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ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

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REPORT





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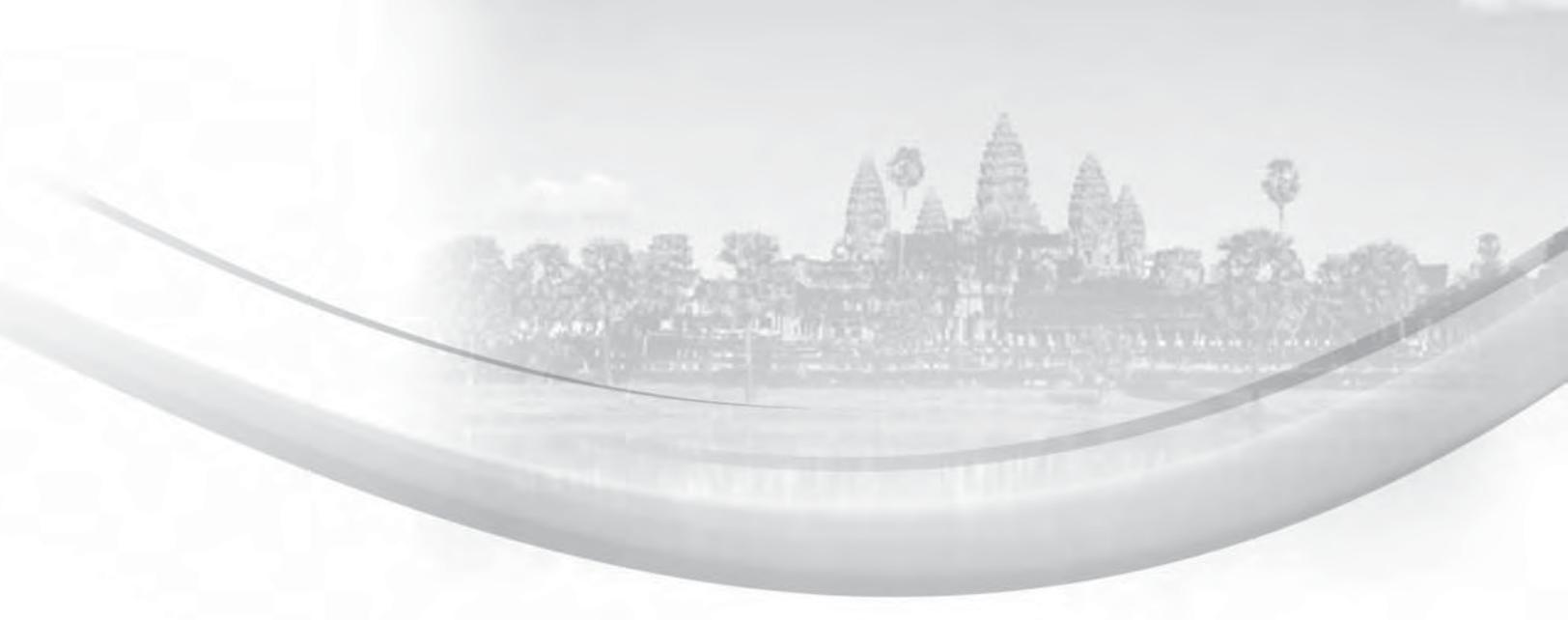
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THE NETWORK

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

MEMBERS–GENERAL COUNCIL

THE BOARD



THE NETWORK

OUR VISION

To be a self-sustaining Network, a first point of reference for advice or support, efficient in its operations and open in its information sharing.

OUR VALUES

APQN is:

- ◆ committed to quality higher education,
- ◆ supportive of quality agencies in the region.

OUR METHODS

APQN achieves its purposes through a range of methods, including:

- ◆ dissemination of information through newsletters, documents, journals and books, whether in paper-based or electronic form;
- ◆ training and development through seminars, workshops, conferences and staff movement;
- ◆ developing and utilizing databases and other resources from other organizations;
- ◆ other appropriate means as determined by the General Council or the Board.

OUR PURPOSES

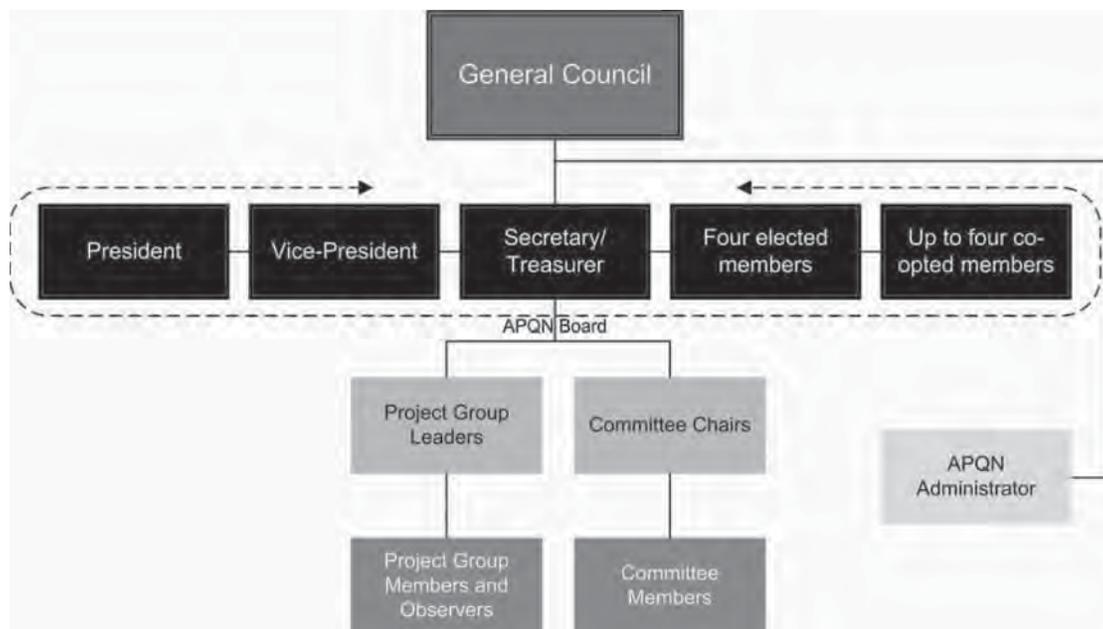
The purposes of APQN are:

- ◆ to promote good practice in the maintenance and improvement of quality in higher education in the Asia–Pacific region
- ◆ to facilitate research in the region into the practice of quality management in higher education and its effectiveness in improving the quality of higher education in the region
- ◆ to provide advice and expertise to assist the development of new quality assurance agencies in the region
- ◆ to facilitate links between quality assurance agencies and acceptance of each others’ decisions and judgments
- ◆ to assist members of APQN to determine standards of institutions operating across national borders
- ◆ to permit better–informed international recognition of qualifications throughout the region
- ◆ to assist in the development and use of credit transfer schemes
- ◆ to enhance the mobility of students between institutions both within and across national borders
- ◆ to enable members of APQN to be alert to dubious accrediting practices and organizations where appropriate, represent the region and promote the interests of the region, e.g. vis–à–vis other networks and international organizations

OUR MISSION

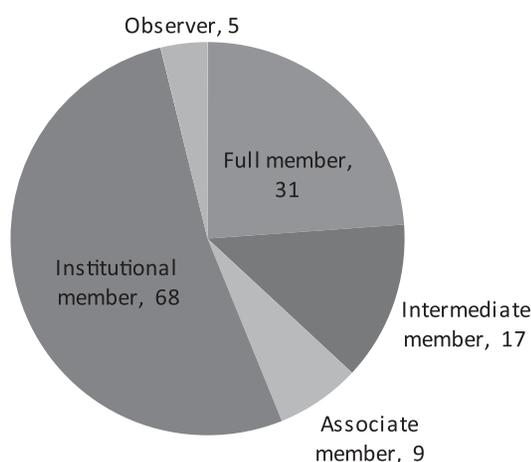
To enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia–Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



MEMBERS-GENERAL COUNCIL

APQN now boasts:



This brings the total number of members across all categories of membership to 130 from 40 countries or territories. Among them, 32 members and one observer were successfully approved as new members of the Network during the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2012. Among the new members, there are 3 Full members, 3 Intermediate members, 2 Associate members, 23 institutional members and 1 Observer.

