



## **Action Plan on Establishing the Cross-border Quality Assurance Network in Higher Education (CBQAN)**

### **● Background**

The Item 12 of *Conclusions by the Chair of the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME4)* points out: quality assurance, qualifications frameworks and recognition are essential for building trust and facilitating the recognition of degrees and diplomas...the Ministers welcomed China's initiative to establish a Cross-border Quality Assurance Network in Higher Education (CBQAN).

### **● Guiding Principles**

*Guidelines on Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education* (jointly developed by UNESCO and OECD in 2005), aims to “encourage the establishment of a complete and reliable quality assurance and accreditation system for cross-border higher education, guarantee the coordination and cooperation between various quality assurance and accreditation organizations internationally, provide the approved, reliable and up-to-date information about higher education for the public.”

As the initiator, China will coordinate and cooperate with QA bodies in the ASEM regions, striving to build a cross-border QA collaborating mechanism with wide participation in information-sharing and exchange.

### **● Objectives**

CBQAN aims to build a platform for QA bodies in Asia and Europe to know, understand and learn from each other, to promote information sharing and exchange among QA bodies and cross-border programmes by means of conferences, forums and online networking, and to enhance quality and international recognition of cross-border education, such as jointly run schools, distant learning and the third-party education.

### **● Activities**

CBQAN is committed to pushing forward the communication and cooperation among QA bodies in cross-border higher education among ASEM member countries:



- To establish an information hub for QA system and QA standards of member countries;
- To constitute the general QA principle for cross-border higher education;
- To recommend good QA practices for cross-border higher education with reference to qualification framework.

● **Strategic Schedule**

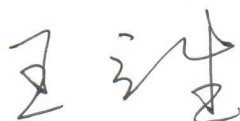
December 2013—the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group reviews the working mechanism of CBQAN;

May 2014—the Secretariat (CDGDC) is set up, Terms of Reference of CBQAN, determining the specific mission, future activities and working mechanism, is drafted with the priority of using the perspectives from qualification recognition;

October 2014—the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of CBQAN is held and report is filed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group Meeting;

May 2015—report is ready to submit to the ASEMME5 through senior official meeting.

Responsible countries: China (CDGDC as the Secretariat), Malaysia and UK.  
Participating countries: Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Republic of Korea.



Chair of the Working Group on Implementing ASEM Recognition Declaration