



## **CHE's statement on the '3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education Conference 2015'**

The Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) is the body with the legal mandate for quality assurance, inclusive of accreditation, in higher education in South Africa. It derives this mandate from the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997, as amended; and the National Qualifications Framework Act 67 of 2008. In pursuit of this mandate, the CHE has developed a national quality assurance system for higher education; and produced frameworks, policies, criteria and standards to anchor the system and guide its implementation. Information on the system and the tools used in its implementation is readily available from the CHE website ([www.che.ac.za](http://www.che.ac.za)). Hard copy publications of the frameworks and policies may be requested from the CHE, for free. The CHE also uses a number of other channels and platforms to disseminate and share relevant information with its stakeholders. These include seminars, colloquia, workshops and conferences.

Given the above background, it is not unreasonable for stakeholders and the general public to expect that the CHE would be at the centre of most, if not all, quality assurance intellectual engagement initiatives at the national level in South Africa. However, it has come to the attention of the CHE that, a number of purportedly national and/or international quality assurance conferences and summits are organised in South Africa without its knowledge and/or involvement. These conferences are normally organised by events management firms that have very little to do with higher education in general; and quality assurance in particular. One such conference is currently being marketed as the '**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education Conference 2015**'; which is planned to take place from 28 to 30 September 2015 in Johannesburg. The conference brochure reveals that only two of the twelve people that are scheduled to speak at the three-day event are based in South Africa; and, judging by their institutional affiliations, the two are not actively involved in quality assurance in higher education in the country.

The CHE would therefore like to inform its stakeholders and the general public that the conference does not have the endorsement of the CHE. It has not been in consultation with the organisers, nor with any of those that are scheduled to speak at the event. Furthermore, the conference brochure indicates that quality strategies, accreditation requirements, accreditation practices, quality monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and quality standards; will be presented and discussed. However, the CHE cannot guarantee that the strategies, requirements, mechanisms and standards referred to; are consistent with those developed and being implemented by the HEQC in the country. The CHE will therefore not accept responsibility for any confusion that might arise, if it happens that, what will be

presented and discussed at the conference, contradict the requirements, criteria, standards and policies of the HEQC.

The CHE would also like to assure all stakeholders that it will continue to disseminate and share information on the South Africa national higher education quality assurance system through various platforms, including workshops and colloquia. The CHE website will always provide details of these and other intellectual engagement events. Furthermore, the CHE will continue to support non-commercial, not for profit quality assurance conferences organised by institutions and other stakeholders, as long as it is consulted in the process of planning and organising them. Brochures of quality assurance conferences that are endorsed by the CHE will always depict the CHE logo; and also reflect the names of CHE staff members among the list of speakers.