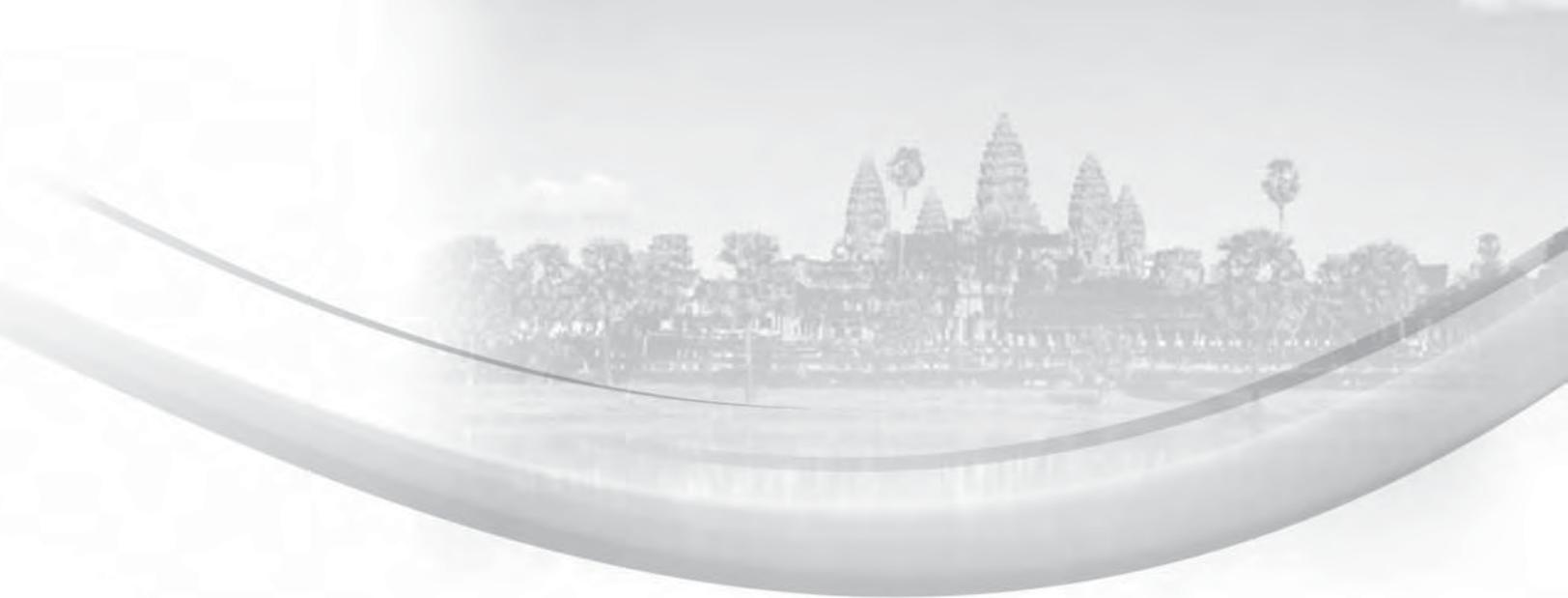
The membership of National Accreditation Centre of Kazakhstan has been replaced by the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), Kazakhstan as the restructure of the quality assurance agency in Kazakhstan. The Joint Quality Review Committee, Hong Kong has updated its membership from Intermediate member into Full member.

| No. | Country /Territory | Agency | APQN Status 2012 |
|-----|--------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | Australia | National ELT Accreditation Scheme Ltd | Full |
| 2 | Australia | The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) | Full |
| 3 | Australia | The Office of the Australian Qualifications Framework Council (AQFC) | Associate |
| 4 | Bangladesh | American International University | Institutional |
| 5 | Bangladesh | University Grants Commission | Associate |
| 6 | Bangladesh | University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh | Institutional |
| 7 | Bangladesh | International Culture University <small>new</small> | Institutional |
| 8 | Brunei Darussalam | Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council (BDNAC) | Intermediate |

| No. | Country /Territory | Agency | APQN Status 2012 |
|-----|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 9 | Cambodia | Build Bright University | Institutional |
| 10 | Cambodia | Accreditation Committee of Cambodia | Full |
| 11 | Cambodia | International University | Institutional |
| 12 | China | Higher Education Evaluation Center | Full |
| 13 | China | Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute | Full |
| 14 | China | Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Office | Full |
| 15 | China | Evaluation Center of Chinese Education Quality, ECCEQ new | Full |
| 16 | China | China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center new | Full |
| 17 | Chinese Taipei | Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association | Full |
| 18 | Chinese Taipei | Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan | Full |
| 19 | Chinese Taipei | Fu Jen Catholic University new | Institutional |
| 20 | Croatia | Agency for Science and Higher Education new | Observer |
| 21 | Fiji | Fiji National University | Institutional |
| 22 | Fiji | University of the South Pacific | Institutional |
| 23 | Fiji | Higher Education Commission | Associate |
| 24 | Fiji | Secretariat for the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment | Intermediate |
| 25 | Germany | ASIIN e.V. | Observer |
| 26 | Hong Kong, China | Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education | Associate |
| 27 | Hong Kong, China | Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications | Full |
| 28 | Hong Kong, China | Joint Quality Review Committee Limited | Full |
| 29 | Hong Kong, China | University Grants Committee | Full |
| 30 | Hong Kong, China | Vocational Training Council new | Associate |
| 31 | India | School of Management, Sambhram Academy of Management Studies | Institutional |
| 32 | India | National Assessment and Accreditation Council | Full |
| 33 | India | Govt. College of education, M.A. Road, Srinagar, J&K | Institutional |
| 34 | India | Dhanwate National College | Institutional |
| 35 | India | Annamacharya Institute of Technology and Sciences new | Institutional |
| 36 | India | MIER College of Education new | Institutional |
| 37 | India | SSESA's Science College new | Institutional |
| 38 | India | Chettinad Academy of Research & Education new | Institutional |
| 39 | India | Camp Education Society Dr. Arvind B Telang College of Arts, Science & Commerce new | Institutional |
| 40 | Indonesia | National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education | Full |
| 41 | Iran | The University of Tehran | Institutional |

