

Progress and Plans for Quality Assurance in Universities

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1. Progress made from 24th March 2015 – 31st May 2015

1.1. Institutional Review Manual

After receiving approval of the QAA Standing Committee (24th March 2015) and the UGC (17th April 2015) for *Manual for Institutional Review of Sri Lankan Universities and Higher Education Institutions*, following arrangements were made for printing and launching:

Obtaining ISBN number	7 th April 2015
Final editing	24 th , 28 th and 29 th April and 5 th and 7 th May 2015
Cover page designing and Printing	7 th – 10 th May 2015

Based on the availability of UGC and Ministry officials, launching date of the Manual was selected, universities were informed through IQAU Chairpersons, and logistical preparations were made. The Manual was launched on 12th May 2015 with the participation of over 150 academics and dignitaries.

1.2. Awareness cum Training Programme for Self Evaluation Report Writers

To facilitate using the new manual for Institutional Review of universities, a workshop on Self Evaluation Report writing was organized. Nominations were called through the Vice Chancellors for self-Evaluation report writers. A total of 140 nominations were received. Through the IQAU chairpersons subsequent communications were made. Workshop was conducted with the assistance of the Authors of the Institutional Review Manual on 12th May 2015. Over 100 SER writer nominees participated.

1.3. Assisting the Universities to prepare for Institutional Review

The three universities that are yet to undergo Institutional Review were visited after obtaining appointment through the IQAU chairpersons, and discussions were held with the IQAU members and SER writer nominees on the following dates to clarify issues and promote SER writing.

25 th March 2015	University of Colombo
27 th April 2015	University of Peradeniya
06 th May 2015	Eastern University of Sri Lanka

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

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

08th April, 13th May and 26th May 2015.

About 50% of the draft Manual has been completed.

1.5. Promoting Internal Quality Assurance

After receiving approval for the IQAU manual and draft IQAU circular from the QAA standing committee on 24th March 2015, IQAU chairpersons were sent copies of the manual and draft circular for necessary action. Meetings were held with the IQAU members of the three Universities which are yet to conduct Institutional Review. The recommended composition and the functions of the

IQAU were detailed out and the need for adherence to the stipulated guidelines was emphasized. The dates of the meetings are given in 1.3.

After the circular was issued by the UGC on 5th May 2015, the IQAU chairpersons were requested to report the status and issues faced. So far following 4 universities have responded:

Open University of Sri Lanka
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
University of Ruhuna
University of Colombo

The responses received indicate that the IQAUs of these universities are in the process of implementing the circular. It would be helpful if a meeting of IQAU chairpersons of all universities is organized to assess the progress of implementing the IQAU circular and the issues faced.

2. QA activities planned for June-July 2015

2.1. Preparation of draft Subject/Programme Review Manual

Next meeting of the Manual writing team will be held on 30th June 2015 to scrutinize the sections that had been completed. At least one more meeting will have to be held to prepare the Draft manual. Depending on the availability of the Authors, it is expected to be held in July 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 as the next step.

2.2. Institutional Review of the Remaining Universities and HEIs

Another awareness workshop is planned at the University of Colombo (at the request of the IQAU Chairperson) on 21-23rd June 2015, to make the administration and all other important officials whose assistance is needed for SER preparation aware, and facilitate SER preparation.

Progress of SER preparation by the three universities will be monitored, and if requests are received assistance will be provided to accelerate the process.

An awareness workshop on Institutional Review will be conducted on 16th June 2015 for the academics of Royal Institute in response to their request.

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.

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

Relevant Faculties/ Departments and Chairpersons of Benchmark Committees will be informed to examine the need for revising the SBSs that had been formulated prior to 2007 in view of the recent developments.

Information will be collected through IQAU chairpersons regarding the use of existing SBSs in the study programmes. Next course of action will be decided depending on the responses received.

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.