



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

between

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

and

**Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and  
Vocational Qualifications, Hong Kong, China**

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

Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, of 10/F & 23/F, Cambridge House, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, China, hereafter referred to as HKCAAVQ

### **Recitals**

#### **Whereas:**

NIAD, which was the predecessor of NIAD-UE, was established in 1991 as an academic degree-awarding institution, and in 2000, was reorganized and renamed NIAD-UE as a new entity charged with carrying out the evaluation of universities in addition to its existing functions to contribute to further development of higher education in Japan;

HKCAAVQ (formerly Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation) was established by statute as an independent body in 1990. With the implementation of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (QF) in 2008, it assumes the role as the Accreditation Authority and the QR (Qualifications Register) Authority. It provides accreditation services for non self-accrediting publicly funded and private institutions and vocational training operators. It renders qualifications assessment services by offering a professional opinion on the comparability of the totality of the educational qualifications of an individual with a particular qualification level in Hong Kong. It also performs advisory functions in respect of educational qualifications and standards in general.

## **NIAD-UE and HKCAAVQ**

Having similar missions and institutional objectives in the advancement of quality assurance in higher education, 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 HKCAAVQ 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 and Hong Kong.

### **Article II**

#### **Areas of Co-operation and Collaboration**

NIAD-UE and HKCAAVQ 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 where they relate to provision provided by higher education institutions from Japan and Hong Kong 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 Japan and Hong Kong 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 Hong Kong
- 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 three 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 Executive Director of HKCAAVQ (at the time of signing Prof. Yiu-Kwan Fan) 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 Hong Kong on 18 March 2010

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Shin-ichi Hirano  
President  
NIAD-UE  
Japan

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Yiu-Kwan Fan  
Executive Director  
HKCAAVQ  
Hong Kong