
 <p>جمهورية مصر العربية وزارة التعليم العالي</p>	<p>Arab Republic Of Egypt Ministry Of Higher Education Higher Education Enhancement Project Quality Assurance and Accreditation Project (QAAP)</p>	
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FIRST OF JANUARY, 2007 – END OF MARCH, 2007

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
HIGHER EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (HEEP)

2002-2007

Loan No. 4658 EGT



**QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION PROJECT
(QAAP)**



QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
Q1: 2007
FIRST OF JANUARY, 2007 – END OF MARCH, 2007

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Date: April 2007

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

DE	: Development Engagement
FLDP	: Faculty Leadership Development Project
FOEP	: Faculty of Education Project
HEEP	: Higher Education Enhancement Project
HEEPF	: Higher Education Enhancement Project Fund
HEIs	: Higher Education Institutions
NARS	: National Academic Reference Standards
NQAAA	: National Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency
QAAP	: Quality Assurance and Accreditation Project

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INTRODUCTION

The Quality Assurance and Accreditation Project (QAAP) is one of the corresponding projects under the Higher Education Reform Strategy directed to improve quality, efficiency and relevance of Higher Education in Egypt. The QAAP is governed by a National Committee (NQAAC) nominated by the Minister of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research. The mission of NQAAC is to ensure quality, continuous development and efficient performance of Egyptian education institutions and to gain the confidence of the community in their graduates based on international recognized evaluation mechanism.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

The strategic objective of the QAAP is to prepare Higher Education Institutions to be qualified to apply for accreditation.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF QAAP

The main objectives of QAAP are to:

- Develop a National Quality Assurance and Accreditation system in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- Develop an Internal Quality Assurance System in HEIs.
- Gain the confidence of the community in the Egyptian graduates.
- Raise the awareness among HEIs and the community about the culture of quality in education.
- Development of six pilot self-studies.
- Ensure the quality of the graduate to compete nationally, regionally and internationally.
- Establishment of National Academic Reference Standards and Benchmarks.
- Participation in the establishment of a National Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (NQAAA).



GENERAL PROGRESS

1- Developing Quality Assurance Systems:

- a- **Establishment of NQAAA:** QAAP has participated in preparing the bylaws of NQAAA.
- b- **Developing of NARS:** NARS of three sectors are in a process to be developed.
- c- **Developing Strategic Plans of Egyptian Universities:** Fifteen out of Seventeen strategic plans were finalized, thirteen of which were evaluated by external evaluators (Dr. Linn Marjorie and Dr. Barbara Brittingham).
- d- **Establishing QA centers in the universities:** Eleven QA centers are now established. Two more centers are still in progress.
- e- **Establishing QA units in the faculties:** 146 units are established.

2- Staff Capacity Building & Management Training

Capacity building and management training was achieved through conducting workshops in different fields including: chair reviewers (24), role of facilitators (15 participant), action planning (30 participant), report writing (30 participant), and developing NARS

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(340 participant). In addition to the previously mentioned workshops organized by QAAP, the QA centers and QA units arranged about 269 training workshops on QA documentation system.

3- Awareness and Dissemination

During the last few months, large number of awareness campaigns was conducted at the different universities, along with the distribution of about 3000 copies of QA first conference publications. Three TV programs and 3 interviews along with 20 newspaper articles and news were attended, published and released with the aim of highlighting the concept of QAA and its positive impacts upon higher education. On the regional and international levels, an overview of QAAP and its achievements were presented in workshops held in Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Syria.

4- Monitoring & Evaluation

All projects were visited by the M&E QAAP team; they also provided technical support to the centers and units concerning all related issues and gave the appropriate answers to the questions raised by staff members. These visits are conducted on regular basis.

During the last three months, twelve faculties in 3 universities received monitoring and evaluation visits for DEs prior to receiving and reviewing their provided documents.

5- Internal Evaluation and Auditing

An auditing system is being constructed to evaluate the QAAP internal system and provide appropriate advices and constructive suggestions to enhance the internal working system.

6- Sustainability



The established university centers and faculty units will provide reasonable assurance of sustainability. QAAP team is conducting regular meetings with centers' and units' directors and personnel to discuss their role in achieving sustainability and the proper mechanism of this aspect.

7- Cooperation with FLDP

NQAAC developed a program to raise awareness and to train faculty staff members on the preparation of quality documentations including course and program specification and reports. Those program organized by FLDP in collaboration with NQAAC. The committee provided the FLDP with well qualified trainers to conduct these programmers.

