



NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DETERMINATION OF CRITERIA FOR RANKING OF NIGERIAN POLYTECHNICS AND SIMILAR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Workshop on Determination of Criteria for Ranking of Nigerian Polytechnics and Similar Tertiary Institutions was held between the 26th and 28th of February, 2013 at the NBTE Centre of Excellence for TVET in Kaduna, Nigeria. Declared open by the Executive Secretary of the Board, Dr. M.A. Kazaure, mni, the workshop drew impressive participation from senior management officers from polytechnics and similar institutions across the country, including target workshop participants such as Deputy Rectors, Deans and Directors of Academic Planning as well as other Directors and similar academic staff.

2.0 THE OBJECTIVES

In view of the prevalence of ranking of tertiary education institutions (TEIs) across the world, the workshop sought to achieve the following as its objectives:

- a. Be a forum for sensitization of participants to understand and appreciate the merits, challenges and procedures of ranking of institutions globally and within the TVET sector, in particular;
- b. Stimulate participants' awareness and familiarity with current trends in web and other types of evaluation and ranking;
- c. Become the catalyst for pioneering the nationwide evaluation and ranking of polytechnics and similar tertiary institutions under the purview of NBTE;
- d. Provide a forum for consensus on a tentative institutional ranking scheme as an initial guide for undertaking the exercise.

3.0 WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

The workshop was organized under a structure in which eight (8) lead papers were presented, and the participants were grouped into three syndicate groups which subsequently considered the lead papers, to draw out main ideas, criteria and indicators.

3.2 LEAD PAPERS

- a. "Importance of Institutional Ranking", By Dr. M.A. Kazaure, the Executive Secretary of NBTE
- b. "General Survey of Procedures for Ranking of Institutions", by Dr. Aminu M. Ibrahim, Convenor, Nigeria ICT Forum of Partnership Institutions, Abuja.
- c. "Physical Planning for Sound Academic Standards", by Arc. A.O. Aimola, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, NBTE
- d. "Methodology of College Ranking and Implications for TVET Institutions", by Prof. Placid C. Njoku, President, Nigerian Institute of Animal Science, Abuja
- e. "Imperatives of Quality Assurance for Higher Institutional Ranking", by Dr. M.S. Abubakar, Director, NBTE Centre of Excellence for TVET, Kaduna.
- f. "Significance of Normative Instruments for Quality Assurance", by Mr. J.S. Aboi, NBTE Director of Programmes.
- g. "Implications of Internal Quality Assurance on Institutional Excellence", by Mrs. E.O. Bikomo, Director, Internal Quality Assurance Unit, Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Lagos.
- h. "Significance of Institutional Ranking for Revenue Generation", by Alh. Isa A. Sulaimanu, Director, Finance and Accounts, NBTE.

3.3 COMMUNIQUE

The Workshop was attended by over eighty (80) participants. It was characterized by very lively discussions and syndicate sessions, which collectively aided the eventual process of developing the following communiqué.

REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP ON DETERMINATION OF THE CRITERIA FOR RANKING OF NIGERIAN POLYTECHNICS AND SIMILAR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

Introduction

The workshop notes that UNESCO-European Centre for Higher Education defines ranking as “an established approach, with corresponding methodology and procedures, for displaying the comparative standing of whole institutions or of certain domains of their performance.” Ranking is understood as the deliberate rating of higher education institutions (HEIs) based on several already established criteria and procedures in order to ensure that institutions which excel in the areas covered in the criteria inevitably get rated higher or better than those that do not. In view of the global usage of higher education ranking, it is deemed essential for all institutions to understand its typology, procedure, merit and impact. Similarly, quality assurance agencies planning to apply ranking should consult widely among their institutions on the appropriate criteria.

Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop was undertaken to enable the participants:

- i. Understand and appreciate the merit and procedure of ranking of institutions
- ii. Become more aware and familiar with current trends in web evaluation and ranking
- iii. Be the catalyst for pioneering the nationwide evaluation and ranking of polytechnics and similar tertiary institutions under the purview of NBTE.
- iv. Agree on a tentative institutional ranking scheme as an initial guide for undertaking of the exercise

Justification for Ranking

The Workshop participants appreciate that Rankings have become a standard practice with higher education institutions in many countries around the world, and are undertaken for a variety of reasons, such as:

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- i) To provide the public with information on the standing of higher education institutions for individual and group decision-making
 - ii) To foster healthy competition among higher educational institutions
 - iii) To stimulate the evolution of Centres of Excellence and
 - iv) To provide additional rationale for allocation of funds/grants
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Criteria for Ranking

The participants agreed to adopt the following as part of the criteria for ranking:

- i. Percentage of programmes with full accreditation
- ii. Level of compliance with institution's stipulated carrying capacity
- iii. Proportion of academic staff of the institution at Chief Lecturer, Principal Lecturer level and its equivalent.
- iv. Level of collaboration with foreign institutions, faculties, and of the students who are non-Nigerian (foreign content).
- v. Internally- generated Revenue (IGR)
- vi. Proportion of Staff with outstanding academic achievements.
- vii. Market Driven Research and Product Development
- viii. Level of capacity- building activities undertaken
- ix. Student Completion Rate
- x. Stability of Academic Calendar
- xi. Student to PC Ratio
- xii. Teaching Quality including staff/student ratio
- xiii. Teaching Quality including ratio of full-time to part-time staff
- xiv. Library, especially the number of library holdings per full-time equivalent student
- xv. Incorporation of Entrepreneurship Education into the institution's curriculum
- xvi. Availability of Campus Master Plan and institutional Strategic Plan.
- xvii. Availability of an Internal Quality Assurance Unit.
- xviii. Level of Corporate Social Responsibility within the institution's community.

The Workshop was of the opinion that ranking be done bi-annually, using Clustering or Grouped ranking. It was also recommended that the identified parameters (criteria) should be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in the HEIs in Nigeria.

Ranking Body

It was agreed that the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) should facilitate the ranking process.

Data Gathering:

The Workshop strongly recommends that data gathering procedure should:

- Be sensitive to ethical standards and best practices
 - Use audited and verifiable data, whenever possible
 - Include data from established and reputable scientific data collection sources
 - Apply measures that enhance credibility of Ranking (advisory, supervisory with external/international content)
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Presentation of Ranking Results

Should:

- Provide unambiguously, all factors used to develop the ranking
- Ensure that compilation of data eliminates possibilities of error in the original data and reporting must allow correction of error.

Conclusion

The workshop concluded that ranking of Nigerian Polytechnics and similar tertiary institutions shall greatly benefit the sector and the Nigerian educational system as a whole. It could promote academic excellence and a healthy competition among the member institutions and bring up institutions that hitherto are at the bottom of the ladder in academics excellence. Therefore immediate action should be put in place by the NBTE to jump-start the process of ranking of the Polytechnic system in Nigeria.

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(On behalf of Local Organizing Committee)