| No. | Country /Territory | Agency | APQN Status 2012 |
|-----|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 42 | Japan | Japan University Accreditation Association | Full |
| 43 | Japan | National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation | Full |
| 44 | Kazakhstan | Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating | Intermediate |
| 45 | Kazakhstan | Independent Kazakhstan Quality Assurance Agency in Education | Intermediate |
| 46 | Korea, South | Korean Council for University Education | Full |
| 47 | Korea, South | Korean Council For University College Education(KCCE) | Intermediate |
| 48 | Kuwait | Private Universities Council | Observer |
| 49 | Laos | Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education | Associate |
| 50 | Macau, China | Macau University of Science and Technology | Institutional |
| 51 | Macau, China | Tertiary Education Services Office new | Associate |
| 52 | Malaysia | Asian Institute of Finance | Institutional |
| 53 | Malaysia | Malaysian Qualifications Agency | Full |
| 54 | Maldives | Maldives Qualifications Authority | Intermediate |
| 55 | Maldives | Institute for Academic Development, Villa College new | Institutional |
| 56 | Mongolia | University of the Humanities | Institutional |
| 57 | Mongolia | Health Sciences University of Mongolia | Institutional |
| 58 | Mongolia | Ikh Zasag International University | Institutional |
| 59 | Mongolia | Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation | Full |
| 60 | Nepal | University Grants Commission of Nepal | Intermediate |
| 61 | New Zealand | New Zealand Qualifications Authority | Full |
| 62 | New Zealand | Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities | Full |
| 63 | Pakistan | University of Science & Technology, Bannu | Institutional |
| 64 | Pakistan | Institute of Space Technology | Institutional |
| 65 | Pakistan | University of Engineering & Technology, Taxila | Institutional |
| 66 | Pakistan | Allama Iqbal Open University | Institutional |
| 67 | Pakistan | Fatima Jinnah Women University | Institutional |
| 68 | Pakistan | Mehran University of Engineering & Technology | Institutional |
| 69 | Pakistan | National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) | Institutional |
| 70 | Pakistan | NED University of Engineering & Technology | Institutional |
| 71 | Pakistan | Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Agricultural University, Peshawar-Pakistan | Institutional |
| 72 | Pakistan | University of Karachi | Institutional |
| 73 | Pakistan | University of Management and Technology | Institutional |
| 74 | Pakistan | Institute of Quality & Technology Management | Institutional |
| 75 | Pakistan | Shaheed benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar | Institutional |

| No. | Country /Territory | Agency | APQN Status 2012 |
|-----|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 76 | Pakistan | Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University | Institutional |
| 77 | Pakistan | Sukkur institute of Business Administration | Institutional |
| 78 | Pakistan | Higher Education Commission | Intermediate |
| 79 | Pakistan | National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education | Intermediate |
| 80 | Pakistan | National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council new | Intermediate |
| 81 | Pakistan | National Business Education Accreditation Council new | Intermediate |
| 82 | Pakistan | University of Education | Institutional |
| 83 | Pakistan | National Textile University | Institutional |
| 84 | Pakistan | Quality Enhancement Cell, Kohat University of Science & Technology | Institutional |
| 85 | Pakistan | Beaconhouse National University | Institutional |
| 86 | Pakistan | Institute of Business Management | Institutional |
| 87 | Pakistan | The University of Faisalabad | Institutional |
| 88 | Pakistan | Quality Assurance Directorate, Bahria University | Institutional |
| 89 | Pakistan | Riphah International University | Institutional |
| 90 | Pakistan | Air University Islamabad Pakistan | Institutional |
| 91 | Pakistan | Institute of Management Sciences | Institutional |
| 92 | Pakistan | Ziauddin University | Institutional |
| 93 | Pakistan | COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) new | Institutional |
| 94 | Pakistan | Quality Enhancement Cell, National University of Modern Languages new | Institutional |
| 95 | Pakistan | Preston University new | Institutional |
| 96 | Pakistan | Iqra University new | Institutional |
| 97 | Pakistan | Institute of Buisness & Technology-Biztek Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) new | Institutional |
| 98 | Pakistan | University of Lahore new | Institutional |
| 99 | Pakistan | Abasyn University new | Institutional |
| 100 | Pakistan | Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science & Technology (SZABIST) new | Institutional |
| 101 | Pakistan | Islamia College Peshawar (Chartered University) new | Institutional |
| 102 | Pakistan | University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir new | Institutional |
| 103 | Pakistan | SBK Women University Quetta Pakistan new | Institutional |
| 104 | Pakistan | Greenwich University Karachi new | Institutional |
| 105 | Pakistan | National Testing Service-Pakistan (NTS) new | Institutional |
| 106 | Philippines | Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines Inc. | Full |
| 107 | Philippines | Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities | Full |
| 108 | Russia | The Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and Career Development | Full |
| 109 | Russia | The National Accreditation Agency of the Russian Federation | Full |
| 110 | Russia | National Center of Public Accreditation (NCPA) | Full |
| 111 | Russia | Association for Engineering Education of Russia new | Full |



| No. | Country /Territory | Agency | APQN Status 2012 |
|-----|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 112 | Samoa | Samoa Qualifications Authority | Full |
| 113 | Singapore | Council for Private Education | Intermediate |
| 114 | Sri Lanka | Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology | Institutional |
| 115 | Sri Lanka | Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of Sri Lanka | Intermediate |
| 116 | Sri Lanka | South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine (Pvt) Ltd. new | Institutional |
| 117 | Thailand | Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry | Associate |
| 118 | Thailand | ASEAN University Network | Observer |
| 119 | Thailand | Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment | Full |
| 120 | Timor Leste | National Agency for Academic Assessment and Accreditation (NAAAA) | Intermediate |
| 121 | Tonga | Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board new | Intermediate |
| 122 | United Kingdom | The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education | Observer |
| 123 | Vanuatu | Vanuatu National Training Council | Intermediate |
| 124 | Vietnam | Center for Educational Testing and Quality Assessment, Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City | Institutional |
| 125 | Vietnam | Institute for Education Quality Assurance of Vietnam National University, Hanoi | Institutional |
| 126 | Vietnam | Hanoi National University of Education (HNUE) | Institutional |
| 127 | Vietnam | Centre for Higher Education Research | Institutional |
| 128 | Vietnam | Directorate of Vocational Training (DVT) | Intermediate |
| 129 | Vietnam | Center for Quality Assurance, Foreign Trade University new | Institutional |
| 130 | Vietnam | General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation | Full |

THE BOARD



APQN President
Dr. Jagannath Patil (Appointed)
INDIA



APQN Vice President
Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi (Appointed)
CHINESE TAIPEI



APQN Secretary/Treasurer
Prof. Li Yaogang (Ex officio)
CHINA



APQN Board Member
Ms. Zia Batool (Appointed)
PAKISTAN



APQN Board Member
Dr. Kazuo Okamoto (Elected)
JAPAN



APQN Board Member
Prof. Zita Mohd Fahmi (Elected)
MALAYSIA



APQN Board Member
Prof. Colin Peiris (Co-opted)
SRI LANKA



APQN Board Member
Dr. Jan Cameron (Co-opted)
NEW ZEALAND



APQN Board Member
Mr. Vicheanon KHIEU (Co-opted)
CAMBODIA



APQN Board Member
Mr. Lemalu Lafi Sanerivi (Co-opted)
SOUTH PACIFIC



BOARD ACTIVITY

RESTRUCTURE OF THE BOARD

Dr. Antony Stella, the former President of the Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN) resigned from the position on 1 June 2012, as she moved out of the region, and worked as Commissioner in the Commission for Academic Accreditation in Abu Dhabi, UAE since that time. Dr. Jagannath Patil, the former Vice–President of APQN has assumed the office of President since 1 June, 2012. In turn, Prof. Angela Hou Yung–chi, one of the elected Board members has been appointed as the Vice–President of APQN since 1 June, 2012.

APQN wishes to place on record the remarkable contribution made by Dr. Antony Stella since the inception of APQN. In her various roles as project leader, Board member, Vice–President and President, Stella contributed to building APQN which is now a force to be recognized and admired in the international QA fraternity. APQN bids a hearty farewell to Dr. Stella and wishes her all the best in the future.

APQN is also pleased to welcome Dr. Jagannath Patil of NAAC, India as its fourth President. Dr. Jagannath Patil has been a leading figure of the APQN since past 7 years. As Project leader, Board member and Vice President JP has led several initiatives of APQN. We are sure APQN will scale new heights under President–ship of JP due to his rich experience and international recognition in the field of quality assurance.

APQN looks forward to the collaboration of all members and friends in continuing to work together to strengthen even further APQN’ s quality initiatives in the Asia–Pacific region.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT





APQN Shines Brighter in the 10th Year. President' s Report by Dr Jagannath Patil

Dear Colleagues,

I feel greatly honoured to shoulder responsibility as fourth President of APQN after being part of growth story of APQN since its inception. I have fortune of being associated with APQN since several years in different roles as Project leader, Elected Board member and Vice–President. I am thankful to colleagues of this prestigious network for elevating me to the position of President in APQN' s decennial year.

