



Memorandum of Understanding

between

**National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation
Tokyo, Japan**

and

**the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
Gloucester, United Kingdom**

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

And

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, of Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB, United Kingdom, hereafter referred to as QAA

Recitals

Whereas:

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;

QAA was established in 1997 and is responsible for safeguarding the public interest in sound standards of higher education qualifications and to inform and encourage continuous improvement in the management of the quality of higher education in the United Kingdom;

NIAD-UE and QAA

Having similar missions and institutional objectives in the advancement of quality assurance in higher education, NIAD-UE and QAA now wish to continue the closer relationship as equal partners that was established with the initial MOU in 2007 for the purpose of creating cooperative and collaborative mechanisms for the mutual benefit of both parties.

Article I

Aims of Memorandum of Understanding

NIAD-UE and QAA agree hereby with the renewed Memorandum of Understanding to co-operate for the benefit of both parties and to work towards establishing a strategic alliance to enhance the operation of external quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improve the quality of higher education in Japan and the United Kingdom.

Article II

Areas of Co-operation and Collaboration

NIAD-UE and QAA will continue to work together:

- a) To exchange information and expertise as appropriate. This will include:
 - Key policy documents and operational information where appropriate and in particular where they relate to provision provided by higher education institutions from both countries jointly.
 - Information on programmes of study and institutions in which each party has an interest, subject to any overriding requirements of confidentiality to which either agency may be subject
 - Information on review or other activity that relates to programmes provided by higher education institutions from both countries jointly
- b) To co-operate in the identification of fraudulent awarding bodies or accrediting agencies which may adversely affect the reputation of higher education in Japan and the UK
- c) To provide developmental opportunities as appropriate for staff of both parties
- d) To collaborate on quality assurance projects
- e) To collaborate in joint research of mutual benefit
- f) To co-operate in any other mutually agreed activities for the benefit of both parties thereto.

Article III

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for five 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
Officers responsible for managing the Memorandum**

The President of NIAD-UE (at the time of signing Shin-ichi Hirano, D.Eng.) and the Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Mr Anthony McClaran) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum. This responsibility 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, the two agencies 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 27 January, 2012

Signed in UK on 1 February, 2012

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Shin-ichi Hirano
President
NIAD-UE
Japan

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Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive
QAA
United Kingdom