

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the

***Akkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge der Ingenieurwissenschaften, der
Informatik, der Naturwissenschaften und der Mathematik ASIIN e.V.***

and the

***National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Education
(NAQAAE)***

**aiming at setting the stage for an agreement on the substantial equivalency
of accreditation criteria and procedures of both Organizations**

November 26th, 2008



Preamble

Both ASIIN e. V. and NAQAAE cover substantial expertise in the accreditation of academic degree programmes. Their main objective is to ensure that graduates from accredited degree programmes are excellently qualified both academically and for their professional career.

The Akkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge der Ingenieurwissenschaften, der Informatik, der Naturwissenschaften und der Mathematik – ASIIN e.V. (Accreditation Agency for Degree Programs in Engineering, Informatics, Natural Sciences and Mathematics) is a provider of quality assurance services in higher education, namely accreditation of degree programs and of quality management systems. ASIIN e. V. was founded in 1999. Organised as a membership-based not-for-profit association under German law, ASIIN e. V. is carried by a broad coalition of academic and professional associations and higher education institutions. All activities of ASIIN e. V. are aimed at securing and further expanding high standards and the quality of higher education – within Germany and internationally.

In the field of programme accreditation, ASIIN e.V. is specialised in reviewing degree programmes in engineering, informatics, mathematics and the natural sciences. On the institutional level, ASIIN e.V. undertakes reviews of quality management systems at higher education institutions. These areas of expertise are reflected in the composition of its boards and committees which consist of national and international experts in the respective fields.

The assessments carried out by ASIIN e. V. are based on the peer review principle. They focus on the outcomes of the process under review and combine a fitness-for-purpose approach (checking the coherence of objectives and results as the objectives must be demonstrated to reflect the interests of the stakeholders in the respective process).

The National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education – NAQAAE, The Egyptian National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Education (NAQAAE) was established by a presidential decree in 2006 to assure the quality of, and accredit the Egyptian education. The NAQAAE is an authority that reports to the Prime Minister directly. It is located in Cairo and is in the process of establishing several branches to service the 27 Governorates.

NAQAAE is a novice organization. It was established in 8/11/2007 with the main goal of supporting more than 50,000 Egyptian educational institutes in fostering quality assurance measures and preparing them for accreditation. It is the accrediting body for all Egyptian educational society (higher education, pre- university, and Al-Azhar education). The organization structure of NAQAAE includes a president, 3 Vice-presidents and eleven members as well as other qualified professionals from different professional, Academic and entrepreneurial backgrounds.

The collaboration of both agencies

Sealed with this contract builds upon a tradition of mutual acknowledgment and close cooperation.

On this basis and with the conviction

- that the procedures and criteria applied to accreditation processes in both regions correspond to a sufficient or acceptable level.
- that the future goal of mutual recognition can best be attained if an agreement on equivalent quality standards is supplemented by assuming a joint responsibility for the accreditations of a multitude of joint bi- and international degree programmes,
- that differences between the existing systems of accreditation must and can be appropriately considered in this joint endeavour,

NAQAAE and ASIIN e. V. agree to the following memorandum of understanding concerning their future collaboration.

§ 1 – Goals of the Cooperation

The contracting parties cooperate in the execution of accreditation procedures of bi-national degree programmes within the framework of their respective competences.

The cooperation takes place with the goals of

- furthering the building of quality assurance systems for higher education;
- supporting the quality management of regional networks of higher education institutions;
- working together in cross-border projects aiming at quality improvement and assurance in higher education;
- perspectively: carrying out joint accreditations of bi- and international degree programmes in the engineering and natural sciences; and
- establishing guidelines for and an agreement about the substantial equivalency of accreditations of degree programmes in the engineering and natural sciences awarded by each contracting party.

These goals shall be attained through:

- mutual information and discussion about the execution and development of the accreditation procedures of the respective contracting parties and of the jointly executed accreditation processes. For this purpose, the contracting parties will mutually examine their respective accreditation practices and standards in a constructive and critical manner, and together identify examples of best practice;
- the development and execution of a joint "code of good practice" taking into consideration internationally established guidelines;
- the promotion of cooperation in international accreditation processes;

- the establishment of a common pool of peer evaluators composed of bilingual, German and Arabic or Arabic and English speaking evaluators, according to the specific situation and agreement.

§ 2 – Actions

1. The contracting parties agree to inform each other regularly about their activities in the stated areas of activity. It is envisaged that yearly personal consultations between representatives the contracting parties will be held.
2. The contracting parties intend to organise and carry out joint workshops on specific topics related to quality assurance in engineering higher education.
3. The contracting parties will give the members of their pools of peer evaluators the opportunity to participate in training seminars for their evaluating activities and to observe accreditation processes.

§ 3 – Costs

Each contracting party will assume its own costs and those of its representatives incurred for participating in actions taken under this cooperation agreement.

§ 4 – Cooperation with other (Accreditation) Institutions

This agreement is not exclusive and does not impede each of the contracting parties to sign agreements with other evaluation and/or accreditation bodies.

§ 5 – Language

The contracting parties agree to formulate cooperation agreements and all other written documents concerning their cooperation in English. Documents regarding specific accreditation processes are provided in English translations in addition to their original language, if required also in all these languages.

§ 6 – Termination of the Cooperation

This agreement is signed for a normal period of four years, automatically reconducted for a new period of four years, except if one of the contracting parties has given a six month written notice in advance of its will to terminate it.

In any case the contracting parties may terminate this agreement for important reasons with six months' notice before the date which corresponds to the terminating date of this cooperation agreement.

§ 7 – Final Regulations

1. Changes or additions to this cooperation agreement must be provided in written form and signed by both contracting parties to be valid.
2. The respective managing directors of the contracting parties are in charge of the implementation of this cooperation agreement.
3. This cooperation agreement enters into force through the signature of both contracting parties.

Cairo,

Düsseldorf,

Prof. Dr. Magdy Kassem



NAQAAE President - Chairman of the Board

Prof. Dr. Burkhard Rauhut



ASIIN e. V. – Chairman of the Board