



MEMORANDUM OF ARRANGEMENT
BETWEEN
Academic Quality Agency For New Zealand Universities
AND
TAIWAN ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION ASSOCIATION
ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

This Memorandum of Arrangement is made between the **Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities (AQA)**, Level 9, 142 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011, New Zealand, hereafter referred to as AQA,

AND

the **Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA)**, 5F-1, No.3, Nanhai Rd., Jhongjheng District, Taipei City 10066, Taiwan, hereafter referred to as TWAEA.

THE Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities (AQA), AQA was established in 1993 by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee to maintain and enhance the academic activities of universities. Its purpose is: to contribute to the advancement of New Zealand university education by: engaging as a leader and advocate in the development of academic quality; applying quality assurance and quality enhancement processes that assist universities in improving student engagement, academic experience and learning outcomes; and supporting confidence in the academic quality of New Zealand universities.

TWAEA was established in 2003 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the provision of evaluation services, as well as the development and promotion of evaluation knowledge and techniques. Jointly founded by senior members of the academia and business sectors, TWAEA is committed to provide external quality assurance for any concerned party. From 2004 onwards, TWAEA has been engaged in evaluation projects commissioned by the Ministry of Education. Along with all other higher education evaluation agencies, TWAEA was officially recognized as a certified evaluation agency in 2009.

The two signatory agencies will be hereinafter referred singularly as “the Party” and collectively as “the Parties”.

WHEREAS:

The Parties are desirous of entering into this Memorandum of Arrangement to declare their respective intentions and to establish a basis of co-operation and collaboration between the Parties upon the terms as contained herein.

HAVE REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING as follows:

**PARAGRAPH I
OBJECTIVE**

The Parties, subject to the terms of this Memorandum of Arrangement and the laws, rules, regulations and national policies from time to time in force in each Party’s country, will endeavor to establish, strengthen, promote and develop co-operation between the Parties on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

**PARAGRAPH II
AREAS OF CO-OPERATION**

1. Each Party will, subject to the laws, rules, regulations and national policies from time to time in force governing the subject matter in their respective economies, endeavor to take necessary steps to encourage and promote technical co-operation that will be of mutual benefit to both Parties in the following areas:

(a) Exchange of Information

exchange policy documents and relevant operational information where appropriate to enable staff from the two agencies to support and learn from each other;

(b) Mutual Understanding

work to enhance their understanding of each other's approach to ensuring quality in higher education and the respective systems in place for quality in higher education;

(c) Quality Systems

aim to ensure that the roles of AQA and TWAEA in assuring quality of higher education in New Zealand and Taiwan are fully understood between the Parties; aim to enhance awareness in New Zealand and Taiwan of the roles of AQA and TWAEA in assuring quality of higher education in two economies;

(d) Emphases

ensure that two agencies fully understand which quality issues are of greatest importance to them, advising their higher education sectors on this, as appropriate;

(e) Staff Exchange

when appropriate and possible, support staff from the two agencies

- to spend time in each other's offices
 - to participate as observers in institutional audits, university accreditation, or the other equivalent operations
 - to be involved in other activities such as training, workshop, conference, and etc.
- so that staff are acquainted with systems, processes, and other relevant matters;

(f) Sharing of Each Other's Reviewers

where appropriate and possible, draw on auditors or accreditors or other specialists from each other's systems to strengthen the international dimension of institutional audits, university accreditation, or the other equivalent operations;

(g) Collaboration

where appropriate and possible, collaborative programmes in relation to the quality assurance and accreditation activities will be run in both economies;

2. For the purpose of implementing the co-operation in respect of any area stated in Paragraph I, the Parties will enter into a legally binding agreement subject to terms and conditions as mutually agreed upon by the Parties including clauses on "confidentiality", "suspension", "protection of intellectual property rights" and "settlement dispute".

**PARAGRAPH III
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

1. This Memorandum of Arrangement will not give rise to any financial obligation by one Party to the other.
2. Each Party will bear its own cost and expenses in relation to this Arrangement.

**PARAGRAPH IV
EFFECT OF ARRANGEMENT**

This Memorandum of Arrangement serves only as a record of the Parties' intentions and does not constitute or create, and is not intended to constitute or create, obligations under domestic or international law and will not give rise to any legal process and will not be deemed to constitute or create any legally binding or enforceable obligations, expressed or implied.

**PARAGRAPH V
NO AGENCY**

Nothing contained herein is to be construed so as to constitute a joint venture partnership or formal business organization of any kind between the Parties or so to constitute either Party as the agent of the other.

**PARAGRAPH VI
OTHER RIGHTS AND INTERESTS**

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Memorandum of Arrangement, where the implementation of this Memorandum of Arrangement affects any Party's rights and interests with respect to its national security, national and public interest or public order, protection of intellectual property rights, confidentiality and secrecy of documents, information and data, the Party may undertake appropriate steps or consultations to ensure that its rights and interests are protected and safeguarded.

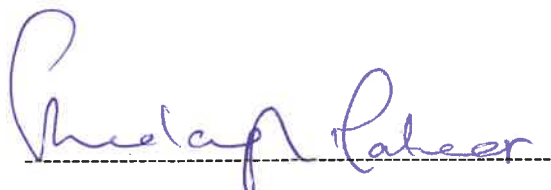
PARAGRAPH VII
ENTRY INTO EFFECT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

1. This Memorandum of Arrangement will come into effect on the date of signing and will remain in effect for a period of three (3) years.
2. This Memorandum of Arrangement may be extended for a further period as may be agreed in writing by the Parties.
3. Notwithstanding anything in this Memorandum of Arrangement, either Party may terminate this Memorandum of Arrangement by notifying the other Party of its intention to terminate this Memorandum of Arrangement by a notice in writing at least one (1) month prior to its intention to do so.

The foregoing record represents the understandings reached between AQA and TWAEA upon the matters referred to therein.

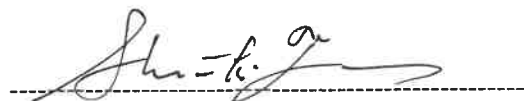
In witness whereof, the undersigned duly authorized have signed this Memorandum of Arrangement in duplicate in English language.

Signed in November 2019 by the representatives of both parties:



Sheelagh Matear
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand
Universities
(AQA)



Dr. SHEN-LI FU
CHAIRMAN

Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association
(TWAEA)