

ABEST21 Accreditation Advisor System

Up to present ABEST21 has provided guidance to applicant schools through Accreditation Seminar on all issues concerning analysis of Self-Check/Self-Evaluation. However, in the submitted "Self-Check/Self-Evaluation Report" there were cases where the technical terms used in the Accreditation Standards were not understood correctly, or where analysis was not appropriately done based on the Accreditation Standards. Also the terms indicated in the ABEST21 Accreditation Manual were sometimes not correctly understood. Such lack of understanding results in re-submission of the analysis of Self-Check/Self-Evaluation. To avoid such cases, ABEST21 has been holding various Accreditation Seminars.

However, it is sometimes difficult for the applicants to discuss their individual problems at the Seminar. In order to address this issue, ABEST21 has decided to introduce the ABEST21 Accreditation Advisor System effective 2020. Under this Advisor System the applicant schools can receive guidance from the Advisor on solving their specific problems. The use of this system is not mandatory but on as-needed base. The applicant school can receive adequate advices on unclear points of analysis of Self-Check/Self-Evaluation, etc.

The Advisors will include the distinguished education researchers who have rich experience and advanced knowledge of ABEST21 Accreditation reviews, backed by international experience of higher education research activities. Applicant schools will register with the Group of the Advisor to seek guidance, and receive advice individually when needed.

There are a few points to be taken care of. Firstly, the use of this system is not a requirement. So, we cannot force the applicant school to use it. The school will use the system only when it is necessary.

Secondly, the period of guidance will be limited. It is important to concentrate it in a short period of time and spend it efficiently. Thus, the guidance term shall be set between the PRC's approval of the applicant's "Quality Improvement Strategies" and the submission of the "Self-Check/Self-Evaluation Report". To boost the school's power toward improvement, concentrated short-term guidance is regarded effective.

The third issue is the double position of one person as the Advisor and a member of the School's Peer Review Team (PRT). The Advisor will be unable to become a member of the School's PRT. If the Advisor were to double as a member of the PRT, the Advisor may become a strong supporter at the PRT, or a critic. To avoid such situation, the Advisor will not double as a member of the PRT.

Finally, there are various methods for Advisor's guidance. Within the Asia-Pacific area where the time difference is small, real time communication via electronic media is usable internationally. Or if necessary, face-to-face meeting is possible. To be able to provide guidance for all types of issues at the applicant school, seminar for Advisors is necessary, just like the Training Seminar for Peer Review Team members.

We expect that due to the guidance by the Advisor, the applicant schools will analyze their "Self-Check/Self-Evaluation" appropriately, and prepare texts to lead to quality enhancement of education and research activities in the changing environment in the future.