8- Cooperation with FOEP



NQAAC support and monitor the QAAP projects for the facilities of education. Monitoring and evaluation reports of these projects were prepared by QAAP monitoring and supporting team. NQAAC chairperson proved the FOEP chairperson with a copy of these reports for his kind attention.

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RISKS

- Lack of funds to support the action plan addressing the weakness appeared in the DEs reports.
- Lack of cooperation from the Sector committees.
- Delay in installments referee to 25% (local component in budget)
- QAAP financed only 61% of all Egyptian faculties; the majority (66%) is from scientific discipline, only 34% from humanities and social sciences.
- The budget of QAAP will not be sufficient to finance a 4th cycle projects.
- The current faculty projects may not be able to finish as previously planned in the project proposals.
- Sustainability of the projects is at risk due to the lack of institutionalization of the system in some faculties and universities and the dependency of the financial incentives received by the faculty members from projects.
- The QA centers are not all financially supported by the universities for sustainability.
- Faculty members are expecting major changes in the Higher Education system as a result of implementing the QAA Project as well as an increase in their income and facilities, which is not guaranteed, and therefore sustainability of the system is questionable.
- QAAP will finance 30% of FOEP projects upon completing their projects, and that was not planned before.

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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Establishing a Quality Assurance System

Outputs / Outcomes	Activities	Status*	Remarks
Establishment of the NQAAA.	Participation in preparing the NQAAA bylaw.	C	Presidential decree March 2007
Developing the National Academic Reference Standards (NARS) for 3 sectors	Developing NARS for Physical Education	I	
	Developing NARS for Arts and literature	I	
	Developing NARS for Medicine	I	
Strategic plans for the Egyptian Universities	5 universities' strategic plans were reviewed and evaluated by external evaluator	C	
	3 universities applied their strategic plans	I	
Establishing QA Centers in the Egyptian Universities	2 universities applied for projects to establish QA centers	C	
Establishing QA units of faculties in the EU.	10 QA units are in process	I	



Faculty staff, Capacity Building and Management Training

* **Status:**

C: Completed Activities

I: In Progress Activities

D: Delayed Activities

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Outputs / Outcomes	Activities	Dates	Status *	Remarks
Action planning Workshop	A workshop was held at the faculty of Agriculture – Cairo University	17-1-2007	C	38 participants
Report writing	A workshop about writing faculty final report after the DE visit held at the Faculty of Agriculture – Cairo University	15 Jan. 2007	C	30 participants
Basic Peer reviewers Workshop	Evaluation and selection of the peer reviewers (3 workshops at the Faculty of Agriculture – Cairo University)	10-3-2007, 15-3-2007 22-3-2007	C	131 participants
Role of facilitator	The role of the university facilitator with the DE visit team (1 workshop held at QAAP office)	5-2- 2007	C	20 participants
NARS	Describing the importance of building the sectors NARS (held at Mansura University)	28-2- 2007	C	Number of participants is 340
Chair reviewers	Focusing on the chairs of the Des visits (held at the Faculty of Agriculture – Cairo University)	17-1- 2007	C	24 participants
Capacity building for Faculty and Staff	269 Seminars and workshops held at the different units (146 unit) concerning the writing of faculty annual report, program specifications and report and course specifications and report	1-10 to 31-12-2006	C	7300 participant on the national level



Awareness and Dissemination Campaign

*** Status:**

C: Completed Activities

I: In Progress Activities

D: Delayed Activities

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The Objectives of awareness campaigns are to:

- Explain the importance of the quality assurance in the reform of the Egyptian higher education.
- Engage HEIs with NQAAC activities.
- Dissemination of good practice of the ongoing projects in the first and second cycle.
- Support the ongoing projects.



Outputs / Outcomes	Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Status*	Remarks
Releasing the concept of quality assurance and accreditation and its impact on Higher Education.	Participating in 3 TV interviews: Higher Education Channel, Ch1 (national TV), Nile TV, Dream TV and News center TV.	Jan. 2007	Mar. 2007	C	
Highlighting and Publishing the importance and the role of NQAAC in Higher Education reform plan in Egypt.	Publishing 3 articles in Al Ahram news paper, Al Masri today, Al Watani Today.	Jan. 2007	Mar. 2007	C	
Publishing news in national newspapers	Publishing 20 news in 5 national newspapers about our workshops, the arrival of the British consultants, DEs site visits, attending international conferences and publishing the quality assurance handbook.	Jan. 2007	Mar. 2007	C	We invited about 5 TV channels and number of Journalists in Quality Assurance and accreditation conference: Pathway to the future in Jan 2007
Raising awareness and information about QAAP objectives, activities and	Holding the first conference of Quality	Jan 2007		C	1000 Participants

