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Background

Providing quality higher education and continuously enhancing the quality of higher education in the Maldives is one of the top priorities of the Maldivian Government.

In order to strengthen higher education provision, the Government of Maldives has proposed to further develop the Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA). With the support of World Bank consultants, MQA has developed and endorsed a set of guidelines which are essential for enhancing the implementation of MQA's mandate. These guidelines for Programme Approval, Accreditation and Institutional Audit have been implemented in 2017.

Programme Accreditation is a process whereby MQA gives approval to offer programmes that are quality assured by the MQA against a set of nationally accepted standards to Higher Education Institutes (HEI) in Maldives. Programme accreditation provides assistance and feedback to institutions on the maintenance of the academic standards and the quality of their programmes.

Institutional Audit (Academic Audit) is an activity in which an HEI is assessed in terms of a set of established criteria as well as against the achievements of its own mission, conducted on a five-year cycle. It is a process based on the principle of continuous quality enhancement, with the motivation to further enhance the operations of the HEI by making relevant recommendations for future improvement.

Both these processes are based on the concept of peer-review; members of the External Review Panel will include those with experience in higher education and will base their review on the Self-Evaluation conducted by the relevant HEI. It is based on values of transparency, objectivity, neutrality and excellence. And it is designed to follow internationally accepted good practices in quality assurance.

Maldives Qualifications Authority invites interested candidates to apply for the post of reviewer of the "External Review Panel" pool, from where reviewers will be selected for the Programme Accreditation and Institutional Audit processes.

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Selection of External Review Panel Members

Selection of External Review Panel members for Programme Accreditation and Institutional (Academic) Audit will be based on the following 2 main criteria of Education and Experience.

I. Higher Education and Training qualification

- Notable scholar/academic from the respective discipline with appropriate credentials (at least a Master's Degree qualification);
- Knowledge and understanding of the Maldivian higher education and training sector and its broader context;
- Knowledge of quality assurance policy, processes, methods and terminologies;

II. Experience and Professional Expertise

- Experience in curriculum design and delivery in higher education including teaching experience in higher education and training sector;
- Experience of undertaking quality reviews (audit, assessment, accreditation, etc.) in educational, professional or industrial settings;
- Experience in research and scholarly activities or professional practice in a relevant field in combination with academic activity;
- Institutional leadership or management experience in higher education sector;
- Commitment to the principles of quality and quality assurance in higher education demonstrated through experience in programme /subject reviews, accreditation and /or academic audit processes;
- Ability to understand and assess information provided by HEIs in an objective and impartial manner that is sensitive to the particular context in which programmes and services have risen;
- Demonstrated expertise in the analysis and interpretation of data in forming and validating conclusions.

In addition to the above, the Selection Committee will also consider other Personal Qualities including;

- Commitment and diligence;
- Reliability in meeting commitments;
- Ability to communicate effectively;
- Willingness and ability to commit for site visits;
- Ability to keep high standards of ethics in dealing with sensitive and/or confidential matters.
- Demonstrated ability (and experience) to work cooperatively in a team.