Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Japan and International Collaborations of NIAD-UE

Akihiko Kawaguchi
National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE)
Japan
University Evaluation of NIAD-UE

- Quality Assurance System in Japan
- Certified Evaluation and Accreditation
- National University Corporation Evaluation
- International Collaborations of NIAD-UE
Quality Assurance System in Japan

Universities

- Appropriate administration of academic degrees, admissions and curricula
- Information disclosure
- Self-assessment

Continuous engagement in internal quality assurance respecting universities’ autonomy

Nationwide Quality Assurance System

The Standards for the Establishment of Universities

Establishment-Approval System

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation

Contributing as a legal framework to the quality assurance and enhancement of universities

Appropriate administration of academic degrees, admissions and curricula

Information disclosure

Self-assessment

Continuous engagement in internal quality assurance respecting universities’ autonomy
Nationwide Quality Assurance System

The Standards for the Establishment of Universities
Minimum standards for establishing a new university, e.g., Curricula, Faculty, University Sites, University Buildings etc.

Establishment-Approval System
Focusing on conformity with the Standards and feasibility of the application including the continuity of managing academic programs

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation
Accreditation (to assess whether a university fulfills the Standards) and evaluation (to promote the quality enhancement of education and research) by third-party organizations

Assuring and ensuring the minimum quality of universities by these ex-ante regulations

Quality Assurance System = Ex-ante regulations and Third-party accreditation and evaluation
University Evaluation of NIAD-UE

- Evaluations of education and research activities of higher education institutions (certified evaluation and accreditation)

- Assessment of education and research activities of national university corporations (national university corporation evaluation)
Concept of ‘Certified Evaluation and Accreditation’

- **Certified**: NIAD-UE is a certified organization by MEXT as an appropriate body to carry out a fair process.
- **Evaluation**: Assessing the quality of a university by identifying ‘Good practices’ and advisable ‘Improvements’ to promote its quality enhancement and individualization.
- **Accreditation**: Judging on whether or not the university satisfies the NIAD-UE’s Standards (presenting criteria that NIAD-UE considers necessary in universities maintaining its quality).
Outline of Certified Evaluation and Accreditation (1)

- Mandatory review scheme under the School Education Law.
- All universities, junior colleges and colleges of technology are obliged to be evaluated by an evaluation organization at least once in seven years.
- An institution is to inspect and assess the overall condition of education, research, management and facilities in order to enhance the quality of education and research. The results of self-assessment must be made public.
A university with professional graduate school also undertakes a school level of certified evaluation and accreditation at least in five years about the condition of education and research including curriculum and academic staff.

Certified evaluation and accreditation is to be carried out, at the request of an institution, in accordance with the standards for the evaluation and accreditation set out by an implementing organization.
Evaluation and Accreditation Organizations

- NIAD-UE was certified for evaluation and accreditation organization of universities, junior colleges, colleges of technology and graduate law schools in 2005.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Institution /Schools*</th>
<th>Certified Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>NIAD-UE, Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA), Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation (JIHEE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Colleges</td>
<td>NIAD-UE, Japan Association for College Accreditation (JACA), JUAA, JIHEE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Technology</td>
<td>NIAD-UE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Law Schools</td>
<td>NIAD-UE, Japan Law Foundation, JUAA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Certified organizations exist in the area of Management, Accounting, Midwifery, Clinical Psychology, Public Policy, and few other areas, in addition to graduate law schools.
Purpose of NIAD-UE’s Certified Evaluation and Accreditation

- To assure and enhance the quality of institutions’ education and research activities by evaluating in accordance with the evaluation and accreditation standards
- To promote their approach to internal quality assurance by providing institutions with higher quality evaluation and accreditation results
- To assist them in promoting their activities to the public by clarifying the condition of their education and research
Fundamental Policies of NIAD-UE’s Certified Evaluation and Accreditation

- Reference to the standards for certified evaluation and accreditation
- Focus on educational activities
- Contribution to the development of individuality
- Evaluation and accreditation based on self-assessment
- Use of peer review
- A highly transparent system
NIAD-UE’s Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation of Universities

Standard 1: Purpose of the University
Standard 2: Education and Research Structure
Standard 3: Academic Staff and Education Supporting Staff
Standard 4: Student Admission
Standard 5: Academic Programs
Standard 6: Effectiveness of Institutional Performance
Standard 7: Student Support
Standard 8: Facilities
Standard 9: Internal Quality Assurance System
Standard 10: Finance
Standard 11: Management

◆ Each standard is accompanied by ‘Viewpoints’ that indicates reference points and example data.
# Comparison of Two Review Schemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certified Evaluation and Accreditation</th>
<th>National University Corporation Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Basis:</strong> School Education Law</td>
<td><strong>Legal Basis:</strong> National University Corporation Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concept:</strong> Periodical review of all universities, junior colleges, and colleges of technology, and professional graduate schools</td>
<td><strong>Concept:</strong> Performance-based evaluation of all national university corporations and inter-university research institute corporations on their attainment of mid-term objectives and plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NIAD-UE’s Responsibility:</strong> Reviewing universities, junior colleges, colleges of technology and graduate law schools as a Minister-certified organization</td>
<td><strong>NIAD-UE’s Responsibility:</strong> Reviewing a corporation’s attainment level of mid-term objectives for education and research - as a work delegated from the MEXT’s Evaluation Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concepts of National University Corporation Evaluation

◆ Performance-based evaluation of all national university corporations and inter-university research institute corporations.

