

A Study on Quality Assurance System in Higher Education in Malaysia

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Malaysia has developed two ambitious programs to enhance its higher education; the 2010 plan which most of its content is accomplished and the plan of 2020 outlook that is already running. One of the seven parts of the 2020 long-term program is to develop the quality of teaching and learning; however, Malaysia Higher Education did not consider the program adequate, and it has other important activities on the agenda.

The present paper means to examine the Quality Assurance system of Malaysia in higher education in terms of outlook, strategies, missions and organizational structure.

The author's acquaintance with higher education system of Malaysia made it possible to interview with officials of Malaysian Qualifications Agency and to gain access to the relevant documents.

The results indicate the universities of Malaysia have undergone an extensive quantitative growth spurt similar to Iran in the last decade especially in private higher education sector. Therefore by recognizing the necessity on time, the year 2006 was named The Year of Quality Development and in 2007 the independent institution of Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MAQ) was established by merging the National Accreditation Board (Lembaga Akreditasi Negara)(LAN) and the Quality Assurance Division (QAD) of Ministry of Higher Education.

The two central slogans of this Agency include:

- 1. To have an internationally and officially reliable Quality Assurance Framework in higher education**
- 2. To draw the confidence of shareholders in the best possible way**

To review the objects, outlook, strategies and the programs of Quality Assurance System in Higher Education in Malaysia, which this paper means to, brings important experiences and teachings to higher education in Iran.

Key words: higher education, quality assurance, Malaysia, Malaysia Qualifications Agency (MQA)