

NEWSLETTER March 2010

ASEM EDUCATION SECRETARIAT ATTENDS CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (EAIE) IN NANTES

The ASEM Education Secretariat applied successfully for a session at the coming EAIE conference in Nantes on September 15th to 17th 2010. The EAIE conference is a yearly event which brings together internationalisation professionals from higher education. Last year in Madrid there were over 3.600 participants from 80 countries.

In the Nantes session the Secretariat will explain the working of ASEM through its organisations and illustrate their meaning and opportunities for European higher education institutions. To put this Asia-Europe cooperation in perspective, the view from an American expert in higher education international relations is included.

Further information can be obtained under:

<http://www.eaie.org/Nantes/>

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

On March 11th and 12th the Ministers in charge of higher education of the 46 Bologna countries and the European Commission met in Budapest (Hungary) and Vienna (Austria) to launch the European Higher Education Area, as envisaged in the Bologna declaration of 1999. The Ministers welcomed Kazakhstan as 47th member in the "Bologna family" and outlined their efforts to further enhance the reforms already underway. In their Budapest-Vienna Declaration the Ministers acknowledged "that adjustments and further work, involving staff and students, are necessary at European, national, and especially institutional levels to achieve the European Higher Education Area".

In order to intensify the policy dialogue and cooperation with partners outside the Bologna area, the Austrian host invited representatives from about 35 non-European countries including the Asian ASEM countries China, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. During the so-called Bologna Policy Forum, the participants focussed their debate on how higher education systems and institutions respond to growing demands and multiple expectations.

Furthermore mobility of staff and students, including the challenges and opportunities of "brain circulation", and the balance between cooperation and competition in international higher education were discussed. In an introductory information session the delegations from outside Europe received an up-date on the latest developments in the European Bologna reform. Dr. Siegbert Wuttig, the Director of the ASEM Education Secretariat, informed the participants on the ASEMundus project aimed at fostering academic cooperation and mobility between Asia and Europe.

Further information on the Bologna Policy Forum can be downloaded under:

<http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/Bologna/>

During the Forum Dr. Siegbert Wuttig and Jan Pakulski from the European Commission met representatives of China, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines in order to exchange opinions and discuss possible themes for further cooperation. Quality assurance and related topics such as the development and implementation of qualifications frameworks were identified as important areas of cooperation. Therefore, the European Commission together with the ASEM Education Secretariat are considering to organise a seminar on qualifications frameworks in late autumn 2010.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

On March 3rd to 5th the Annual Conference of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) took place in Bangkok, Thailand. The APQN promotes regional cooperation and networking among quality assurance agencies from 26 member countries in the Asian-Pacific Region. The network has been founded 2003 in Hong Kong; current host is the Shanghai Educational Evaluation Institute (SEEI).

This year's conference, which was co-hosted by the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) and the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development, focussed on "Enhancing Quality of Higher Education in the Developing World". It brought together more than 250 quality

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assurance experts and practitioners from more than 30 countries. The objectives were to highlight current challenges and issues of quality assurance in higher education, to share good practices and to enhance regional cooperation amongst agencies. Although current developments in the field of quality assurance were first of all discussed from the viewpoint of challenges and trends in the Asian-Pacific region, the perspective was also widened by taking the developments in other regions into account. It was stressed that cooperation was not only necessary within, but also beyond the region. In this context good practice examples aiming at capacity development for quality assurance on a regional level were given. One of the European initiatives presented was the joint DAAD and HRK (German Rectors' Conference) programme on regional cooperation in quality assurance in higher education within the DIES framework.

More information on the conference, including a documentation of the presentations can be obtained under:

<http://www.onesqa.or.th/onesqa/th/seminar/detail.php?GroupID=&ID=384&SystemKey=seminar>

GOING GLOBAL 4

WORLD POTENTIAL: MAKING EDUCATION MEET THE CHALLENGE

From March 24th to 26th 2010, the British Council organised its yearly conference on international education. During this fourth event, debates on topics such as student and staff mobility, global partnerships, global citizens and policy and leadership were offered. Over 1.000 delegates from 70 countries have attended the conference. The participants usually come from across all education sectors, government, NGO's, development assistance organisations and media. Further information and presentations can be obtained under:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/goingglobal-gg4-programme-at-a-glance.htm>

THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MODEL: LOOKING BEYOND 2020

On April 19th and 20th the Spanish EU-Presidency organises a meeting that should lead to promote a stronger dialogue on international cooperation between universities from different parts of the world, giving impetus to a Community strategy in this regard. It is especially relevant as a practical

means for establishing the internationalisation of higher education and universities. The results of the conference will be discussed at the Education Council. The general objective of the conference is to exchange experiences and best practices on international interuniversity cooperation and to lay the foundations for a Community strategy on international cooperation in higher education. During the conference different models of higher education in the world the different models of higher education in the world, their future development, the possibilities and means of international cooperation between them will be explored.

Further information can be obtained under:

http://www.eu2010.es/en/agenda/grupostrabajoycomites/abr20_educacion_superior.html

JAPAN, CHINA AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONSIDER A JOINT ACADEMIC CREDIT SYSTEM

According to a message recently released by the Yomiuri Shimbun, a Japanese daily newspaper, Japan, China and the Republic of Korea intend to implement steps to evaluate students' academic achievements and certify academic credits in order to encourage more students to study abroad. The purpose is that Japan's state-run universities in future should allow students with credits from foreign colleges to "enter the next academic grade.". This initiative is part of Japan's global strategy to open up the country to the whole world and expand flows of people between Japan and countries in Asia and other regions in the world.

Further information can be obtained under:

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20100301TDY02304.htm>

ASEMUNDUS

As already presented in the November edition of the newsletter, ASEMUNDUS aims at enhancing higher education cooperation between the EU and Asia by making the ERASMUS Mundus programme more visible and accessible for interested Asian (ASEM) higher education institutions. The project is a joint initiative, coordinated by the DAAD and is co-financed by the European Commission in the framework of Erasmus Mundus Action 3 - Promotion of European Higher Education.

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The ASEMUNDUS consortium together with the DG EAC and the EACEA has identified Indonesia as a first target country. Hence, the first ASEMUNDUS promotion activities on Erasmus Mundus will be conducted in the realm of the European Higher Education Fair (EHEF) Jakarta 2010 taking place on October 9th to 10th. Apart from an active participation in the fair, ASEMUNDUS will organize a thematic contact seminar prior to the fair. The seminar will be designed to train selected local Erasmus Mundus Promoters on Erasmus Mundus in crucial aspects of European higher education. In addition, the seminar will provide time and space for networking to European and Asian higher education representatives. More detailed information on the activities will be publicized on the ASEMUNDUS website closer to the event. All ASEMUNDUS activities will be conducted in close cooperation with the DG EAC, the EACEA and the EU Delegation in Jakarta.

The EHEF Jakarta 2010 will be organised by the DAAD, NUFFIC and Campus France. Further information on the EHEF Jakarta 2010 can be found here: <http://www.ehefjakarta.org/>

For more detailed information on ASEMUNDUS and the project activities, please see:

<http://www.asem-education-secretariat.org/en/12184/>

COMING NEXT:

Recommendations from the ASEM University-industry forum in Bangkok

Results of the Berlin ASEM seminar on credits and learning outcomes

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