

CHAPTER 4

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CHE

1. CONFERENCES

■ 5th Annual Consultative Conference of the CHE

The annual CHE Consultative Conference was held on 12 November 2003 in Benoni with the theme *Higher Education 1997-2003: How much have we achieved?* The purpose of this conference was to debate and reflect on achievements on an institutional and systemic level in higher education.

■ CHE Discussion Forums

In accordance with its mandate to contribute to the development of HE through conferences, two CHE Discussion Forums were held for higher education leaders, policy makers and researchers.

The CHE held its fourth Discussion Forum at the Faculty of Education (Groenkloof Campus) of the University of Pretoria on 13 May 2003. About fifty people attended the lively forum. The invited speaker, the eminent United States philosopher, Prof. Bob Wolff, Professor of Afro-American Studies and Director of the Doctoral Programme in Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts in the United States of America, presented a paper entitled *Tertiary Education in South Africa – A Lover’s Complaint*.

The fifth CHE Discussion Forum was held on 16 October 2003, also at the Faculty of Education (Groenkloof Campus) of the University of Pretoria. Emeritus Prof. Michael Young of the Institute of Education at the University of London, presented a conceptual critique of the Consultative Document, *An Interdependent National Qualifications Framework System*.

The discussion forums follow previous ones on *Key Global and International Trends in Higher Education: Challenges for South Africa and Developing Countries* (Prof. Philip Altbach); *Globalisation, National Development and Higher Education* (Prof. Manuel Castells) and *A Decade of Higher Education Reform in Argentina* (Dr Marcela Mollis).

■ CHE Workshops and Seminars

■ The CHE hosted a *Distance Education Research Project Workshop* on 26-28 September 2003 at Moller Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge, UK. The workshop aims were:

- To share the CHE Task Team on Distance Education’s thinking, approach, and proposals on issues and areas in distance education provision that the South African Minister of Education has requested advice on.
- To critically engage the international distance education specialists on the Task Team’s proposals by drawing on their knowledge and experience.
- To identify the issues and areas, on which there are major differences regarding the validity and soundness and which may therefore require re-thinking, development and refinement.
- To identify international distance education specialists that, if necessary, could be drawn on to assist the Task Team in re-thinking, developing and refining its original conceptualisations, approaches and proposals.

The workshop was fully sponsored by the UK DFID.

■ The CHE hosted an international seminar on 9-11 October 2003 on *The Role of Higher Education in the Transformation of Societies*. The seminar brought together thirty participants from South America, Asia, Western, Central and Eastern Europe, South Africa and other parts of Africa.

2. CHE PUBLICATIONS

In accordance with its mandate to contribute to the development of HE through publications, the CHE and HEQC produce a range of publications: Research Reports, Policy Reports, Policy Advice Reports, Policy Documents, Discussion Documents, Occasional Papers, Conference Reports, Newsletters, Kagisano, the CHE’s Higher Education Discussion Series and Organisational Brochures. In addition, when necessary, the CHE also issues Press Releases.

The following publications were produced during the past year:

■ **Discussion Documents**

Proposed criteria for the HEQC's first cycle of audits: 2004-2009 (March 2003)

■ **Kagisano (Discussion Series)**

The General Agreement in Trade in Services and Higher Education (No. 3, Summer 2003)

Good Governance in Higher Education (No. 2, Autumn 2003)

■ **Higher Education Monitor**

The State of Private Higher Education in South Africa (No. 1, 2003)

■ **Annual Reports**

Annual Report 2002/2003 (August 2003)

■ **Newsletters**

CHE News No.5 (April 2003)

CHE News No.6 (August 2003)

■ **Press Releases**

Auditor Orientation (22 July 2003)

■ **Conference Reports**

Proceedings of the CHE Colloquium: Building Relationships between Higher Education and the Private and Public Sectors (May 2003)

■ **Directory**

Directory of South African Quality Assurers and Professional Bodies (September 2003)

A complete list of all CHE publications since its inception can be found at the back of this report under CHE Media. The CHE website (<http://www.che.ac.za>) provides electronic versions of all CHE publications.

3. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

There were also a number of additional activities. These included:

■ **Participation in the Committee of Heads of Research and Technology (COHORT)**

The CHE is an active member of COHORT, an important forum that regularly brings together all the heads of science and research councils, national higher education organisations (CHE, Higher Education Branch of the DoE, SAUVCA and CTP) and the Ministry of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology to discuss matters of science and technology policy and development and strategies for addressing challenges in these regards. The CHE CEO serves on the Executive Committee of COHORT.

■ **External conferences, seminars and workshops**

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the CHE, the HEQC Executive Director (ED) and other senior staff of the CHE and HEQC addressed and represented the CHE at numerous regional, national and international seminars, workshops and conferences of stakeholders, HE and HE-related organisations, and HEIs.

