



## **Executive Summary**

### **Renewal of Licensure Abu Dhabi School of Management**

**December 13-16, 2015**

The Abu Dhabi School of Management (ADSM) submitted an Application for Renewal of Licensure (hereafter the Application) to the Commission for Academic Accreditation (hereafter the CAA or Commission). An External Review Team (ERT) from the Commission consisting of three external reviewers and a commissioner visited the ADSM from 13<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015, to evaluate its application.

Sponsored by the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI), ADSM is an institution currently only offering a Master of Business Administration (MBA). The MBA was awarded Initial Accreditation in 2011. The institution has received Initial Accreditation for an undergraduate program in business, but the program is not currently offered. The MBA is operated in partnership with the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine (London) (ICSTM) and its School of Business (ICBS). The MBA has enrolled three cohorts of students and currently has 231 students undertaking the program. The institution serves UAE nationals with over 95% of its students being from the national population. Most of students are from Abu Dhabi. ADSM employs five full-time and two part-time faculty, and 12 staff.

ADSM is a new institution whose entrepreneurial mission and boutique campus environment imply a bright trajectory. Central issues involve improving student quality and continuing the transition from ad hoc to a more formal and better-documented set of policies, plans, and procedures, particularly in the areas of quality assurance, expectations of faculty, and financial projections. The ADSM's relationship with ADCCI represents a major opportunity to pursue meaningful entrepreneurship initiatives with their support. Several new hires, among both faculty and professional staff, have helped to create a positive and forward-looking attitude across the institution. While this report identifies many areas that need attention, the ERT is confident that the institution will be both stronger and better positioned moving forward.

The ERT makes its recommendations in a spirit of constructive engagement, with the aim of ensuring that the *Standards* are met, and to aid the institution to establish programs that will achieve its stated objectives.