

Federation of Awarding Bodies International Forum

Minutes from Meeting

Date	Thursday 23 May 2019
Location	Association of Business Executives, Fifth Floor C I Tower, St Georges Square, New Malden KT3 4TE
Timing	13:00-15:00
Chair	Rob May (RM) , Chief Executive, Association of Business Executives
Attendees	Cathryn Atkinson (CA) , Deputy Head of Awarding Research and Development, Skills and Education Group
	Tom Bewick (TB) , Chief Executive, Federation of Awarding Bodies
	Marcus Bull (MB) , Chief Commercial Director, VTCT
	Esther Chesterman (EC) , Director of Qualifications and Academic Delivery, NCC Education
	Neil Everitt (NE) , Senior International Business Development Manager, Institute of Workplace and Facilities Management
	Nick Kho (NK) , Research Manager, NEBOSH
	Geoff Gladding (GG) , Sector Lead, Education Team, Department for International Trade (DIT)
	Jackie Mahoney (JM) , Learning Director, Chartered Insurance Institute
	Richard McClelland (RM) , Director, Qualifications for Industry
	Suellen White (SW) , Associate Dean, Quality, Policy & Regulation, The London Institute of Banking & Finance
Via Video Conference	Kevin Shakespeare (KS) , Director of Stakeholder Engagement, The Institute of Export and International Trade
	Olivia Bussey (QB) , Head of Quality and compliance, NCC Education limited
Apologies	Sarah Gerrard (SG) , Education Manager, The Chartered Institute of Housing
	Vicki Ball , Head of Education, The Institution of Fire Engineers
	Fiona Summers , Head of Quality and Compliance, YMCA Awards
	Neil Villiers , Head of Awarding Organisation, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport
Minutes	Geraldine Zake (GZ) - Minutes

		Action
	Item	Who
1.	<u>Welcome and introductions – Rob May, Chair</u> RM welcomed all to the forum.	
2.	<u>Forum aims and objectives / development of ToR</u> Today is the first meeting for the Federation of Awarding Bodies. RM referred all to the Terms of Reference and asked for their thoughts and feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NK asked for the SQA to be added as a regulatory body. • The wording re regulators to be more explicit. Regulator with a capital R • It was agreed that the ToR was a good representation of the Forum's role. 	

	<p>ACTION: Above amendments to ToR to be made.</p>	EE(FAB)
3.	<p><u>Overview of HMG International Education Strategy (Representative from DIT)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GG gave an overview of his role, which is, as lead of the sector team and departments, to support and encourage businesses like the forum's to be more successful internationally. Historically AO's haven't been promoted well internationally, the aim is to change this by attending forums like this. Promoting current governments new export strategy is to focus on UK doing more international trade and encouraging companies in promoting what they do. • GG advised that Jonathan Ledger (Department for International Trade) will be running six roadshows in June, this is aimed at organisations such as colleges, who are interested in promoting UK skills, international partnerships and schools, trying to raise public profile. <p>A question was asked how this could be achieved against the challenge of skills being compared to academic qualifications. Malaysia was given as an example where parents were reluctant to send their children to skills-based courses because they were deemed less important as academic qualifications.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Overview of the work of the UK Skills Partnership</u></p> <p>It was felt that the lack of understanding of UK quality was stopping people engaging with us. The German model has a sense of what was required. The German government had invested a lot of money in GIZ.</p> <p>It was agreed that there was still a lot of work to be done, which would take a monumental effort. TB said the practical thing that we could do was to map British employers' interactions overseas, mapping British industrial target markets overseas with skills development strategies.</p> <p>GG said that good progress was being made abroad and there are some good examples of British companies working abroad which should be highlighted.</p> <p><u>Human Development Resource Fund</u></p> <p>GG advised that we need to find the right people and focus our efforts in two areas; 1). Real opportunity, 2). British government involvement, which can make a real difference. When a country i.e. Malaysia says that they wish to build new systems, we need to interact in consortium fashion to help deliver their needs. Due diligence needs to be done prior to submitting a tender.</p> <p><u>FAB</u></p> <p>RM gave an overview of FABs role, which includes linking colleges and awarding bodies together to create cohesiveness. RM advised all that a document created by Jonathan, which looks at case studies, will be circulated by Emma and asked all to provide feedback.</p> <p>ACTION: Emma Evans (FAB) to circulate document</p> <p>ACTION: Everyone to provide feedback to provide feedback</p> <p><u>Recognition abroad</u></p>	EE All

	<p>Issue re trying to get accreditation in Botswana, GG advised that he is trying to make progress on this.</p> <p>OFQUAL/Regulator effectiveness in supporting exporters was questioned. Key is getting balance between quality and flexibility. ACTION: TB to draft letter and circulate to all</p> <p>Question was asked how FAB members get involved in skills roadshow. GG said that the DIT have trade advisors around the country who will promote the event. GG advised that Skills Partnerships are held monthly. the first meeting is on the 13 June in Wales, he will keep all informed.</p> <p>TB asked if the outcomes from these meetings could be posted on FAB website and could actions and requests from the forum be put forward. ACTION: RM will put question forward as to whether forum can have sight of and publish non-confidential minutes on website.</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>RM</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Qualifications – regulated / unregulated and support from Ofqual</u></p> <p>Botswana want to distance themselves from UK regulation and are building their own. EC advised that other countries are looking at independent models. ACTION: RM asked all to provide feedback re the support that they are receiving from their regulators.</p> <p>TB – Call for Qfqual to set up international resource. GG advised that since current Minister of Department for Education, (Ministerial and Public Communications Division) Damian Hinds came on board he is keen on supporting international trade. So now is the time.</p> <p><u>Local partners</u> Questions as to what Ofqual’s role is. Work to be done in getting the balance right. Issues like bureaucracy get in the way. Solutions included having regular meetings with the government to ensure that we are supported. It was advised that SQA has an international strategy. GG suggested that now is the right time to push on this. Two Secretary of States are signed up to targets which are reviewed every year. It was agreed by all that as a group we should put this forward. A letter to Damian Hinds and Liam Fox is to be drafted outlining issues that are inhibiting our ability to trade internationally. ACTION: International Education FAB to make representation on this. TB to drop something to RM then circulate to the group.</p> <p><u>Logos</u> NK advised that his organisation was always being asked what the equivalent of their qualifications are. A framework outlining this would be a way forward. In addition, a UK qualifications brand and logo, that can be used by UK awarding bodies abroad, can be used by all from a sales and marketing point of view. ACTION: RM requested all to provide thoughts to FAB re challenges they are facing and possible solutions.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>TB, RM</p> <p>All</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Local accreditation and contextualisation</u></p>	

