AUN Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) System
Design and Development Workshop

24 - 26 April 2023
Organised by the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam (MOET) and
the ASEAN University Network (AUN) Secretariat
Hosted by Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (VNUHCM)

Draft Concept Note
(Version 2.1 by the AUN Secretariat)

Rationale

Higher education is the grounds for social, economic, and political development, where a country's growth is dependent on the skills of workers. Good quality higher education is only ensured when its internal systems are self facilitating and sustainable.

In the era of dynamic changes, higher education institutions (HEIs) in the ASEAN region are adapting rapidly to the growing demand of educational services and the guarantee for quality education. Such requisitions call for the need of excellent Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) systems with the capacity to instil quality culture onto academic staff and quality assurance processes. On top of compliance, fostering a culture of IQA is necessary for the sustainable enhancement of the internal quality assurance system in higher education institutions–universities ought to remember, understand, apply, analyse, evaluate, and finally establish the IQA System specific to their own conditions. Such realisation and integration of the system ensures a more advanced and developed quality management for the region and beyond.

In establishing an effective implementation of the integrative framework, the Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) Development Workshop brings together IQA Experts from the ASEAN region and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies (INQAAHE) with the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereby referred to as Viet Nam) as the genesis site. Extensive research, workshops, and discussions on IQA Models and Regulations related to quality standardisation in Higher Education among ASEAN countries is to be conducted with input from stakeholders, experts, and experienced users to formulate AUN-QA IQA System with particular emphasis on the customisation and implementation of the System in Viet Nam Higher Education Institutions. The development of IQA within universities in the ASEAN region is critical in the guarantee of producing qualified individuals for the community and beyond.

Background of ASEAN University Network - Quality Assurance (AUN-QA)

The initiative on ASEAN University Network - Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) was originated by the first Chairman of the AUN Board of Trustees (AUN-BOT), Dr. Vanchai Sirichana in 1998 in view that higher education institutions in ASEAN should strive to develop quality assurance networking as a mechanism to reach and maintain high standard education, not just for one particular country but for ASEAN as a whole.

The initiative was welcomed by the 4th AUN-BOT meeting in Myanmar in 1998 and became an important AUN priority, particularly in teaching, learning, and management. In committing to this, the BOT also marked the year 1998 as the AUN year of quality education and convened the AUN-QA Network (AUNQANET) Task Force comprising administrators responsible for quality development in each member university with the aim to develop a common standard of quality by sharing experience and good practices.

The AUNQA NET Task Force Meeting was first held in November 2000, back-to-back with the 9th AUN-BOT Meeting in Bangkok under the theme "Workshop on AUN-QA Alliance". With the collective wills and commitments of all Member Universities, the ***Bangkok Accord on AUN-QA*** was endorsed to chart ASEAN's future of quality improvement within the network. The Accord provides a guideline to promote the development of the QA system as an instrument for maintaining, improving and enhancing teaching, research and the overall academic standards of the AUN Member Universities.

Since then, the AUN-QA also extended its roles and responsibilities in developing AUN-QA Framework at programme and institutional level being recognized by ASEAN universities, government agencies and international agencies e.g. INQAAHE, NEAS, DAAD, ENQA, AQAN, SEAMEO-RIHED, etc. Moreover, the AUN-QA is also recognized as the only QA system & mechanism implemented in ASEAN as well as aligned with ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF) and also recognized by ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED).

Objectives

1. To understand the current status of IQA systems and practices in Viet Nam higher education sector, evaluate the experiences of AUN-QA practices in both AUN Core Members and AUN-QA Associate Members, and conduct a gap analysis specifically in the area of quality management and quality assurance/enhancement with inputs from AUN Member and AUN-QA Associate Member Universities.
2. To (re)design and develop AUN-QA IQAS (Internal Quality Assurance System) based on the inputs from, and not limited to, AUN-QA experiences, regional and international, through benchmarking and learning from the matured system of Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) from international and regional perspectives including Europe, Australia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.
3. To initiate the agenda and programs for the positive changes in the context of Viet Nam taking into account key desirable parameters such as internalisation of quality culture, university excellence, internalisation and mobility, SDGs achievements, and more. Thus transforming the whole IQA system mechanisms and practices in the higher education institutions in Viet Nam, establish good practices pilot of IQA systems development in Viet Nam–all of these through networking and cooperation amongst key stakeholders in Viet Nam and the AUN, including, but not limited to, Core Members of AUN in Viet Nam, Associate Members of AUN-QA in Viet Nam, and the selected institutions, and the AUN Secretariat.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Outputs From the Workshop	End Outputs
1. Analytical report of Quality Assurance in Viet Nam according to stakeholder's perspective 2. Needs analysis of IQA system in Viet Nam 3. Recommendation Report for AUN IQA System development 4. AUN IQA System skeleton	5. Pilot of AUN IQA System 6. AUN IQA System as the core output with a working Tool-Kit to be customised and adapted for future uses (under co-ownership between Ministry of Education and Training of Viet Nam and ASEAN University Network). 7. Community of Practitioners of AUN IQA System and Knowledge Portal