While presenting this annual report I must place on record, our compliments to Dr Antony Stella who demitted office of President on 30th May as she moved out of region.

Converting Challenges into Opportunities

While sharing the joy of being APQN President, I was very much aware that this would be the most difficult and challenging times for APQN. I took over in a month of June 2012 which was supposed to be the last month of financial support from GIQAC, UNESCO. From next month onwards APQN had to survive on its own without any external funding.

APQN was the first network to receive the World Bank Development Grant Fund (DGF) from September 2004 to March 31, 2008. For the past three and half it has also been a beneficiary of the Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC) grant administered by UNESCO.

It was time for me to complete all pending projects supported by UNESCO and to submit report back by July 2012 itself. We indeed worked hard to complete projects including External Review of QAAs, Quality Information Systems and Publication of Electronic Package for Training of Assessors in a very short span of time. It was satisfying that we could also submit report to UNESCO in time and underwent external evaluation commissioned by UNESCO.

So far, all activities of APQN had been possible due to financial support of UNESCO and World Bank coupled with voluntary work done by board members and project leaders. The greatest challenge now is how to sustain this legacy and activities with increased expectations of member agencies with no external funding.

APQN beyond GIQAC – Agenda for Revival

So the real challenge in front of us was to direct our efforts to set an agenda for APQN's sustenance. I convinced the Board to turn this challenge into opportunity and embarked on several initiatives that have now poised APQN as a more vibrant and member friendly network. In the last few months many initiatives have been launched with aim to make APQN self sustaining and relevant to the needs of stakeholders.

- Collaboration with Australian government for Training of 30 colleagues at Melbourne under EAS capacity building programme.
- MoU with COL, Canada for quality enhancement activities for next 3 years.
- APQN Exchange Programme paved way for about 20 experts to visit other QAAs.
- MoC signed with a reputed publishing house to bring out quality publications. Two publications already released.
- APQN Quality Awards launched for the first time
- Launched Peer Review of EQA in Asia Pacific for the first time

A celebration of 10 years of APQN is another initiative of mine which has received hearty response from members. Decennial publication mapping QA in Asia Pacific, Decennial lecture at AACCUP, Philippines, International Training workshop by ONESQA, Bangkok in February 2013, APQN Quality Awards to be given in Taipei Conference, Asia Pacific Quality Information Portal on lines of NARIC, conference at Wellington, New Zealand with AQA in May 2013, Workshop on Rankings in Colombo Sri Lanka are among the key activities of 10 year celebrations of APQN.

New Frontiers of Vibrant APQN

Besides this, with my suggestions to Board, APQN has set up an ambitious agenda including

- APQN Quality label as Regional / international accreditation
- Development of Asia Pacific Quality Register
- Asia Pacific Quality Information Portal on lines of NARIC
- A joint consortium with the European bodies for Asia–Europe collaboration and exchange.
- APQN QA Certification with leading universities in Asia Pacific.

A joint consortium with INQA/AHE and European bodies is under discussion.



All these initiative have created a positive impact on membership, which is reflected in growing number of new members joining the network. We added over 30 members in current year, a record number in single year since inception of APQN. A good number of agencies are coming forward to offer their expertise to fellow members for capacity building. MoU to recognise ONESQA as Quality hub is shining example of enthusiasm from APQN members.

I am always looking forward to your ideas and initiatives to make APQN a vibrant and self-sustaining network that would become the first point of reference in Quality Assurance in Asia Pacific.

I got a genuine feedback from many veteran colleagues of APQN saying that APQN has become more active and visible when it has no external funding.

I am sure we will continue to work with same sprit to make APQN rise higher and shine brighter.



Dr Jagannath Patil
APQN President

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the change of the APQN leadership in June 2012, I was appointed as the Vice President. It was a great honor for me to have the opportunity to serve all APQN members and to assist President in several APQN projects. As the Vice President I have two major responsibilities to shoulder. One is membership review and the other is to lead APQN on-line forum.

Over the past year, the number of APQN members continued to grow with a total of 32. 6 quality assurance agencies from China, Pakistan, Russia and Tonga have joined APQN as full member or intermediate member. In addition, several universities and colleges joined as institutional members. Consistent flow from Pakistani and Indian institutions, yet, it is good to know that several new institutional members were from Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

Due to APQN' s efforts on QA promotion over the past decade, most Asian nations have developed their national quality assurance systems and we are so glad to know that most of them have joined APQN. Currently, half of the Asian nations began to diversify their QA framework by having more than two quality assurance bodies, such as Japan, Russia, China and Philippines. These Asian QA agencies were encouraged to apply for APQN membership and to take part as members of Asian QA community. The internationalization of higher education has led to quality assurance of cross-border higher education. In order to realize more about Asian QA culture, international accreditors who started to accredit Asian universities are expected to participate as APQN observers in the future, such as AACSB, FIBAA. It is hoped to see more interesting dialogues among national, local and international QA agencies in APQN.

Over the past decade, increasing pressure to demonstrate accountability of higher education had led to the rise of learning outcomes based assessment in many countries. Hence, a debate over how to gather reliable evidence

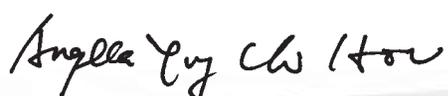




of the student achievement of these outcomes has been growing globally. According to Ralph Wolff, President of WASC, the focus had made accreditors shift the accreditation standards from “the use of key input and resources indicators to gain evidence of effectiveness, especially in relation to student learning outcomes” . Hence, the 4th APQN online forum decided to focused on 3 issues related to learning outcomes, namely: **(1) Learning outcome, qualification framework and accountability (2) Assessing Learning outcomes through EQA (3) Achieving learning outcomes through IQA.** Throughout Feb 1, 2012, the 4th moderated APQN online forum, supported by the World Bank’ s/UNESCO’ s Global Initiative for Quality Assurance capacity (GIQAC) fund, was facilitated by three well-known scholars and practitioners, Prof Dr Hilary Winchester, Ms. Wong Wai Suma and Mr. Lemalu Lafi Sanerivi. 108 quality assurance experts, representing 29 APQN member institutions (7 full members, 7 intermediate members, 13 institutional members and 2 associate members) from 17 different countries registered to take part in this important endeavor during the month of February and March. As to the 6-week discussions, it can be seen that learning outcomes and qualification frameworks and become very crucial in APQN members. With the high level of involvement throughout the entire 6 weeks, this was no doubt an excellent learning exercise, which on the one hand identified best practice of learning outcomes shared by the participants, while at the same time exposing their interest of this area.

Members are the foundation of APQN. Diverse and multicultural membership will vibrate APQN to create innovations in QA measures for Asian QA community. As APQN continues to increase the number of its members, it will need to assist them to ascertain their quality in order to demonstrate accountability to the stakeholders that they have brought the positive impact on higher education, particularly in effectiveness of learning.

As OECD/ UNESCO emphasized, “the protection of students and the assurance of the quality of cross-border education are two important elements which have to be taken into account in the liberalization of educational services” , APQN will continue to serve as a catalyst among QA agencies, recognition bodies, governments, and institutions. Interactions and communications among four parties will be intensified throughout various APQN workshops, conferences, and training programs. It is expected that a well-balanced QA partnership in Asia can be formed successfully with all APQN members’ efforts in the near future.



