



Enhancing Quality Across Borders- Regional Cooperation in QA in HE

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Arab region Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE)

- The idea of ANQAHE started in November, 2004 in a conference in Cairo. Many Arab countries were invited to address the activities of QA in their countries
- There was a round table discussion on how QA bodies in the Arab region can cooperate

The outcome of this meeting was choosing between three scenarios:

1. Create a network
2. Start an NGO for QA
3. Develop a commission for QA and Accreditation to accredit Arab HEIs



ANQAHE

- A second meeting in 2005 organized by QA director in Abu Dhabi, to set up how this network can work. The president of INQAAHE was invited to support the initiation of the network

The Outcomes of this meeting was:

- First draft of constitution



ANQAHE

A third meeting in Cairo, 2006 to agree on the draft constitution and how the network can start

The outcome of this meeting was:

Feedback on the constitution

Secure the fund needed to start the network



ANQAHE: Funding Phase

- **Apply for a DGF grant to the world bank**
- **Communication with the British Council**
- **Contacting other regional funding agencies**



ANQAHE

- Last meeting in 9th of June 2007 in Jordan organized by AArU

The outcomes of this meeting was:

- Consensus on the name of the network,
- consensus on the constitution,
- Launching the network
- Electing the founding board



ANQAHE

**ANQAHE is launched on the 9th of
June, 2007 in Jordan**



ANQAHE

ANQAHE is an independent non-profit non governmental organization established in association with the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).



Legal recognition

- 1. ANQAHE is working in connection of the Association of Arab Universities (AArU)**
- 2. AArU is a well established non profit non governmental organization with a membership of more than 175 HEIs in the Arab world**
- 3. AArU has a legal and financial identity**
- 4. It is recognized between all Arab region**



The Mission of ANQAHE

1. **“To ensure and strengthen the quality assurance of higher education institutions, to enhance the collaboration between similar quality assurance organizations in the Arab region and to develop cooperation with other regional and international quality assurance networks**



Goals of ANQAHE

- i) support and enhance quality assurance organizations in the Arab region**
- ii) establish a mechanism of cooperation in the field of quality assurance in higher education in the Arab region**



Goals of ANQAHE

- iii) initiate and sustain regional and international cooperation in quality assurance in higher education**
- iv) exchange information on quality assurance in higher education**
- v) Develop a system for capacity building in the Arab region**



Methodology of ANQAHE

- i) dissemination of information**
- ii) reference to the databases and good practice,**
- iii) organization of seminars, workshops and conferences**
- iv) exchange experts,**
- v) assist in mutual recognition**



ANQAHE: Stakeholders

- **QA commission, committee or agencies**
- **Higher education institutions**
- **Professional accreditation bodies**
- **Other regional networks**
- **Students and faculty members**



Membership

Membership: ANQAHE has two categories of membership:

- **Full Members: QA organization and HEIs or regional networks in the Arab region**
- **Associate Members: institutions interested in institutional or programs QA and accreditation**



ANQAHE: The governing bodies and authorities

- **general assembly,**
- **the Board and**
- **the general secretariat**



ANQAHE: Governance

The board includes:

- 1. the president,**
- 2. the secretary general ,**
- 3. two vice presidents,**
- 4. five elected board members**
- 5. co-opted experts in QA**



QA in the Arab Countries

- In the Arab states most of the QA are department of higher education ministries
- Only few countries have quality assurance commission or committee separately from the ministries of higher education but still nominated by the ministries as: UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and Palestine



ANQAHE: Why

The need for have mechanism
between Arab region to:

- exchange information about QA
- build up new QA organizations
- develop standards to initiate new QA organizations
- disseminate good practice in QA
- strengthen liaison between QA



ANQAHE: Driving Force

The driving force to establish the network was:

- The desire to improve the quality in higher education in the Arab region
- The globalization of the world and open workforce place in other countries and therefore the need to produce a quality graduate



ANQAHE: Driving Force

- The existence of regional QA network around the words
- The fast newly arising QA organizations and regional networks
- The presence of the international QAA network
- The wishes and perseverance of experts and directors of quality assurance in some Arab countries to cooperate together and strengthen the liaison between them



Lesson learned

- Funding mechanism
- Good communication
- Political
- Represent as much as possible a wide scale of countries
- Choose the right person to contact
- Balance between the governmental representatives and the independent bodies



Mistakes that should be avoided

- Every meeting we had different representations from the ministries
- The representative participating in the meetings in many cases were not working in QA of the counties
- Begin with seeds of fund



Next step

- Ensure the fund
- Plan activities of the first year
- Accomplish the website and the clearing house
- Motivate QA organization to apply for membership



**Thanks for DAAD and
HRK to give us the
opportunity to
announce the most
recent regional
network**