will develop a concept paper for obtaining feedback from stakeholders.

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Dr. Aftab Ahmad, Chairman of the National Computing Education Accreditation Council presided over the 9th Council meeting held in December, 2009 in which rating to 5 programs was approved. Total programs accredited so far is 18.

ONE OF THE CORE STRATEGIC AIDS OF HEC IS TO DEVELOP A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR.

We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own.

Ben Sweetland
“To integrate the concept of quality assurance in higher education with enhanced levels of international compatibility”.

Mission of Quality Assurance Agency