Prof. Angela Yung Chi Hou
Vice President, APQN

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

The grant of Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC), which is funded by the World Bank and managed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was ended in July, 2012. With the support of GIQAC grant for the last five years, the scope of APQN's work has been greatly expanded and many positive changes have taken place. So I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the World Bank, UNESCO and the other donors. Since July, 2012, several self-supported projects

have been designed and implemented smoothly. Thanks to the generous contribution for the operation cost of the Secretariat and the large increase in the number of new members in 2012, I am confident to say that APQN has greatly strengthened the self-sustainability. The followings are the details of the work of the Secretariat in the year of 2012.



1. APQN Members and the Board

The Secretariat has devoted lots of energy to attract new members, such as approaching the prospective members in the database of APQN and the non-member participants of APQN's activities, answering queries in the process of application and timely feedback after pre-review of the application, and making follow-up for the review of the Board. The number of APQN's members in all categories has reached to 130 from 40 countries or territories with 32 new members, which is the largest increase in the history of APQN. For the existing members, the Secretariat has updated their information and provided careful consultations.

Table 1. Statistics of APQN Members Development

| Year | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| New Members | 4 | 17 | 23 | 32 |
| Total Members | 68 | 80 | 98 | 130 |
| Number of Countries or territories | 31 | 33 | 34 | 40 |

The Secretariat has communicated frequently with the Board, especially the President and Vice President for the



important issues, who are the APQN Office Bearers along with the Secretary/Treasurer. In the year of 2012, the Secretariat has organized two face-to-face Board meetings, including the preparation of the agenda, documents for discussion, draft of minutes and follow-up of actions. The Secretariat also organized the re-structure of the Board after the resign of Dr. Antony Stella from the position of APQN' s President in June, 2012.

2. Conference and AGM

The Secretariat cooperated with Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC) to host the APQN 2012 Conference and AGM in Siem Reap in 29th February to 2nd March 2012. 339 representatives from 123 quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions of 29 countries or territories attended the conference, including 20 sponsored participants by APQN. More than 50 papers were received for the conference and 9 workshops were included in the program. Before the conference and AGM, the Secretariat has to do the followings: communication with the Local Organizing Committee, development and maintenance of the online registration system, promotion of the Conference, invitation of the key-note speakers, and identification of the sponsorship plan for participants and collection and selection of the papers. In the Conference and AGM, the Secretariat has to make the on-site coordination, prepare the conference documents, and keep records of the Conference and AGM. After the Conference and AGM, the Secretariat has to sort out the conference papers, PPTs and pictures and upload on the website, make reimbursement for those sponsored participants and draft the minutes of the AGM.

The Secretariat has forwarded the Call for EoIs for the 2013 Conference and AGM for several times. The Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA) has been approved to host the conference. The Secretariat has communicated with TWAEA frequently for the preparation of the Conference and AGM, such as confirmation of the venue and hotels, released the Call for Contributions and opened the online registration system.

3. Management of Projects

The Secretariat has concentrated fully on the management and supervision of the 11 projects of the Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC) grant in 2012, including:

- I. APQN Website Expansion, Consolidation and Maintenance,
- II. Expansion of the Database,
- III. Moderated Online Forum,
- IV. Internship Program,
- V. Mutual Recognition (MR) Project,
- VI. Workshop-Round Table Discussion for the 2008 Batch of Interns,
- VII. Workshop for Pacific Nations,
- VIII. Peer Review of QA Agencies,

- 
- IX. Quality Information Systems Toolkit,
 - X. Publication of Electronic package for Reviewers’ Training,
 - XI. Liaison and Communication among APQN Members and Regional Networks.

The Secretariat has to plan and coordinate the activities, release the relevant information, primarily select the applicants and provide technical support and so on. The composition of the 3 progress reports and the final report consumed lots of time of the Secretariat. The Secretariat also assisted to complete the survey on the evaluation for the GIQAC projects conducted by Universalia, Canada. The GIQAC work undertaken by Board Members, the Secretariat and members of the various GIQAC working groups has been highly appreciated. Concretely speaking, there are the following achievements but not limited these:

- 48 experts from the world have been added the Database of Consultants,
- 3 professionals from Vietnam, Cambodia and Fiji have participated in the Internship program, and one workshop has been conducted to summarize and reflect the program,
- The 4th Online Forum with the topic of Learning Outcomes and Accountability—the Role of EQA and IQA has been attracted 108 quality assurance experts, representing 29 APQN member institutions,
- The training package for external reviewers has been published in form of Digital book titled ‘Assessing Quality in Higher Education—Electronic Package for Reviewers’ Training’ and the printed book titled ‘Assessing Quality in Higher Education—Information Package for Reviewers’ Training’ , which are available at the website of APQN,
- Workshops have been held to build the capacity in quality assurance and promote qualification recognition for the Pacific nations,
- APQN conducted the pilot peer external review for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) Council of the UGC, Sri Lanka;
- APQN has conducted the feasibility study for the mutual recognition among selected APQN members.

After the end of the GIQAC grant in July, 2012, much more attention of the Secretariat has been paid on the design and implementation of the self-supported projects, such as the Professional Exchange Program, External

Quality Assurance Mentoring Program and the preparation of the series activities for APQN’ s decennial anniversary. The Secretariat has provided administrative and technical support for the consultation on the enhancement of education quality assurance in Vietnam and the nomination of participants for the East Asia Summit (EAS) Capacity Building in Quality Assurance (QA) in Higher

Education Project, which is organized by LH Martin Institute, University of Melbourne and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE), Australia.

5. Publication and Liaison

The Secretariat has actively taken the responsibility to collect and disseminate information among the APQN members and those interested to APQN. In the year of 2012, the Secretariat published the APQN 2011 Annual Report and distributed to all members in the first half of the year; edited and published the APQNews 10 on the APQN website; and forwarded 31 messages to the APQN members and 11 messages to the mailing list subscribers. The GOOGLE Analytic has showed that a growing number of people are visiting www.apqn.org. In 2012, the website was visited by 28,347 times, and it is 21,303 in 2011, which means an increase of 33%. Also the number of unique visitors has increased from 14,768 in 2011 to 21,672 in 2012. The average user spent over two minutes at the website and viewed over 3 per visit. About 24.85% of the visitors returned once or multiple times to the website. Most visitors came from the 10 following countries: India, United Kingdom, Pakistan, United States, Australia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines and Hong Kong, China. It should be mentioned that the visitors from the United Kingdom and United States has occupied 17.87% among the total visitors, which means that APQN has got much more attention from the other region. The most popular pages of the website are the page on the organization structure, home page and APQN events.

Table 2. Statistics of Visits for the APQN Website

| Year | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Number of Visits | 14162 | 16269 | 21303 | 28,347 |
| Number of Unique Visitor | 8490 | 10624 | 14768 | 21,672 |

In the year of 2012, the Secretariat has continued the liaison and communication with the government organization, such as World Bank, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Hanoi Office of UNESCO, and also the non-government organization, such as the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE), and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). For example, the Secretariat has supported the cooperation with the Hanoi Office of UNESCO for the enhancement of education quality assurance in Vietnam, and signed the Memorandum of Understanding with COL, and the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Advances in Management (AIM), India. In addition, the Secretariat has received the visit from Sarawak Convention Bureau, Malaysia.

6. Finance

In January, 2012, the Secretariat organized the annual audit for the 2011 Finance Statement, the audit report

has showed that “the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Asia–Pacific Quality Network as at December 31, 2011, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards for Non–profit Organization.”

The APQN 2012 annual budget drafted by the Secretariat reduced the operation cost of the Secretariat to 60% of the annual income of membership fees, and added the expense item for the APQN projects, which is the necessary measure for the end of the GIQAC grant. In the year 2012, the Secretariat has made great efforts for the collection of the membership fees. Up to the writing of this report, almost 87% of members have paid their 2012 membership fees, which could be attributed to the bimonthly follow–up of the Secretariat. There is more than USD 20,000 surplus after the deduction of operational expense of the Secretariat from the income of membership fees (including the initial joining fees) in 2012, which has clearly indicated the enhanced sustainability of APQN.

