

Progress of and Plans for Quality Assurance in Universities

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1. Progress of activities from 1st June 2015 – 30th July 2015

1.1. *Manual for Institutional Review of Universities and Higher Education Institutions*

A total of 550 copies of the Manual had been issued to 15 universities, Ministry of Higher Education, UGC and higher education institutions acceding to the requests received.

1.2. *Assisting the Universities to prepare for Institutional Review*

Another awareness programme was held at the University of Colombo with the participation of 80 members including the administrative staff, IQAU members and SER writer nominees on 23rd June to clarify issues and promote SER writing. The writers of the manual and the QA consultant served as resource Persons.

1.3. *Re-orientation Programme for Former Institutional Reviewers*

As the first step of Training of Institutional Reviewers, a Re-orientation Programme was organized and conducted on 29th July 2015 for the academicians who have served as Institutional Reviewers of the 15 Universities, to make them familiarize with the procedure recommended in the *Manual for Institutional Review of Universities and Higher Education Institutions*. Authors of the Manual served as Resource Persons. 25 former institutional reviewers participated.

1.4. *Formulation of a Revised Manual for Subject/Programme Review*

Meetings were held among the team of Manual writers on the following dates to present and discuss the chapters of the revised manual that had been completed:

30th June 2015

16th July 2015

29th July 2015

All parts except the chapter on Standards of the draft Manual has been completed.

1.5. *Promoting Internal Quality Assurance*

Meetings were held with the staff including top administration, Deans, Heads and IQAU members of the following Universities to detail out the roles and responsibilities of the IQAU and the need for adherence to the stipulated guidelines.

June 4th University of Ruhuna

July 16th Sri Jayewardenepura University

Chairman/UGC participated at the meeting held at the Sri Jayewardenepura University and emphasized the need for strengthening internal QA. 60 members of the staff participated.

1.6. *Awareness Programmes on Quality Assurance*

Presented the *Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Sri Lanka : Evolution and Procedure* at the request of the following institutes:

16th June Royal Institute, Colombo

1.7. *Revision of Subject benchmark Statements*

Following eight (8) benchmark statements that had been formulated before 2010 were selected for revision:

Botany
Economics
Mathematics & Statistics
Physics

Civil Engineering
Geography
Medicine
Zoology

Meetings with the former members of the following benchmarking Committees were held to examine whether the existing benchmark statements need revision and if so to decide on the course of action and the time frame and nominate the members to be included in the next committees:

28th July *Mathematics & Statistics*
30th July *Botany*

2. QA activities planned for June-July 2015

2.1. Preparation of draft Subject/Programme Review Manual

At least two more meetings of the Manual writing team will have to be conducted to prepare the draft manual. Depending on the availability of the Authors, the meetings had been scheduled for 24th August 2015 and 4th September 2015.

A stakeholder meeting (with representatives from all universities, interested HEIs, the UGC, and the Ministry) to scrutinize the content of the draft manual will be organized in September.

2.2. Institutional Review of the Remaining Universities and HEIs

The three universities (Peradeniya, Colombo, Eastern) will be requested to submit the Self-Evaluation Reports before mid-August. Reviews will be held in early September with the assistance of Institutional Reviewers selected from those participated at the Re-orientation programme held on 29th September 2015.

Awareness workshops on Institutional Review will be conducted at the following universities which had made requests:

10th August *South Eastern University of Sri Lanka*
September *University of Ruhuna*

2.3. Strengthening the IQAUs and Promoting their Functions

Functions of IQAUs of the Universities will be monitored and required assistance will be provided. Universities will be visited depending on the need and availability of relevant officials. Following Universities will be visited:

10th August *South Eastern University of Sri Lanka*
September *Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka*

Participation of a member from the UGC /QAASC at these meetings will encourage the universities.

2.4. Revising Subject Benchmark Statements (SBS) and promoting their Use

Meetings with the former members of the following benchmarking Committees will be held to examine whether the existing benchmark statements need revision and if so to decide on the course of action and the time frame and nominate the members to be included in the next committees:

Civil Engineering
Geography
Physics

Economics
Medicine
Zoology

2.5. Subject/ Programme Review of IDAS Recipient study programmes

IDAS recipient study programmes will be informed of the need for being prepared for the Subject/Programme Review within this year.