◆ National University Corporation Evaluation Committee (MEXT) assesses their attainment of mid-term objectives, mid-term plan and annual plan.

◆ The Committee delegates the evaluation of a corporation’s attainment level of mid-term objectives for education and research to NIAD-UE.

◆ The results are made use of developing next mid-term plan and affect the rate of management grant allocations to each corporation.
Major Policy on NIAD-UE’s International Activities

- Internationalization of the NIAD-UE’s evaluation schemes and the Japanese quality assurance system

- Promotion of international university exchanges from the aspect of quality assurance
Research Activities

Research concerning quality assurance of higher education:

- Survey on quality assurance for international cooperation programs
- Degrees and qualification certification system
- Assessment of learning outcomes

Periodically publishing the Journal of NIAD-UE ‘Research on Academic Degrees and University Evaluation’
Developing Information Provision Tools

Aiming to provide useful information and assisting in universities’ information provision workings

NIAD-UE’s Information Package

University Evaluation Information Portal
Initiatives of Developing Visualization Tools

‘NIAD-UE Information Package’

◆ Consisting of ‘Glossary’ on the Japanese QA system, ‘Overview Documents’ on the both Japanese and overseas QA systems, and ‘General Principles and Standards’ of the NIAD-UE’s certified evaluation and accreditation

◆ Publishing as a ‘Package’ in a bilingual format (JP + EN)

◆ ‘Overview Documents’ - Japan, US, Australia, UK and Netherlands are publicly available

◆ Aiming to promote mutual understanding and help understand the overseas QA systems by providing their basic information
Initiatives for Enhancing Mutual Understanding

NIAD-UE-QAA Glossary Project (2007)

The initial collaborative activity based on the MoU to identify the differences and commonalities between Japan and the UK, as well as fostering QAA’s understanding of the Japanese system.

International Information Package Workshop
(as an APQN Pre-Conference Event, March 2010, Bangkok)

Exchanged views and ideas on effective information-sharing methods while sharing the recognition of the importance of mutual understanding to encourage international QA collaboration across national and language boundaries.
Forums and Workshops
(Recent Themes)

- Contributions from UNECSO, OECD and WB:
  Experiences on assessment of student learning outcomes (Autumn 2011)
- ‘Establishing the quality assurance system based on learning outcomes’ (2010)
- ‘Effective use of academic resources for enhancing internal quality assurance system’ (2009)
- ‘Strategy and methodology for utilizing university evaluation’ (2008)
MoU Partners with NIAD-UE

Europe
- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA, 02/2007)
- Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders, (NVAO, 06/2010)
- Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic, 06/2010)
- Evaluation Agency for Research and Higher Education (AERES, 03/2011)

Asia
- Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (HEEC, 09/2007)
- Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ, 03/2010)
- Korean Council for University Education (KCUE, 08/2010)
- Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA, 03/2011)
- National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (BAN-PT, 03/2011)
- Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT, 06/2011)
Efforts for Multilateral Partnerships

Japan-China-Korea Quality Assurance Council
Founded: March 2010
Members: NIAD-UE, HEEC, KCUE, and the governments from respective countries as observers

Themes of Project Groups:

◆ PG1: Enhancing Mutual Understanding
  ✓ Visualizing each county’s QA system for mutual understanding

◆ PG2: Cooperation in the QA of Internationalized Education
  ✓ Step-by-step approach: Mutually understanding the treatment of international education, creating a reference document (a joint guideline, etc.), and discussing the necessity and possibility of a joint evaluation for joint provisions

◆ PG3: Staff/Experts Exchanges
  ✓ incl. holding research seminars

National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation
Progress and Goal of Japan-China-Korea Cooperation

◆ Japan-China-Korea Trilateral Summit Meeting (10/2009)
  ✓ Agreed to promote international cooperation among Japan-China-Korea universities under a governmental-level expert

◆ Collaborative frameworks between Japan-China-Korea established (Governmental-level, QAAs-level)

◆ ‘CAMPUS Asia” project launched (04/2010)

◆ Contribute to promoting the university exchange with quality assurance among the three countries and share the experiences with East Asian nations.

◆ Increase interaction among the three countries in order to strengthen social and economic ties, and contribute to the creation of a common structure within East Asia.
Sharing Good Practices and Experiences

◆ International seminars
  ✓ Invited experts from Australia (TEQSA), ASEAN 5 countries, Netherlands (NVAO, Nuffic), Nordic 5 countries, etc.

◆ Study visits
  ✓ Focusing on QA mechanism for double degree programs, joint accreditation, internationalization of universities, etc.

◆ Hosting training programs
  ✓ ‘The Immersion Program for BAN-PT Assessors’ : 10-days program incl. lectures and site visits
Contribution to International QA Networks

- Full-member of INQAAHE and APQN
- Organized the 4th APQN Conference and AGM in Japan (02/2008)
- Aiming to promote mutual understanding as well as sharing good practices among international QA community
  - Disseminating NIAD-UE’s experiences through INQAAHE GPQA Database
  - Organized the international workshop on mutual understanding at APQN 2008 Conference
Thank you for your attention

Further information:

www.niad.ac.jp