	<p>JM gave background to Chartered Insurance Institute and advised the reason for this agenda item was because although they have a strong brand they don't have the capacity to develop assessment or learning (they create and sell assessment as a package) and need advice about working with partners, outsourcing and putting in place a model that gives quality assurance. This would open opportunities to them which currently aren't being presented to them. JM asked if anyone had experience in working with local partners. NE raised concerns re quality assurance.</p> <p>EC– gave example of using local partners, (using local consultants and delivery) and will share with JM and will share this outside of the meeting.</p> <p>KS gave a few observations, concerns about getting the infrastructure, correct. Are there some sectors who have greater opportunities, we focus a lot on e-learning. EC advised that public sector won't accept eLearning. Concerns raised that people can cheat on on-line learning, also they will ask for Europeans to validate the course assessment as opposed to local assessors.</p> <p>This would be a good opportunity for AOs to work together with the international team of The London Institute of Banking & Finance</p>	
7	<p><u>Quality assurance challenges and options</u></p> <p><u>British Council</u> TB asked all if they were happy with the British Council Services. Comments included; "they are friendly", "approachable", "inconsistent". EC advised that re delivery of strategy they are the key partner.</p> <p>GG advised that he is on a group that provides Whitehall oversight on what the British Council does abroad, e.g. checking that they are doing what is in their remit. RM asked how we should organise responses. GG advised that in the first instance if the issue(s) can't be dealt with at local level they can be directed to him. It was agreed that correspondence to the British Council should go through FAB.</p> <p>EC asked if anyone had used any local organisations to do invigilating, MB advised that they send their own team because it is hard to send people from UK because of cost and other issues. RM asked if they would use the same awarding body if another company is already out there providing the framework. i.e. sharing EQAs in a joint venture.</p> <p>ACTION: all agreed that they are happy to share their emails and contacts.</p>	All
8	<p><u>Ensuring standards and curbing false advertising</u></p> <p>TB advised that FAB did raise this with Ofqual and they asked him to send examples. MB advised they are getting a register so that client can check and see if they would like regulated or unregulated qualification, currently there is nowhere that people can go. Trying to persuade Ofqual to act upon this if AO is not within Ofqual's remit would be difficult to enforce.</p> <p>TB advised that he took some legal advice regarding this, certificates are being sold with branding, government support is key. Classic areas covered in trade deals protection of international rights however qualifications don't fall under this. GG advised that there will be consultation with groups like this in the future and the documents are currently being drafted. SW recommend not divulging all information to potential centres as they could steal the learning material.</p>	All

	<p>RM said that some recognised AOs 'blur' their regulated and self-regulated offer. ACTION: RM advised all to share solutions.</p>	
9	<p><u>Working with local partners / outsourcing</u></p> <p>Using the FAB network to increase our reach. EC asked if there was any support we could give each other? NE advised that he is happy to share where they have footprint – re local partnering or approach in different countries.</p> <p>Would be good if we had more of a joined-up message/catalogue of UK Skills & qualifications offers. This forum would orchestrate a way of doing this. EC supported potential to try and do something reciprocal in this forum and it could be a place to share ideas, we want all to grow.</p> <p>One of the categories in the FAB award is “Collaboration of the Year”, which reinforces the work ideas that the government are doing. Could use case study on UK skills website. TB suggested an “Exporter of the Year” award. ACTION -TB to make it happen ACTION- Emma to create table that everyone can put, provide countries that they are active in and send to Emma Evans, to prioritise which overseas market we should put additional effort in.</p>	TB EE
10	<p><u>Sales and Marketing strategies</u></p> <p>TB suggested we could get overseas organisations to join FAB as overseas members, once they join as Associate members, we can hold events, show and tell opportunities to sell back our expertise. Question as to how these activities will be resourced.</p> <p>TB advised that we are to find a way of resourcing an international strategy of our own that enables us to be proactive on the international stage. RM asked what organisation they had in mind NDC or India, we would carry out due diligence checks prior to them being a member. This could form part of FAB’s international strategy.</p>	
11	<p><u>Future direction and priorities / actions for the Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone agreed that today’s meeting had a very broad agenda, which was good because it highlighted key items, but future agendas to be more specific. • GG advised in terms of drafting a grid, it is important for DIT to know areas AOs are interested in. This will help DIT prioritise and organise trade visits. • As meetings develop working groups to be set up to take through tangible items. 	
12	<p><u>AOB and future meeting dates</u></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date of next meeting to be advised. Meetings to be held quarterly, each member to take turns in hosting. <p>ACTION: GZ to circulate date options and check availability. Once date decided to liaise with potential host re venue.</p> <p>ACTION: GZ to circulate minutes</p>	
	Close	

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