



The Institute of International Education (IIE)

Presents

“Standards of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education”

An IIE Conference and Training Workshop

January 29-31, 2012

Erbil, Iraq

PURPOSE:

This conference and training workshop will examine quality assurance, accreditation, and recognition schemes in the contemporary higher education landscape. The goals are to provide Iraqi participants with an overview of these topics and institutional effectiveness through a series of presentations, panels, and breakout sessions, and to suggest tools and resources suitable to the Iraqi higher education sector’s capacity development efforts. Iraqi participants will gain new information and perspectives on the development of first-rate quality assurance models, particularly those in the United States and Europe, which will serve to enhance their work within the Iraqi higher education structure. Over 150 participants, including senior Iraqi scholars, university presidents, and deans will attend this conference, which is part of a series of symposia presented under the auspices of IIE’s Scholar Rescue Fund/Iraq Project.

AGENDA:

This three-day conference will consist of three major content blocks: “Current State of Higher Education Quality Assurance,” “Establishing Standards and Recognition Schemes,” and “Quality Assurance at Program Levels.” Presentations and breakout sessions will focus on the current state of quality assurance in the U.S., U.K., and continental Europe and Iraq; the roles of key stakeholders; differentiating ratings, rankings, institutional classifications, and quality assurance measures; descriptions of accreditation, assessment, and evaluation methods; defining program versus institutional recognition and licensure; and examples of current initiatives between U.S. and Iraqi universities. Panel discussions will address the applicability of U.S. and European quality assurance approaches to the Iraqi system.

PRESENTERS:

Conference sessions will be conducted by expert trainers on higher education management, including Dr. Judith Eaton, President of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation; Prof. Catherine Mater, Director of Sustainability for Oregon State University’s College of Engineering; Dr. George Blandford, Professor and Chair of Civil Engineering at the University of Kentucky; and Dr. Stephen Jackson, Director of Reviews at the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in the U.K. Representatives from the Ministries of Higher Education and Scientific Research for Iraq and for the Kurdish Region of Iraq have been invited to provide formal remarks.