The CHE CEO delivered the following keynote addresses and presentations:

■ *Management Science Graduates and the Transformation of our Economy and Society*, Vaal Triangle Technikon Management Sciences Graduation ceremony, Vanderbijl Park (12 April 2003)

■ *Building the Quality of Higher Education Qualifications, Programmes and Institutions for Reconstruction, Development and Social Transformation*. Address to the joint meeting of the Forum of University Librarians in South Africa (FULSA) and the Inter-Technikon Library Committee (ITLC), Venda (23 May 2004)

■ *Health Science Graduates and the Medical University of Southern Africa and the Reconstruction, Development and Transformation of South Africa*, MEDUNSA Graduation Ceremony, Garankuwa (24 May 2003)

■ *Credentials Evaluation and the Reconstruction, Transformation and Development of South African Higher*

Education, IESA/SAUVCA/CTP/SAQA workshop on credentials evaluation, Riverside Hotel, Durban (12 June 2003)

- *Strategising Higher Education Reform: 13 Propositions informed by the South African Higher Education Transformation Process, 1994-2003*, Bargali, Pakistan (25 July 2003)
- *The Role of Professional Development of Academic Staff in the Promotion of Quality in Higher Education*, HESDI seminar, Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg (6 August 2003)
- *The Diversity of Higher Educational Provision: Distance Higher Education Policy and Regulation towards Equity, Access, Quality and Social and Economic Responsiveness*. African Ministers Conference on Open Learning and Distance Education, Cape Town (1-4 February 2004)
- CHE Staff Development Seminar presentation on *Tools for Understanding Social Reality*, Pretoria (19 February 2004)
- CHE Staff Development Seminar presentation on *Social Structure: The Apartheid Legacy*, Pretoria (2 March 2004)
- CHE Staff Development Seminar presentation on *The Transition to Democracy*, Pretoria (16 March 2004)
- Seminar presentation on *Neo-Liberal Tool or Instrument of Transformation: Propositions on Higher Education Quality Assurance informed by the South African Experience*, Frankfurt University (28 March 2004)
- Seminar presentation to German government departments, higher education organisations and DAAD on *Ten Years of South African Democracy: A Critical Analysis of Higher Education Change, 1994-2004* – DAAD, Bonn (29 March 2004)

The CHE CEO, the HEQC ED and the CHE Director: Monitoring and Evaluation all participated as guest lecturers in the Masters programme in Higher Education Policy, Management and Administration offered by the University of the Western Cape.

- **Current (2004) CHE International Agreements and Representation on International Bodies**
 - **AAU**
 - A CHE member serves on the Scientific Committee of the Study Programme on Higher Education Management in Africa
 - **UNESCO**
 - A CHE member serves on UNESCO Global Forum on International Quality Assurance, Accreditation and the Recognition of Qualifications
 - A CHE member serves on the UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge
 - **International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies on Higher Education**
 - A CHE member serves on the Board
 - **Council for Higher Education Accreditation (USA)**
 - A CHE member serves on the International Commission
 - **South-South Higher Education Reform Network**
 - A CHE member serves on the Founding Committee
 - **Namibian Ministry of Education**
 - Memorandum of Understanding on CHE's QA support to the Ministry
 - **Australian Quality Assurance**
 - Memorandum of Understanding on CHE – AQAA co-operation on quality assurance matters
 - **Ford Foundation**
 - Funding of Distance Education Task Team
 - Funding of Higher Education Designation project
 - Funding of Monitoring and Evaluation project
 - Funding of Quality Promotion and Capacity Development
 - Funding of Assistance to Eduardo Mondlane University

- **Carnegie Corporation**
 - Funding of Quality Promotion and Capacity Development
- **Rockefeller Foundation**
 - Funding of Monitoring and Evaluation Project
- **Department for International Development (UK)**
 - Funding of NQF Review Project
 - Funding of Governance Project
 - Funding of Responsiveness Project
 - Funding of Quality Promotion and Capacity Development (through the Department of Education)
- **CENESA (Dutch)**
 - Funding of QA Project on Research Benchmarking
- **Envisaged New CHE International Agreements and Representation on International Bodies**
- **United Kingdom Quality Assurance Agency**
 - Memorandum of Understanding on CHE - UKQAA co-operation on QA matters
- **Finnish Government**
 - Funding of Quality Promotion and Capacity Development (through the DoE)
- **Carnegie Corporation**
 - Funding of a seminar on quality assurance for HE Partnership countries
- **British Council**
 - Funding of seminar on quality assurance for SADC countries
- **Ford Foundation**
 - Funding of Government Regulation Task Team
 - Funding of Ten Years of Democracy Colloquium