

NEWS & VIEWS

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HEC and QAA, UK Collaboration

3-day International Training on Quality Assurance in Higher Education

The Quality Assurance Division of Higher Education Commission (HEC) recently organized a three-day International Training on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), UK. The Directors of Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs) of public and private sector universities from all over Pakistan and officers of Quality Assurance Division and Quality Assurance Agency of HEC were among the participants.

Three resource persons from QAA conducted the training, which emphasized on effective implementation of various quality parameters in higher education that includes quality enhancement processes in HEIs, external and internal quality review procedures of an institution. The training is first of the series for which an MoU has been signed between HEC and QAA. Second training of the series will be organized in July 2011. This capacity building efforts of HEC is aimed at bringing international compatibility in the context of quality assurance.

Dr. Javid R. Laghari, Chairperson HEC, was the chief guest in the closing ceremony. In his remarks, he said that the higher education in Pakistan has to move towards more comparability and compatibility and it has to be made more transparent. He appreciated the cooperation and commitment of all higher education institutions in adopting the quality parameters defined by the Higher Education Commission.

"Creating new knowledge, transferring it to students and fostering innovation is the basic responsibility of the universities. The quality of higher education has proven to be at the heart of the setting up of a higher education in Pakistan," Dr. Laghari said, adding that the primary responsibility for quality assurance in higher education lies with the institution itself and this provides the basis for real accountability of the academic system within the national quality framework.

Dr. S. M. Raza, Adviser, Quality Assurance and Learning Innovation, HEC stressed the need to utilize skills developed during the training by the participants for improvement of quality enhancement processes in their respective universities. Dr. Raza said that quality assurance is part and parcel of all decisions of the HEC, be it faculty development, infrastructure or curriculum development.



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