



IAU: Building a Worldwide Community of Higher Education

Action Plan Outline
2008-2012

13th IAU General Conference
Utrecht University, 15-18 July 2008

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IAU Overall Goal

Offer quality services to the Association's Members and the wider community by remaining engaged in the higher education issues of global importance and those that are emerging.

Specific Objectives

- Expand IAU membership – quantity and quality
- Focus on themes of importance to leaders of HEIs and be at the vanguard of emerging issues
- Place emphasis on activities offering scope for membership involvement
- Play a central and facilitating role in the creation of a global higher education space
- Reinforce cooperation, solidarity and reforms which address inequities and reduce gaps
- Expand external project funding

HE Policy Issues of Global Importance

1. Increasing rates of successful participation for all potential learners
2. Improving quality of teaching, learning, and research
3. Inventing new models of financial investment to meet HE requirements and societal expectations
4. Offering relevant HE to meet sustainable development goals of society
5. Gaining public support by sound accountability and quality assurance

HE Policy Issues of Global Importance (II)

6. Reinventing governance suitable to challenging times
7. Balancing competition, cooperation internationally and at home
8. Acting as a model forum for intercultural dialogue and democratic citizenship
9. Creating multiple linkages with society - world of work, art and culture
10. Remaining creative, innovative and constructively critical by reaffirming academic values

IAU Choices – Themes, Partnerships, Actions

IAU leadership – elected in Utrecht -
will make strategic decisions by
considering:

- i) Impact on membership and services
- ii) The value added by global dialogue
- iii) Potential for developing actions with concrete outcomes
- iv) IAU capacity and track record

Between Continuity and Change

Main Lines of Actions include:

- Convening – Offering a Forum
- Advocacy and Policy Development
- Research, Analysis and Information Dissemination
- Capacity Building and Support to Members

Forum for Global Networking

- *Associations, Networks and Alliances - Making Sense of the Emerging Global Higher Education, 3rd Global meeting of Associations (with ANUIES, University of Guadalajara Mexico), April 2009*
- *The Role of Universities in promoting Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding, University of Notre Dame, Lebanon, November 2009*
- *IAU International Conference, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania, September 2010*

Advocacy and Policy Development

- ***Equitable Access, Success and Quality in Higher Education: A Policy Statement by the IAU***
 - Approval by 13th General Conference
 - Wide dissemination and endorsement by others, including take up by WCHE+10
 - Developing follow-up projects to facilitate progress
- **Linking Higher Education and research to EFA and education-related MDG**
 - Building a Portal, new Reference Group, Awareness Raising Campaign, Search for Good Practice examples and Database of Expertise

Research and Analysis

- 3rd Global Survey on Internationalization of Higher Education (2008-2009)
- *Higher Education Policy*, journal
 - Upcoming issues on 'Globalization' and 'Gender'
- IAU/Palgrave Research Essay Prize:
 - 2009 Theme: Equitable Access, Success and Quality in Higher Education
- International Bibliographic Database on Higher Education - searchable online

Information Clearing House

- **IAU Horizon**, thematic, quarterly, informative
 - Mergers and Rationalizations
 - Measuring outcomes, and many other topics
- **IAU E-Bulletin**, brief, globally comprehensive, monthly in your mailbox
- **Website**, an open resource updated monthly
- **World Higher Education Database (WHED)** and its unique Reference Products

Capacity Building and Support to Members

- **Leadership Development for Higher Education Reform (LEADHER)**
 - Up to a dozen grants per annum to IAU Members to facilitate mutual learning
 - 2008 Competition Deadline: **30 September**
- **New resource – The Innovation Fund**
 - To stimulate/coordinate research-based policy discussion on emerging issues of importance to developing countries' HEIs
 - Possible focus on (i) institutional governance and (2) evolving doctoral programmes

IAU Governance and Operations

- Strong elected and engaged leadership
- **Increased emphasis on membership involvement and reliance on expert groups:**
 - Access & success related follow-up
 - 3rd Global Survey on Internationalisation
 - Higher Education, EFA and MDGs - Reference Group[
 - LEADHER Jury and Research Essay Jury
 - Advisory Committee for WHED

Special Initiatives

- A feasibility study for the creation of an 'International HEI House' for Members in Paris
- Expanding contact points within all Members to improve two-way communications
- Initiating collaborative projects with regional members and partners

Resources and Budget

- The **IAU secretariat staff** – a small (16 FTEs) but dedicated and experienced group
- Members who get directly involved
- Grants, project funding and contracts
- Stability in membership fees and growth in membership revenue

Conclusion

- The future is bright but challenging
 - For HEIs, for the IAU
- As the global higher education space is becoming a reality, the IAU is and must remain a key building block in its construction
- IAU's role, legitimacy and capacity to do so rest on the Membership and on the Association's ability to mobilize and work collaboratively with them and Partners