* **Status:**

C: Completed Activities

I: In Progress Activities



D: Delayed Activities

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outcomes among higher education community	Assurance and Accreditation: Pathway to the future				
National and international announcements about the QAAP activities	Updating the QAAP web site and creating the Arabic version.	Jan 2007	Mar. 2007	C	
Raising the awareness among the academic community.	Conducting large number of awareness campaigns and workshops in the Egyptian universities by the QACs	Jan 2007	Mar. 2007	C	
	Participating in the HEEPF conference where the projects, future plan, DE activities current situation were exhibited	March 2007		C	
	4 sets of books were produced and distributed among universities; They are: QA centers – QA units – Code of practice for students' assessment – Guidelines for NARS	Jan. 2007		C	
Regional and international meetings with QA bodies.	Attending the British council workshops in Syria, Tunisia and attending the first Quality assurance conference in Saudi Arabia.	Jan 2007	Mar. 2007	C	

Quality Control

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Outputs / Outcomes	Activities	Date	Status*
Developmental Engagement	12 faculties, in 3 universities were visited for DEs .	Jan. 2007 – Mar. 2007	C
Project monitoring and technical support	QAAP M&E teams visited 3 universities (36 projects)	Jan. 2007 – Mar. 2007	C
External evaluation of the universities' QA strategic plan	5 strategic plans were reviewed and evaluated by the international consultant Dr. Barbara Brittingham	Jan. 2007	C
Evaluating of QAAP outcomes	Internal auditing is being carried out for QAAP to investigate progress made in the development and implementation of QAAP phases and to assess the impact activities.	Feb. 2007	I

*** Status:**

C: Completed Activities

I: In Progress Activities

D: Delayed Activities

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Sustainability



Outputs / Outcomes	Activities	Date	Status*
Implementation of QA activities by 11 established universities' centers.	Meeting and discussing the role of the QA centers and the mechanism of sustainability of the centers with all the directors of the QA centers in the universities.	Feb. 2007	C
Developing internal Quality Assurance Systems by 146 faculty units	Working on developing the quality documentation system of the faculties to be ready for DE processes	Jan.- Mar. 2007	C

*** Status:**

C: Completed Activities

I: In Progress Activities

D: Delayed Activities

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Cooperation and Integration with Other HEEP Projects

Outputs / Outcomes	Activities	Status*
Cooperation with FLDP	A program, for raising awareness and train faculty staff members on preparing quality documentations, was organized with FLDP. QAAP provided FLDP with qualified trainers.	C
Cooperation with FOEP	Monitoring and evaluation of 17 QA projects of faculties of education.	C
	The QAAP monitors the establishment of an internal quality assurance system for 17 faculties of education.	C



UPDATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

*** Status:**

C: Completed Activities

I: In Progress Activities



D: Delayed Activities

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The following are all project activities which is planned to start in the next period from 1st of April 2007 till 30th of June 2007 indicating the expected **Outputs/Outcomes** planned to be achieved from these activities.

Output/Outcome	Activity Description
Capacity building	Conducting 3 basic peer reviewers' workshops, 3 advanced peer reviewers workshops, 1 chair reviewers workshop, 2 NARS workshops, 2 operational workshops, 1 facilitator's workshops and 1 action plan workshop.
Sustainability of the QA Centers in the Universities and QA units of faculties	Follow up on 13 centers, support the delayed centers.
QAA projects	Approving new projects for the new universities: Kafr El Sheikh, Sohag and fayoum.
New DE	12 site visits will be conducted till June 2007
Monitoring and evaluation of the QAA projects (1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd cycles)	Monitoring visits to 14 universities
Regional & international relations	Attending conferences and keep on collaboration with regional and international bodies
NARS	Developing NARS for more sectors (3 in process).

