

# Experiences in International Accreditation



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# Topics

- Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia accreditation
  - General experiences
  - Accreditation standards
  - Accreditation processes
- Cultural aspects of Saudi Arabia experience
- Post-international accreditation work
- International accreditation opportunities for DETC institutions and people
- Questions and Answers

# Background on International Accreditation

- Why me?...Why not?
  - Most any qualified DETC accreditation evaluator can do international work
  - We as DETC are perfectly positioned to ensure international distance education quality assurance
- Volunteered or was recommended
  - Third party recommendation
  - Submission of resume/c.v.
  - Formal evaluator application process
- Pre-visit arrangements
  - Visa
  - Business class air
  - Stipend
  - Escorted/hosted throughout visit

# General Experience with Hong Kong Accreditation

- Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Standards (HKCAAVQ)
- Team responsibilities:
  - institutional and program accreditation for a business-IT specialized institution
- Team representation:
  - 2 Australia (chair), 1 USA, 4 Hong Kong, 1 staff representative

# General Experience with Saudi Arabia Accreditation

- National Commission for Academic Accreditation and Assessment (NCAAA)
- Team responsibilities:
  - Evaluate Arab Open University against NCAAA distance education criteria for King Abdullah scholarship consideration
- Team representation:
  - 1 Australia (chair), 1 USA, 1 Scotland (absent), 2 Saudi Arabia, 1 staff liaison



# Cultural Aspects of Saudi Arabia Accreditation Experience



# Hong Kong Accreditation Standards: Institutional

- Corporate governance, management, organizational structure
- Academic decision making
- Academic planning and evaluation
- Academic program development and design
- Staffing
- Staff development and scholarly activities
- Student admissions
- Student services and records
- Quality assurance
- Resources

# Hong Kong Accreditation Standards: Program Validation

- Program leadership and management
- Program structure and content
- Curriculum and syllabi
- Admission
- Progression and assessment
- Teaching and learning
- Staffing
- Staff development
- Facilities and support
- Quality assurance

# Saudi Arabia Accreditation Standards

- Mission and Objectives
- Program Administration
- Management of Program Quality Assurance
- Learning and Teaching
- Student Administration and Support Services
- Learning Resources
- Facilities and Equipment
- Financial Planning and Management
- Employment Processes
- Research
- Institutional Relationship with the Community

# Hong Kong Accreditation Process

- Initial pre-visit mailing
  - Description of standards, process, etc.
  - Institution's submission against standards
  - Last team's report
- Pre-visit initial feedback from each team member to staff liaison
- Visit from staff liaison to institution
- Determination if team visit warranted
- Visit
  - Information gathering
  - Last day verbal outbriefing to institution with expected outcome
    - Preconditions with favorable outcome can be listed
    - Brief written report provided
  - Post-visit report
    - Compiled by the staff liaison and not by the team; reviewed and approved by team

# Saudi Arabia Accreditation Process

- Initial pre-visit mailing
  - Description of standards
  - Institution's self evaluation report
    - Self evaluation scales
- Evaluation site visit
- Last day of the site visit – outbrief with no indication of results to institution
- Day after site visit, team report with recommended outcome to accrediting council
- No post-visit responsibilities

# Post-Accreditation Work

- Strategic Insights
- Chronicle of Higher Education  
Commentary
- Kenya

# Opportunities for DETC Institutions through International Accreditation

- *Recruit* international students
  - 40,000 Saudi students seek overseas degrees annually
  - Many more cannot travel but would enroll online
  - Many reputable third party enrollment contractors
- *Partner* with other nations' higher education agencies and accreditation organizations to share information
  - DETC helped Saudi Arabia formulate its distance education standards
- *Partner* with foreign universities to provide
  - associate-to-bacheloreate-to-master's degree transition,
  - study abroad opportunities for host country graduates,
  - transfer of credit from host country to U.S.-based institutions,
  - host country graduates' access to U.S. distance education programs
- *Fill a void*: There is no U.S. portal for qualified evaluators to volunteer their services/submit their qualifications
  - Perhaps a role for DETC (distance education) or CHEA

# Opportunities as an International Accreditation Evaluator

- Each country has a quality assurance, regulatory, and/or accreditation agency
  - Most developing nations need and actively seek out international expertise because they do not have it in country
- Country point of contact lists
  - United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO's) Portal on Higher Education Institutions ([www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org))
  - Council of Higher Education Accreditation's International Quality Review and Directory ([www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org))
- Offering your services

# Resources in International Education, Quality Assurance, Etc.

- *International Higher Education*
  - Boston College Center for International Higher Education
- *IIE Networker: The International Education Magazine*
  - Institute of International Education
- *Higher Education Policy*
  - International Association of Universities, UNESCO
- *Distance Education*
  - The University of Melbourne (Australia)
- *Journal of Studies in International Education*
  - SAGE Publications (Amsterdam)
- *Quality in Higher Education*
  - Center for Research into Quality (England)

# Thank You!

- Handouts with more information
  - Commentary from *Chronicle of Higher Education* (Hillyard)
  - ACCSCT Press Release (McComis)
  - Article from *Strategic Insights* (Hillyard)
- Questions and Answers