Table 3. Income of Membership Fees including Initial Joining Fees VS. Operation Expense of the Secretariat

Currency: USD

| Year | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Income of Membership Fees | 21266.01 | 16250.29 | 13025.74 | 24336.50 | 29217.38 | 44180.76 |
| Operation Expense of the Secretariat | 103845.70 | 56076.72 | 41902.75 | 27438.34 | 22085.93 | 17751.39 |

7. Plan for the Next Year

In order to realize the mission of APQN, the Secretariat would be committed to be the clearinghouse of information, hub of development and promotion of guidelines, and center of plan and coordination of activities in the field of education quality assurance in the Asia–Pacific region. In addition, the Secretariat would also make full use of the international platform and professional resources of APQN. For the year of 2013, the Secretariat has the following plan: 1. raising the efficiency and effectiveness of professional services for APQN members and the Board; 2. strengthening the liaison with the international organization, such as World Bank, UNESCO, APEC and EAS and national government for program authorization, funding or policy support; 3. encouraging the in–kind contribution from the existing members, and attracting more new members, especially the program accreditation association.



Prof. Li Yaogang
APQN Secretary/Treasurer

COMPLETION OF GIQAC REPORT

DETAILS OF 2012 GIQAC PROJECTS

INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION FOR GIQAC PHASE 1





COMPLETION OF 2012 GIQAC REPORT

On 25 July, 2012, APQN submitted the narrative report and financial statement for the Contract No. 4500142209 to UNESCO. The narrative report is divided into twelve sections, covering the following twelve projects that have been approved:

- I. APQN Website Expansion, Consolidation and Maintenance,
- II. Expansion of the Database,
- III. Moderated Online Forum,
- IV. Internship Program,
- V. Mutual Recognition (MR) Project,
- VI. Workshop on Good Practice,
- VII. Workshop–Round Table Discussion for the 2008 Batch of Interns,
- VIII. Workshop for Pacific Nations,
- IX. Peer Review of QA Agencies,
- X. Liaison and Communication among APQN Members and Regional Networks,
- XI. Quality Information Systems Toolkit,
- XII. Publication of Electronic Package for Reviewer' s Training.

DETAILS OF 2012 GIQAC PROJECTS

The followings are the projects mainly conducted in 2012.

I. EXPANSION OF THE DATABASE

APQN and International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAHE) have jointly launched the new round of expansion of the Database from Sep. 1, 2011. The heads of quality assurance agencies of the two networks are requested to nominate experts for the Database. Up to the deadline, 61 nominees have been received. The following experts reviewed these nominees at that time:

- ◆ Dr Jagannath Patil, Vice–President of APQN and Deputy Advisor of National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India (facilitator of the review process)

- ◆ Mrs. María José Lemaitre, President of INQAAHE, Vice President of Centro Interuniversitario de Desarrollo (CINDA) , and
- ◆ Prof. Badr Aboul-Ela, Board member of INQAAHE, Director of Commission for Academic Accreditation, United Arab Emirates

After review, 48 nominees have been approved to enter the Database. As a result, the total number of the experts in the Database of Consultants has been expanded into 122. The Database of Consultants could be available at: <http://www.apqn.org/services/consultantsdb/>.

II. MODERATED ONLINE FORUM



Prof. Dr. Angela Yung Chi Hou



Prof. Hilary Winchester



Ms. Wong Wai Sum



Mr. Lemalu Lafi Sanerivi

The 4th moderated APQN online forum, supported by the GIQAC fund, was conducted from February 1 to March 15, 2012. Altogether 108 quality assurance experts, representing 29 APQN member institutions (7 full members, 7 intermediate members, 13 institutional members and 2 associate members) from 17 different countries/territories registered to take part in this important endeavour. There are a total of 144 responses in 4 sessions.

In order to enhance social understanding of institutional accountability and to facilitate student' s mobility in cross-border higher education, EQAs, institutions and governments have taken student learning outcomes into consideration seriously. Accordingly, the forum mainly focused on student learning outcomes and accountability in terms of the role of QA agencies and institutions, since they are both expected to respond the global trend effectively by various stakeholders. Hence, under the topic, there were 3 more sub-themes for further discussion. Prof. Dr. Angela Yung Chi Hou, APQN Board member and Dean of the Office of Research & Development of Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan in Chinese Taipei, played the role of the convenor in this exercise. APQN has also invited three reputed facilitators from different countries to run each of the sub-themes. The details are following:

- ◇ Learning outcomes, qualification frameworks and accountability.

The session focused on the content of students learning outcome and the role of qualification frameworks, especially in relation to accountability. Prof. Hilary Winchester, Higher Education Consultant from Hilary Winchester Pty Ltd,

Australia took care of this sub–theme.

◇ Assessing learning outcomes through EQA.

How to assess learning outcomes through external review activities is a big issue for EQA agencies. Ms. Wong Wai Sum, Executive Director of the Joint Quality Review Committee (JQRC), Hong Kong was in charge of this sub–theme.

◇ Achieving outcomes through IQA.

In order to respond to the public demand and assure student’ s achievements, institutions started working toward greater emphasis on student learning outcomes through a well–developed internal quality assurance mechanism. Mr. Lemalu Lafi Sanerivi, APQN Board member, Senior Educational Assessment Specialists (for Accreditation) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment led this sub–theme.

III. WORKSHOP FOR ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION OF THE APQN INTERNS

The workshop is designed to draw on the experience of the first set of GIQAC interns and will track the progress they have made in the after the internship. The workshop will give them the opportunity to reflect on the lessons they have learned and applied in their home countries as a result of the internship program. The discussions will revolve on the capacity gained and seek to capture the good practices they have implemented in their home countries.



By February 2012, 15 individuals from 11 countries had experienced APQN internships in several different agencies. Nine were able to be present at the workshop on 28 February 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, along with two other individuals from within HE institutions. The workshop was structured around the consideration of the following items:

1. Administrative structure of the EQA,
2. Aspects of quality review (whether accreditation, audit, etc.),
3. Institutional actions and interaction with the EQA, and
4. Other topics,
5. Using the internships, and
6. Improving the internships

As interns discussed what they learned and what they do and the processes of their respective agencies, it was often difficult to separate the learning through the internships from discussion of processes used by the various agencies. The latter aspect of the discussion was itself valuable, and in relation to the former aspect, the overall level of appreciation for APQN’ s internship program was very significant. The group noted that, beyond the specific learning for and improvement of the intern’ s home agency, the exposure across the region to the work of other

agencies is providing the opportunity to enhance mutual understanding and comparability across the region. Many interns reported on involvement in the host agency's training of assessors. This experience, plus the use of the training material, can help the region to move forward in a compatible direction of improved quality.

IV. WORKSHOP ON THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION PROJECT

The Mutual Recognition Workshop was conducted in the APQN 2012 Conference. Dr Jan Cameron, Director of New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit (NZUAAU) and leader of the Mutual Recognition Project chaired the workshop. The Mutual Recognition Project, one of APQN's GIQAC projects established in 2010 to explore the development of a methodology to assess whether the quality assurance processes of potential partner jurisdictions are sufficiently comparable to give confidence that outcomes would be acceptable to another jurisdiction. The partners in the project are NAAC (India), MQA (Malaysia), NZUAAU (New Zealand) and Australia—until 2011 this was AUQA.



The workshop presentation outlined the background to the project and reviewed the methodology developed to assess agencies' quality assurance processes. Project members reported on their experiences observing partner review processes of universities in India, Australia and New Zealand. A wide range of criteria had been used to reach a conclusion as to whether the observers had confidence that, allowing for contextual constraints, the observed agency's processes were exploring similar activity within similar standard expectations as those which would be explored by the observer's agency. One objective of the project is to consider whether a series of such bilateral assessments by the observer agency of the observed agency might then collate to a multilateral assessment. Mutual recognition of institutional quality assurance is an important factor in transnational educational assessments.

