



Memorandum of Understanding

between

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

and

**Evaluation Agency for Research and Higher Education,
France**

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

Evaluation Agency for Research and Higher Education, of 20 rue Vivienne, Paris, 75002, FRANCE, hereafter referred to as AERES

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;

AERES is an independent administrative authority created by France's Research Programme Act of 2006, and set up in 2007.

AERES is tasked with evaluating higher education institutions, research organizations, research units, higher education programmes and degrees and improving the quality of the French research and higher education system.

NIAD-UE and AERES

Having similar missions and institutional objectives in the advancement of quality assurance in higher education, NIAD-UE and AERES now wish to establish closer relations as equal partners 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 AERES agree hereby to enter into a 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, France, and the International Community.

Article II

Areas of Co-operation and Collaboration

NIAD-UE and AERES will work together:

- a) To exchange information and expertise as appropriate. This will include:
 - Key policy documents and operational information where appropriate and in particular provided by higher education institutions from Japan and France 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
- b) To provide developmental opportunities as appropriate for the staff of both parties
- c) To collaborate on quality assurance projects
- d) To collaborate in joint research of mutual benefit, particularly cooperation on evaluation, accreditation, and learning outcomes
- e) 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 based on the 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 President of AERES (at the time of signing Professor Jean-François Dhainaut) 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 30 March, 2011

Signed in France on 17 March, 2011

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Shin-ichi Hirano, D.Eng.
President
NIAD-UE
Japan

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Professor Jean-François Dhainaut
President
AERES
France