

### The benefits of subscribing to the services of ACDE QAAA

Higher education institutions in Africa are potential beneficiaries of the Agency's services via their membership of ACDE.

#### ACDE QAAA's services include:

- Providing access to internationally recognised code of practices, policies and standards, and criteria for the operation and conduct of ODL in Africa;
- Enhancing institutional, national, regional and continental quality assurance systems for African ODL;
- Building capacity of higher education institutions in quality development and management of ODL in Africa;
- Providing a platform for collaboration and partnerships with other international distance learning accreditation agencies to improve quality management and practice; and
- Facilitating ease of credit transfer across African ODL higher education institutions.

For further enquires, please visit the website at [www.nou.edu.ng/acde-qaaa](http://www.nou.edu.ng/acde-qaaa)

**Prof. Olugbemiro Jegede**  
Chairman, ACDE Executive Board  
and Vice Chancellor  
National Open University of Nigeria

**Dr. Fred Simiyu Barasa**  
Executive Director, ACDE

#### Contact details

African Council for Distance Education (ACDE)  
QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION AGENCY

Office of the Director  
PLANNING OFFICE,  
5 DAR ES SALAAM STREET,  
WUSE II  
PMB 581, GARKI, ABUJA

Tel: +234 09-8709684, +234 07028732566  
Website-[www.nou.edu.ng/acde-qaaa](http://www.nou.edu.ng/acde-qaaa)  
E-mail:[acde-qaaa@nou.edu.ng](mailto:acde-qaaa@nou.edu.ng)

#### ACDE QAAA's Membership and Partnership Drive

To facilitate her activities, ACDE QAAA collaborates and networks with national and regional agencies. They include:

- Membership of continental agencies including the *African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN)* and the *International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)*;
- Memorandum of Agreement with the Association of African Universities (AAU) as partner in areas of shared interests especially on ODL; and
- Partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) as its continental Operational arm in ODL



**QUALITY ASSURANCE  
&  
ACCREDITATION AGENCY**

### Origin of ACDE

The ACDE is a continental educational organisation comprising African universities and other higher education institutions, which are committed to expanding access to quality education and training through Open and Distance Learning, including e-learning. It is registered under the laws of Kenya as an International NGO - an educational non profit making organisation with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

As a unifying body of distance education providers and practitioners in Africa, the ACDE was formally launched in January 2004 at Egerton University, Kenya. It was motivated by the desire of African Vice Chancellors to establish a unifying body that would facilitate and promote the pooling of resources; the shaping and influencing of continental policies on distance education; and the collective sourcing for and tapping into resources available from the national, regional and the international communities for the advancement of education and training through Open and Distance Learning (ODL).

### Vision, Mandate and Goals of ACDE

The vision of ACDE is to become a major player in the promotion and advocacy for open and distance learning in Africa. The mandate of the ACDE, as a unifying body of ODL providers in Africa, is primarily to promote research, policy and quality in open and distance learning to increase access to education and training in Africa. We do this by building capacity, fostering collaboration and partnership, and advocacy.

The need for ACDE to be central in assisting Africa reach, or at least narrow the gap in its achievement of the EFA goals becomes more compelling against the backdrop of

the fact that ODL has a significant stake in enabling large numbers to access education in a flexible and cost effective manner within the shortest possible time.

The above cannot be achieved until and unless open and distance learning institutions in Africa engage in acceptable quality assurance practices through consultation; and set up a veritable means for partnership and collaboration in the development of ODL as a common platform for educational development in Africa. It is by so doing that it will establish itself as comparable in all ways with, and be acceptable to, the community of higher education providers within the continent.

### Introducing ACDE QAAA

It is in response to these challenges that ACDE decided to constitute a dedicated structure, with members drawn from its professionals from across the continent, to ensure that a strong, virile and credible framework is established to provide a clear pathway for the development of a continental quality assurance environment to which ODL institutions can voluntarily relate and work with in relation to capacity building in, and participating in the various activities related to, quality assurance in their educational provisions. The ACDE, as a continental ODL organisation in Africa, therefore decided at the Stakeholders' Workshop held at the University of South Africa held from 21-23 February 2008, to initiate the establishment of an ODL Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency for Africa. This decision was accepted by the ACDE Governing Board at its meeting in 2009.

### Rationale

ACDE QAAA seeks to ensure that Open and Distance Learning institutions in Africa engage in acceptable quality assurance practices through consultation, partnership and collaboration in distance education.

### Policy Framework

ACDE-QAAA's policy centres on reviewing and promoting institutional, national, regional and continental quality assurance and accreditation policies, structures and practices for ODL in Africa by identifying challenges and gaps.

### Strategic Objectives

In attempting to sharpen the focus and purpose of the agency, the following five strategic objectives are identified as follows:

- Integrate an indigenous model of quality assurance and accreditation that would position African ODL in the global perspective.
- Develop a broad mandate and governance structure for continental quality assurance and accreditation agency for ODL in African Higher Education.
- Develop a broad framework for collaboration in the development of ODL quality assurance and code of practices.
- Construct instruments for monitoring and evaluating quality assurance practices in African ODL Higher Education institutions.

### Activities

- Programme reviews and capacity building Institutional Audits which are solely evidence-based
- Accreditation of institutions and their programmes; and
- Articulation and credit transfer

## ACDE-QAAA MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

