



NIAD-UE



**nva**o

*nederlands-vlaamse accreditatie organisatie*

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

between

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

and

**Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders,  
The Netherlands and Flanders**

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

Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders, of Parkstraat 28, 2514 JK, the Hague, The Netherlands, hereafter referred to as NVAO

### **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 evaluating universities in addition to its existing functions to contribute to the further development of higher education in Japan;

NVAO is a statutory body established under the Treaty for the establishment of a bi-national accreditation organization of the Netherlands and Flanders, which was signed in 2003 and came into effect in 2005, to perform as the accreditation and quality assurance authority under the qualifications framework as well as other functions in connection with assessing and accrediting programmes, contributing to the increase of quality awareness within higher education and improving the position of higher education in the Netherlands and Flanders in the national and international context.

### **NIAD-UE and NVAO**

Having similar missions and institutional objectives in the advancement of quality assurance in higher education, NIAD-UE and NVAO 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 NVAO 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, The Netherlands, and Flanders.

## **Article II**

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

NIAD-UE and NVAO 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, The Netherlands, and Flanders 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 Chairman of NVAO (at the time of signing Dr. Karl Dittrich) 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 Tokyo, Japan on 17 June, 2010

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

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Dr. Karl Dittrich  
Chairman  
NVAO  
The Netherlands and Flanders