

KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)

Adopted on 8 July 2008 during the “ASEAN Quality Assurance Agencies Roundtable Meeting” organised by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED)

The officials of the quality assurance agencies and ministries responsible for higher education from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED), as listed in the Appendix, on the occasion of the first ASEAN Quality Assurance Agencies Roundtable Meeting on Tuesday, 8 July 2008

REALISING the active movement towards the development of an ASEAN Economic Community,

CONSCIOUS of the benefits of collaboration and sharing, and the crucial role of quality assurance in promoting harmonisation in higher education,

MINDFUL of the diversity and the different stages of the development of quality assurance systems and agencies at national levels,

ACKNOWLEDGING the mutual interests and common concerns amongst them,

AFFIRMING the need for closer relationship between people in the region through mobility of students, faculty and programmes,

DESIRING to complement the role of regional and international quality assurance networks,

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

FIRST, the establishment of a network of quality assurance agencies among Southeast Asian Countries to be known as ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN).

SECOND, the aims and purposes of the AQAN shall be:

- i. to share best practices of quality assurance;
- ii. to develop an ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework;
- iii. to collaborate on capacity building; and
- iv. to facilitate recognition of qualifications and cross-border mobility.

THIRD, to carry out these aims and purposes, the following machinery shall be established:

- i. An Annual Roundtable Meeting of representatives of quality assurance bodies and ministries responsible for higher education shall be convened. Special meetings may be convened as and when agreed upon.
- ii. A Standing Committee shall be formed and its members shall be determined at a later date.
- iii. A temporary Secretariat shall be established in the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA). A permanent Secretariat shall be determined at a later date.

FOURTH, the network is open for participation to all quality assurance agencies or agencies responsible for quality assurance of higher education in Southeast Asian countries.

DONE in Kuala Lumpur on the Eighth Day of July in the Year Two Thousand and Eight.