

Final Notes and Notes of Thanks

Very briefly, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to many of you:
speakers, who agreed to share their experiences with us
moderators/rapporteurs of the two workshop sessions
chairs of all plenary sessions and
the IAU President for agreeing to act as general rapporteur.

I also wish to thank the Conference des Presidents d'Universite for this first partnership with IAU. We are very grateful to the CPU for their collaboration in making the 2nd Global Meeting possible in Paris. We, at IAU can only hope that the experience was viewed as positively by CPU as by our association. At CPU allow me to single out Messieurs J.P Finance, Le Poutier, E. Esperet and O. Audeout for accompanying this planning process with us, with the able assistance and support of Christine Crespy of CPU.

At IAU, I thank Sylvain Charpentier most particularly as he had most of the responsibility for securing the speakers, preparing the programme and background document for us, sending out invitations, announcements and reminders. Along with all of my colleagues who in various ways made certain that all worked well, I want to single out Mme. Yvette Saunders as this might very well be Yvette's last meeting to organise with us as she is taking an early retirement to spend more time with her family. Thank you very much Yvette, and rest assured, we will miss you.

I would be remiss however if I did not thank all of the associations that responded to our few pre-meeting questions by providing us information about their work in the field of Quality. The data we have been able to collect is rich and we will be looking at how, in addition to making it available to you in a relatively crude way in the background material, we may exploit it in a more analytical synthesis report. Thanks to all of you who took the time to respond.

Before concluding, please allow me a few remarks about what I learned during this very rich and enjoyable meeting with all of you. The general report is very comprehensive but I would add the following elements that are essential for me:

First, we were advised and would be wise to heed the call to avoid over-simplification at all costs. There is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to be adopted here.

Second, we must learn how to draw the maximum benefits from those aspects on which we can draw consensus or where we see convergence taking place.

Third, no matter how tiring and intensive coming together might be – and due to differences in our approaches, in language and in our experiences, it does require work to remain open and suspend judgments – it is incredibly rich to learn from one another.

Fourth, if we have an open mind to other ways of approach issues, a meeting like this cannot but change the way we work and view our actions. Confronting other practices is like holding up a new mirror and seeing a slightly changed reflection.

Finally, it is tremendously satisfying to know that IAU can put its convening power to bring you all to this meeting and thus offer you the opportunity to network and perhaps places us one step closer towards global collective actions.

All that is left to say now is to express our hope to see you at the next IAU [international conference in Malaysia](#), where IAU is partnering with the Ministry of

Higher Education and one of our member institutions – Universiti Sains Malaysia, whose Vice Chancellor - Abdul Razak Dzulkipli is here with us in his capacity as president of the Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL). As well we hope to see you next July in Utrecht where the University will host the [13th General Conference](#) of IAU. Come and help us mark 60 years of the initial discussions that led to the creation of the Association.