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Established enhanced policies, strategies, and rules and regulations that foster the long term perspective for the development of IQA in Viet Nam.
2. The Advanced IQA System has been set up, developed, and taken a firm root in Viet Nam through thorough behavioural changes in the community of practitioners.
3. Structural and policy changes instilled IQA culture within Viet Nam's higher education sector.

Tentative Program

Monday, 24 April 2023

[Closed Session by Invitation Only]
Venue: Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City
Time: 09.00 - 14.00 (GMT+7)
Participants: AUN Member and AUN-QA Associate Member Universities in Vietnam

08.30 - 09.00	Reception and Registration Room Distribution
Workshop 1: Vietnamese Higher Education Sector - Towards World Class Standards (Breakout Session) **Moderator:** Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti	
09.00 - 09.15	Introduction
09.15 - 10.45	Problem Identification Session
10.45 - 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 - 12.00	Root Cause Mapping
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch
13.00 - 14.00	Big Picture Analysis

Tuesday, 25 April 2023

Venue: Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City
Time: 09.00 - 16.45 (GMT+7)
Participants: AUN Member and AUN-QA Associate Member Universities in Vietnam, European Experts, AUN-QA Experts, Representatives from MOET, and AUN-IQAS Task Force

08.30 - 09.00	Reception
Plenary Session *Venue: Plenary Hall*	
09.00 - 09.30	**Opening Session** ● Representative of Ministry of Education and Teacher of Vietnam (MOET) ● Representative of Vietnam University Ho Chi Minh City (VNUHCM) ● Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti, Executive Director of ASEAN University Network
09:30 - 10:05	Trigger Presentations from Experts (European Expets and ASEAN Experts) **Moderator:** Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti

10:05 - 10:30	Workshop 2: Introduction **Moderator:** Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti
10.30 - 10.45	Coffee Break Room Distribution
Workshop 2: Making IQA System that Works - Generating Changes for Vietnamese Higher Education (Breakout Session)	
10:45 - 12:00	Developing Solutions at the Macro Level
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 14:00	Improving Institutional Capabilities and Relationships
14:00 - 14:15	Coffee Break
14:15 - 16:45	Addressing Behavior and Mindset Challenges

Wednesday, 26 April 2023

Venue: Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City
Time: 09.00 - 12.15 (GMT+7)
Participants: AUN Member and AUN-QA Associate Member Universities in Vietnam, European Experts, AUN-QA Experts, Representatives from MOET, and AUN-IQAS Task Force

08.30 - 09.00	**Reception**
Workshop 3: Way forward for Vietnamese Higher Education Institutions *(Plenary Session)* **Moderator:** Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti	
09.00 - 10.00	Prioritizing Changes for the Better IQA System in Vietnamese Higher Education Institutions
10.00 - 10.30	Coffee Break
10.30 - 12.00	Way forward for Vietnamese Higher Education Institutions
12:00 - 12:15	**Closing Session** ● Representative of Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam (MOET) ● Representative of Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (VNUHCM) ● Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti, Executive Director of ASEAN University Network
12.15 - 13.30	Lunch

Date and Time:
Workshop: 24-26 April 2023, 9.00 AM - 16.00 PM (GMT+7)

Target participants:
- 2 representatives per university from AUN Member and AUN-QA Associate Members Approx. 80-90 representatives from Selected Universities in Viet Nam that have conducted AUN-QA Programme Assessment
- Representatives from Ministry of Education and Training, Viet Nam

Workshop Methodology:
Process consultation workshop

Finances, Roles, and Responsibilities

This project will be co-funded between the Ministry of Education and Training of Viet Nam and ASEAN University Network.

The Ministry of Education and Training of Viet Nam will be responsible for:
- Inviting selected participants from universities in Viet Nam
- Providing local transportation

Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City will be responsible for:
- Meeting Venue and its facilities
- Providing onsite technician during the meetings
- Lunches and coffee breaks
- Local transportation for EU and ASEAN Experts and the AUN Secretariat

ASEAN University Network will be responsible for:
- Inviting European and ASEAN experts
- Providing international transportation to all experts
- Providing accommodation to all experts
- Providing staff for monitoring onsite activities

Selected participants will be responsible for:
- Accommodation
- Local transportation