

# ASEM-Education Process Invitation

## PEER LEARNING ACTIVITY ON NEW APPROACHES TO QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE ASEM COUNTRIES

19-20 February 2015, Brussels

Dear colleague,

It is a great pleasure for us to invite you, on behalf of the Flemish Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels to a Peer Learning Activity organised in the framework of the ASEM-Education Process, which will take place in Brussels (Belgium) on 19-20 February 2015. The exact location will be communicated by the end of December. We will organise a visit of the campus of HEIs located in Brussels. Our meeting will start on Thursday 19 February morning and finish the next day, Friday 20 February, with a closing lunch.

The Peer Learning Activity is titled "***New Approaches to Quality Assurance in the ASEM Countries***" as we decided to give a focus on the common aspects, challenges, as well as current developments and new approaches in both external and internal Quality Assurance (QA) systems and procedures. Indeed, we aim at further developing a common QA understanding and language between both Asia and Europe. We will also discuss ways to effectively foster the cooperation and inter-linkages in QA at international and interregional level.

Within the Bologna process, QA has indeed been identified not only as one of the major themes, but also as one of the most successful, with initiatives such as the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) in 2000, the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) in 2005 (which are currently in revision) and the founding of the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) in 2008. In Asia too, there has been a growing interest in the theme of quality assurance, particularly through the role of APQN (Asia-Pacific Quality Network) in promoting good practice and quality improvement in QA within the Asia-Pacific region, the development of the so-called "Chiba Principles" in 2010, and thanks to the funds made available by the World Bank Development Grant Fund (DGF) and UNESCO's Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC).

The PLA will be built upon the outcomes of previous ASEM conference and seminars on QA such as the ASEM conference "*Quality Assurance and Recognition in Higher Education: Challenges and Prospects*" (Cyprus, December 2010); the ASEM Seminar on Regional Quality Assurance (Bonn, July 2011); the ASEM Seminar on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (Sèvres, October 2012). The activity is also in line with the conclusions of the latest meeting of the Ministers (ASEMME4) where they reiterated the importance of further improving the quality and attractiveness of education and training systems, and wished to give additional political momentum to the ASEM Education Process by

asking Senior Officials to meet yearly in order to discuss the implementation of the ASEM activities.

In order to gather comprehensive information on the national initiatives, projects and views relating to QA systems and standards, cross-border evaluation and involvement of the stakeholders we would ask you to fill in an online questionnaire, the results from which will be presented at our meeting and communicated as well to all the respondents. If you have not yet done so, please fill in the questionnaire **no later than 31 December 2014** via <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/asempla>.

To foster active discussions and exchanges of practices, **we will limit the number of participants to the PLA**, namely **five Asian countries and five European countries**. Therefore, we kindly ask you to communicate your interest in taking part in the PLA activity **no later than 30 November 2014**, to the organisers by email via [marc.vanholsbeeck@cfwb.be](mailto:marc.vanholsbeeck@cfwb.be). Members will receive a confirmation of their participation during the first week of December. They will then be asked to designate two delegates representing two different types of stakeholders (i.e. ministry, QA agency, higher education institution, etc.).

Please note that having responded to the questionnaire constitutes a prerequisite for the participation to the PLA. We kindly ask you though to complete the survey even if you do not plan to participate to the PLA so that we can collect more exhaustive and relevant information about the diversity of our QA systems. The completion of the questionnaire should not take you more than a few minutes.

The organisers will cover participants' accommodation for **two nights only** in Brussels, while travel costs remain the responsibility of each participant.

We are looking forward to welcoming you and having a fruitful PLA in Brussels.

Yours sincerely,



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