

# Transnational education: the QAA experience of working across boundaries

Dr Irene Ainsworth  
Head of Degree Awarding Powers and University Title



**QAA**

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# UK transnational education (TNE)

## TNE: definition

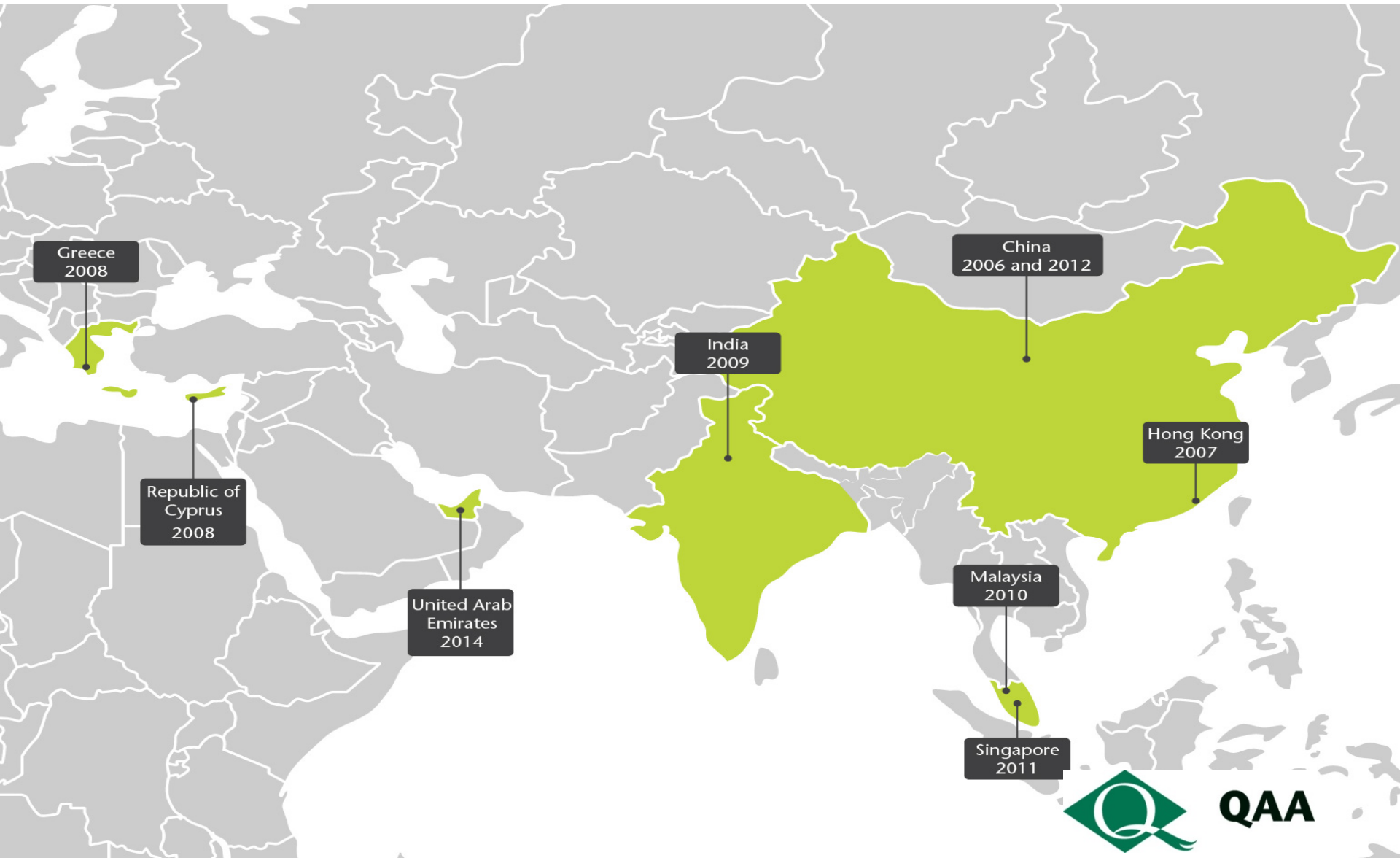
- TNE is the provision of higher education for students based in a country other than the one in which the awarding institution is located.
- UK TNE provision includes:
  - overseas branches
  - overseas partnerships
  - overseas distance learning (may involve in-country support centre)

# Expansion: UK TNE statistics (2011-12)



- Over 120 (and rising) UK higher education institutions are now involved in some form of TNE
- Students study for UK awards in over 200 different countries
- Around 570,000 students studying overseas for UK awards (+13% on the previous year)

# QAA TNE review activity



# 2012: QAA TNE review in China



- Conducted in co-operation with the China Academic Degrees & Graduate Development Centre
- Visited UK provider links in Beijing, Dalian, Kunming, Shanghai, Ningbo and Suzhou
- Four part approach:
  - i) Survey
  - ii) Desk-based studies
  - iii) Review team visit
  - iv) Outputs (reports)

# Review outputs



+ TNE annual report

- Range of reports
  - individual review reports
  - case studies
  - update on previous review
  - country overview report
- ‘The only example of data gathering of overseas provision collected in a systematic way was found to be the country reviews conducted by the UK’s QAA.’
- ‘The UK’s QAA approach to auditing the exports of UK providers is a good practice.’

*Delivering Education Across Borders in the European Union  
(European Commission: July 2013)*

# Partnerships and memberships

Working with QAA international partners		
China Academic Degrees & Graduate Development Centre	CDGDC China	
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications	HKCAAVQ Hong Kong	
Council for Private Education	CPE Singapore	
Knowledge and Human Development Authority	KHDA Dubai, UAE	
Malaysian Qualifications Agency	MQA Malaysia	
National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation	NIAD-UE Japan	
Quality and Qualifications Ireland	QQI Ireland	
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	TEQSA Australia	





# UK TNE Consultation

- QAA and the Higher Education International Unit consultation on what is needed to strengthen the quality assurance of TNE proposed
- significantly strengthened risk-based element to focus resource and attention where most needed and
- possible models and mechanisms to demonstrate the commitment of individual UK TNE providers to:
  - high quality provision
  - protection of the UK sector's high reputation.

*(International Education: Global Growth and Prosperity: page 46, paragraph 3.20)*

# Frames of reference

- *European Standards & Guidelines*, which underpin standards across the signatory countries to the Bologna Process, within the European Higher Education Area
- *Guidelines of Good Practice* of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)
- Both the *European Standards & Guidelines* and the INQAAHE *Guidelines of Good Practice* stand as possible frameworks and reference points, for the future development of international standards