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Evaluating of QAAP outcomes	Implementation of the internal auditing framework and accomplishment of the Internal Audit report.
Follow-up site visits to the first 12 faculties that received DEs	Selected team will follow-up the progress achieved by the first 12 faculties that received DEs, in relation to their action plans for development - a report will be produced
Action plans to be ready for application for accreditation	Reviewing, editing action plans of faculties which finished their DEs according to peer reviewers' reports
Updating QAAP handbook	Reviewing, editing and publishing the second edition of QAAP handbook

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KEY ISSUES/RISKS

QAAP has identified the following key issues/ risks in project implementation:

Issues/Risks

- Lack of funds to support the action plan addressing the weakness appeared in the Des reports.
- Resistance from the Sector committees leading to a delay in accomplishment of NARS
- There is a delay in installments referee to 25% (local component in budget)
- The budget of QAAP will not be sufficient to finance a 4th cycle projects which will lead to delays in many QA projects
- The current faculty projects may not be able to finish as previously planned in the project proposals which in turn will lead to a delay in accomplishing targeted objectives
- Sustainability of the projects is at risk due to the lack of institutionalization of the system in some faculties and universities and the dependency of the financial incentives received by the faculty members from projects
- The QA centers are not all financially supported by the universities for sustainability
- Faculty members are expecting major changes in the Higher Education system as a result of implementing the QAA Project as well as an increase in their income and facilities, which is not guaranteed, and therefore sustainability of the system is questionable
- QAAP will finance 30% of FOEP projects upon completing their projects, and that was not planned before



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M&E AND PROJECT INDICATORS

Project Development Objective (PDO) Indicator	Insert the measured value, or a qualitative indicator, or a brief explanation of why indicators are not available, together with the date of the information		
	Baseline Value	Progress To Date	End-of-Project Target Value
	Number or text	Number or text	Number or text
# of Universities finished their strategic plans	None	15	17
# of QA Centers in the Egyptian Universities	None	11	15
# of QA units of faculties in the EU.	None	146	166
# National Academic Reference Standards	None	7 (completed) 3 (in progress)	12
# of faculties finished their DEs	None	36	80
# faculties ready to apply for accreditation	None	None	None

- **INTERNAL AUDITING IS BEING CARRIED OUT FOR QAAP TO INVESTIGATE PROGRESS MADE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF QAAP PHASES AND TO ASSESS THE IMPACT ACTIVITIES.**



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Procurement & Financial Management

Financial Expenditure (till March 2007)



Serial	Category	Previous Expenditure		Expenditure this Quarter		Total Expenditure	
		Loan	Local	Loan	Local	Loan	Local
1	Civil Works	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Goods	282,401.85	98,193.96	51,096.61	21,090.30	333,498.46	119,284.26
3	Consultant's Services & training	14,092,378.32	-	1,013,440.19	-	15,105,818.51	-
4	HEEPF	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Operating Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Front End Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Unallocated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		14,374,780.17	98,193.96	1,064,536.80	21,090.30	15,439,316.97	119,284.26

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FINANCIAL REQUEST FOR PERIOD FROM 1 JAN, 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2007

Serial	Category	Q1		Q2		Total	
		Loan	Local	Loan	Local	Loan	Local
1	Civil Works	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Goods	59,124.11	200,000.00	59,124.11	630,000.00	118,248.22	830,000.00
3	Consultant's Services & training	1,310,793.62	-	1,310,793.62	-	2,621,587.24	-
4	HEEPF	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Operating Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Front End Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Unallocated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		1,369,917.73	200,000.00	1,369,917.73	630,000.00	2,739,835.46	830,000.00



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STATUS OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED CRITICAL ACTIONS

The status of the previously agreed critical actions from last mission aide memoirs is as follows:

#	Action	Due Date	Status
1	Carry out workshops on student assessment and peer reviewing	Dec 31, 2006	Done
2	Complete 9 National Academic and Reference Standards (NARS) in sciences, applied sciences, computer technology, agriculture and nursing	Dec 31, 2006	2 are still in progress
3	Disseminate good practice of development engagement	Jan 15, 2007	Done
4	Prepare RFP for a Quality Assurance review of procedures and processes used to develop the NQAAC, NARS and quality assurance projects	Feb 20, 2007	In Progress
5	Develop methodology for an external assessment of QA centers procedures and complete an internal review	Feb 28, 2007	In progress * Internal audit report is about to be submitted in June 2007
6	Organize a national conference on quality assurance	Feb 28, 2007	Done
7	Monitor and evaluate 50% of QAAP projects	Feb 28, 2007	Done
8	Finance 4 quality assurance strategic plans and set up of 3 Quality Assurance Centers	Mar. 10 , 2007	Delayed * 2 strategic plans and 2 centers for Kafr EL sheikh university and souhag university was signed in April 2007
9	Undertake 16 development engagement faculty site visits	Mar. 10 , 2007	Done

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September 2006

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The following areas are addressed for future attention and should be discussed during the next supervision mission.

- Reforming of Higher Education Law and Bylaws.
- Implementation of universities' strategic plans for quality assurance according to their action plans.
- Sustainability of QA centers and units.
- University and faculty accreditation system.