



NIAD-UE



Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between

National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation, Japan

and the

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, Australia

This Memorandum of Cooperation is made between the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation of 1-29-1 Gakuen-nishi-machi Kodaira, Tokyo 187-8587 Japan, hereafter referred to as NIAD-UE

and the

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency,¹ of Level 14, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, hereafter referred to as TEQSA

Recitals

Whereas:

NIAD-UE is an incorporated administrative agency created by Japanese Act of General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agency and the NIAD-UE Law. NIAD-UE traces its roots to 1991 when its predecessor, NIAD, was established as an academic degree-awarding institution that in 2000 was renamed and reorganized as a new entity charged with evaluating universities in addition to its existing functions to contribute to the further development of higher education in Japan.

TEQSA was established under the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* as the independent, national regulatory and quality assurance agency for the higher education sector in Australia. TEQSA contributes to a high quality higher education sector through streamlined and nationally consistent higher education regulatory arrangements; registration of higher education providers; accreditation of higher education courses, quality assurance; and dissemination of higher education standards and performance.

¹ Representing the Commonwealth of Australia

NIAD-UE and TEQSA

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives in the assurance of quality in higher education, both parties now wish to establish a closer relationship as equal partners.

Article I

Aims

NIAD-UE and TEQSA agree through this Memorandum of Cooperation to cooperate for the benefit of both parties and to work towards enhancing regulation and quality assurance in both jurisdictions and with the aim of contributing to the improvement of the quality of higher education in Japan and Australia. This Memorandum of Cooperation is not however intended to create legally binding relations between the parties, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party.

Article II

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

NIAD-UE and TEQSA will work together:

- a) To cooperate in mutually agreed activities for the benefit of both parties, such as quality assurance projects and joint research.
- b) To exchange non-confidential policy documents and operational information and expertise where permissible and appropriate. This may include the sharing of information:
 - i. relevant to improving regulation and quality assurance, including key policy documents and operational information, and where appropriate, the sharing of operational practices
 - ii. to enable staff from the two agencies to support and learn from each other
 - iii. to assist each agency effectively perform its regulatory and quality assurance responsibilities; and
 - iv. on reviews or other activities that relate to programs provided collaboratively by higher education institutions between Japan and Australia.
- c) To aim to enhance awareness in Japan and Australia of each other's role in and approach to quality assurance of higher education.
- d) To provide developmental opportunities as appropriate for staff of both parties.

Article III

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum of Cooperation will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for three years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party. It may be extended on mutual agreement of both parties.

Article IV

Alteration of Memorandum

This Memorandum is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be altered with the consent of both parties.

Article V

Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The President of NIAD-UE (at the time of signing Dr Tomoyuki Nogami) and The Chief Commissioner of TEQSA (at the time of signing Ms Dorte Kristoffersen) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum and taking stock of the terms of the Memorandum on an annual basis. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Day to day liaison on the issues that are the subject of this Memorandum will occur between the Director, International Affairs Division, of NIAD-UE (at the time of signing Ms Eri Hata) and the Director, Executive and International of TEQSA (at the time of signing Ms Tricia Roessler).

These responsibilities may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Article VI

Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, each agency will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Article VII

Schedule of projects and activities

Specific details on any projects or other activities that are entered into under the terms of this Memorandum shall be negotiated and agreed by both parties and will be described in administrative schedules to be annexed to the Memorandum.

Signed in Japan on 14 May, 2014

Signed in Australia on 20 May, 2014

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Dr Tomoyuki Nogami
President
NIAD-UE

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Ms Dorte Kristoffersen
Acting Chief Commissioner
TEQSA