V. WORKSHOP ON THE PACIFIC QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

The APQN Conference and Annual General Meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia, at the end of February provided another opportunity for the Pacific delegates to further discuss the PQAF with expert inputs from some of the Conference Participants.



On Thursday 1st March, during the Conference parallel Workshop sessions, the Pacific delegates met to further discuss the Pacific Quality Assurance Framework (PQAF).



The Pacific delegates who attended the APQN Conference and AGM included Dr Sereana Kubuabola (USP), Mrs Salote Rabuka (FHEC), Mrs Kovi Aiolutotea (SQA) and Lemalu L. Sanerivi of SPBEA. A special welcome was extended to Ms Dirce Belo and Mr Abilio de Aravjo from Timor Leste and Ms Nguyen Thi My Ngoc of Vietnam. The discussion was enriched by the participation of Mr Rob Fearnside (HKCAAVQ), Dr Iring Wasser (ASIIN, Germany) and Dr Jagannath Patil (NAAC India) who was the facilitator. Suggestions from the Pacific Round Table were noted and will be incorporated into the next draft of the Pacific Quality Assurance Framework which will be circulated to participants for further fine-tuning.

VI. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION (QAA) COUNCIL OF THE UGC, SRI LANKA TO BE THE FIRST QUALITY ASSURED QUALITY AGENCY OF APQN

Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) Council of the UGC, Sri Lanka has successfully become the first member QAA of APQN to undergo external Peer Review. Congratulations to QAA Council! The QAA Council, Sri Lanka submitted an expression of interest to the APQN and the same was approved by the APQN Board. The site visit was planned during 25–27 June 2012. APQN President Dr. Jagannath Patil facilitated the process by developing templates and guidelines.

The self-assessment report was prepared with criteria drawn from APQN guidelines, the Chiba Principles and the INQAAHE guidelines of good practice. The review panel was selected by the Board of APQN and communicated to the QAA Council, Sri Lanka. The selected members were, Dr. Latha Pillai (Chairperson), National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Dr. Manuel Corpus (Member), Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities of the Philippines (AACUP) and Mr. Vicheanon KHIEU (Member), Accreditation Committee of Cambodia.

According to the 3 day programme a detailed interactions were also held with stakeholders such as the UGC, reviewers, authorities of University of Colombo, representatives of the World Bank, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and SAIM, a non-state Higher Education Institution. Also opportunities were provided to meet a group of trained reviewers, QAA Council officials and the UGC, Ministry of Higher Education officials.

The peer team feedback was provided with a Review Report and information provided in the report was good enough to understand QAA Council's strengths and weaknesses. The APQN Board approved the Review Report on July 20, 2012. The status will be valid for 5 year period. As agreed by QAA Council, the Review Report will be published on the members' only area of the APQN website. QAAC will be awarded Certificate in Annual Conference and AGM, 2013.

The Board of APQN has decided that procedure and templates that are developed by APQN expert team for review will be further fine-tuned so that it can be used for next call for peer review. After success of the first review of EQA in

Asia Pacific against APQN Criteria, the Board will open this review process for its member QAAs which are willing to undergo external peer review.

VII. WORKSHOP ON QUALITY INFORMATION SYSTEM IN QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

On July 9, 2012, APQN organized the Workshop on Quality Information System, which is hosted by Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCU) in Quezon City, Philippines. 6 international guests from India, Thailand, Chinese Taipei and UK and 8 representatives from the local quality assurance agencies and universities had participated in the workshop. Principal Investigator of the project Dr. Jagannath Patil and APQN Vice President Prof. Angel Yung Chi Hou facilitated the workshop in which special contribution was made by Ms. Angela Kee from UK NARIC. Dr. Jagannath Patil presented the outcome of survey on Quality Information System (QIS) among APQN members. Case study of UK NARIC presented by Ms. Angela Ki and College Navigator from Chinese Taipei by Prof. Angela Hou Yung-Chi added value to the survey report. The workshop participants were divided into groups, and draft template has been reached, which can become part of QIS Toolkit of APQN. The project group also recommended following measures to be initiated

- Advocacy to QAAs for joining UNESCO Portal
- Dissemination of good practices in Quality information
- Supporting QAAs to develop national information systems
- Further consultations and Pilot implementation of Toolkit and templates before launching of portal
- Supporting HEIs to develop information systems at institutional level.
- Regional portal to act as single point resource of information on quality of HEIs to stakeholders like students, HEIs and employers.

VIII. PUBLICATION OF ELECTRONIC PACKAGE FOR REVIEWERS' TRAINING

Dr. Jagannath Patil with the help of Ms. Zia Batool and other colleagues have made edition and revision on the draft of Reviewers' Training Package. The revised package is APQN's crucial initiative for designing and delivering resource-based training modules in the areas of quality assurance targeted at quality assurance professionals to provide "face-to-face" (f2f) resources supported by technology-mediated



mentoring and resource provision. The training package is organized into seven modules. Each module provides generic descriptions for different aspects of quality assurance and reviewers' training. At the end, all modules contain suggestions to contextualize the module in respective country or territory in relation to jurisdiction of QA body concerned. Seventh module contains 3 examples of good practices that would help reviewers expand their understanding of different QA concepts and practices.

The package which can also serve as self-instructional training modules is available on CD-ROM, APQN website and also in print version. This is the first version of the package, which is expected to be revised from time to time and uploaded on the as Open Quality Resource of APQN. The package is now published in form of Digital book titled 'Assessing Quality in Higher Education—Electronic Package for Reviewers' Training' on 200 CDs and also its print version is prepared which is in form of a book titled 'Assessing Quality in Higher Education—Information Package for Reviewers' Training' with the ISBN freely provided by Advances In Management (AIM), India. 200 copies of this book are printed which will be promoted. The publications are available in the Virtual Library of the members' only on the APQN website.

IX. LIAISON AND COMMUNICATION AMONG APQN MEMBERS AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

The following five persons have been sponsored by APQN to attend the APQN 2012 Conference and AGM.

Agency Name Supported Amount(USD)

| Agency | Name | Supported Amount(USD) |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP), Philippines | Manuel T. Corpus | 1292.04 |
| National Agency for Academic Assessment and Accreditation, Timor Leste | Ms. Dirce Belo | 670.00 |
| Institute of Business Management, Karachi, Pakistan | Muhammad Moin Uddin Ali Khan | 750.00 |
| National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India | Dr Jaganath Patil | 350.00 |
| Dhanwate National College, India | Ratnakar D. Bhelkar | 750.00 |
| Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China | Prof. Li Yaogang | 1,654.11 |

The feedback from participants indicates that the APQN 2012 Conference and AGM were the fruitful events. They provided the good opportunity for the sponsored participants to learn good practices in quality assurance of counterpart agencies in the region, to observe the trends in quality assurance, and to network with colleagues from



other quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions.

APQN also sees great value for the regional networks to cooperate and to communicate at the strategic and administrative levels to ensure having a common mindset and aligning the plans and projects to avoid duplication. Through better alignment of our strategies and activities we can maximize GIQAC resources. Dr. Jagannath Patil was approved to represent APQN to attend the INQAAHE 2012 Forum in Melbourne, Australia. This helped in ensuring APQN' s participation in meeting of Regional Networks held in conjunction with INQAAHE Forum.

INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION FOR GIQAC PHASE 1

In July, 2012, an independent external evaluation for the GIQAC Phase 1 has been conducted by UNIVERSALIA, Canada with the commission of UNESCO. The external evaluation covered the entire grant period from 2007–2012 and it has assessed the results of the program, demonstrated its achievements and challenges and identified the lessons learned and enhanced its relevance, efficiency and effectiveness that would contribute towards the improvements for a potential second phase. Dr Jagannath Patil, President and Prof. Li Yaogang have been interviewed by UNIVERSALIA on telephone, and the other Board members have been surveyed through questionnaire. It is anticipated that the result of evaluation will be announced soon by UNESCO.



2012 APQN CONFERENCE

2012 APQN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APQN SIGNS MOU WITH COL, CANADA

APQN SIGNS MOU WITH AIM, INDIA

APQN 2012 EXCHANGE PROGRAM

EAS CAPACITY BUILDING IN QA IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT

PLAN OF ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE APQN DECENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

2013 APQN CONFERENCE AND AGM

THE 2012 ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK
CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

External Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific:
What has changed over a decade?

Co-organizers: Accreditation Committee of Cambodia,
Asia-Pacific Quality Network and Cambodian Higher Education Association
APSARA Authority Complex, Siem Reap Province

29 February - 02 March 2012



2012 APQN CONFERENCE



From 29 February to 2 March 2012, the APQN 2012 Conference was successfully hosted by the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC) and Cambodian Higher Education Association (CHEA) in APSARA Authority Complex, Siem Reap. The theme of the Conference is **“External Quality Assurance in the Asia–Pacific: What has changed over a decade?”** H.E. Dr. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and Chairman of the ACC opened the Conference with Dr. Antony Stella, President of APQN welcoming all Conference participants. Dr Gwang–Jo Kim, Director of UNESCO Bangkok presented the keynote speech on **“Trends of Higher Education in the Asia–Pacific: with a focus on quality assurance”** .

The Conference was attended by 339 participants, including 103 from APQN member agencies and overall 32 countries and territories represented. The first two days of the conference was open to all participants and the third day was open for members only. On the **“members only”** day, Mr. Peter Cheung, the founding President of APQN delivered the keynote on **“Tensions in Quality Assurance”** emphasizing the challenges faced by quality assurance. The 2012 APQN Conference focused primarily upon reflecting on expectations and achievements of quality assurance in higher education, highlighting the current challenges and issues of quality assurance in higher education. To have in–depth discussions on **“what has changed over the past decade”** with respect to external quality assurance, the Conference contained various parallel sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and keynote lectures, which involved the following sub themes:

- Mutual recognition
- Qualifications framework
- QA of distance education
- QA of cross–border education

- Benchmarking
- Standards
- Research on QA and IQA
- Capacity building of the QA agencies
- Good practices in QA

The Conference closed with very positive feedback on the benefits of sharing good practices in quality assurance for which the conference provided a sound platform.

2012 APQN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The APQN Annual General Meeting held in the APSARA Authority Complex, Siem Reap on 1 March 2012 was open only to APQN members. The meeting was attended by the following membership breakdown:

- 15 full members,
- 5 intermediate members,
- 2 associate member,
- 4 institutional members.

Dr Antony Stella, the President of APQN chaired the meeting. The agenda covered reports from the office bearers, progress updates on the projects, preparation for the APQN 2013 Conference and AGM, discussion on the draft of the APQN Strategic Plan (2012–2015).



APQN SIGNS MOU WITH COL, CANADA TO PROMOTE QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE

Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN) signed a MoU with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Canada on Aug. 26, 2012 to initiate various projects for facilitating the promotion of quality enhancement and institutional excellence of higher education institutions.

Prof. Asha Kanwar, President & CEO of COL and Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQN President signed the MoU recently and mapped the future course of action.

COL is an inter–governmental organization created by Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1987. COL has the objective to encourage the development and sharing of open and distance education, knowledge, resources and technologies and to assist Commonwealth member governments to benefit from this.

APQN is a non–profit organization established in 2003 by the quality assurance agencies, as well as other bodies with the interest in quality assurance, with the mission to enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them.

The objective of this MoU is to identify possible avenues for collaboration and to establish the basis of collaboration where it is mutually beneficial. The key issues identified for collaborative projects include:

- Compilation and dissemination of best practices and innovations in higher education institutions;
- Sharing the toolkits developed for quality assurance of ODL programmes in teacher education and higher education;
- Networking of higher education institutions and related quality assurance agencies;
- Developing quality benchmarking for dual–mode/flexible forms of higher education institutions;
- Evolving process based quality indicators for various modes of higher education programmes; and
- Strengthening institutional quality assurance systems.

APQN Board has complimented APQN President Dr. JP and COL president Prof. Asha Kanwar for this initiative while endorsing this MoU.



APQN SIGNS MoC WITH AIM, INDIA FOR COOPERATION IN PUBLICATION

Prof. Li Yaogang, Secretary/Treasurer of Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and Prof. Shankar Lal Gargh, Editor-in-Chief of Advances In Management (AIM), India represented their respective organizations to sign the MoC to engage as publications partner on 17 September, 2012. According to the MoC, APQN will be responsible for content and editing of publications and hold the copy rights, while AIM will help in publishing and marketing APQN Publications and provide ISBN code for all publications. The APQN Board supports this MoC, and hopes that good quality publications will bring a very strong statement, commitment, communication and image of APQN.



APQN 2012 EXCHANGE PROGRAM

APQN has launched the 2012 exchange program which is purely on reciprocal basis, in which both financial and in-kind contribution is expected from the home and host agencies. The international air travel of the participants will be sponsored by the home agency and local transport, hospitality and accommodation will be taken care by the host agency. The program is open to all categories of APQN Members and flexible to accommodate needs of hosts and visitors. It is desirable that exchange program can include activities like observation of peer, review visit, participation in reviewing assessors training programs and visit to the internal quality assurance cell (IQAC) of higher education institutions (HEIs) besides interaction with agency staff. 15 applicants for participants, and 9 quality assurance agencies or higher education institutions have been selected and matched APQN. The program is expected to be completed by April 30, 2013.

EAS CAPACITY BUILDING IN QA IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT

This is the cooperative project among APQN, the LH Martin Institute, University of Melbourne and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE), Australia. APQN is required to find the suitable candidates for the project. The project is essentially a 10 day training program at University of Melbourne between 18 February and 1 March 2013. The course will deliver units towards a Graduate Certificate in Quality Assurance. This project aims to develop a common understanding across the region on higher education QA and ultimately improve the transparency and quality of higher education systems in the region. The selected participants will be sponsored by the Australian Government and their participation cost will be covered.

PLAN OF ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE APQN DECENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

On January 18th, 2013 APQN will become 10 years old. It is certainly an important milestone in history of APQN. APQN Board has decided to use this occasion for strengthening APQN by organizing the following activities throughout the year with focus on reinforcing the value and contribution of APQN and promote APQN's sustainable growth.

1. A decennial publication mapping growth and status of QA in APQN Region,
2. APQN Quality Awards for good practices in QA,
3. APQN–AQA Seminar in Auckland, New Zealand,
4. APQN–Fu Jen University Seminar in Chinese Taipei,
5. APQN Project on Guidelines and good practices in evaluating research quality,
6. APQN–ONESQA Decennial Conference in Bangkok, Thailand,
7. APQN–QAAC Workshop/ Seminar in Colombo, Sri Lanka,
8. APQN–HEC Seminar/ workshop for institutional members at Pakistan,
9. Asia Pacific Quality Information Portal,
10. Decennial conference with country papers,
11. Decennial lectures in different countries/territories.



2013 APQN CONFERENCE AND AGM

The APQN 2013 Conference and AGM will be held in Chinese Taipei in April 7–8, 2013. The Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA) will host this event. The main theme of the 2013 Asia–Pacific Quality Network Conference is: Has external QA made an impact? Looking back at the decade of Quality assurance. The sub–themes are:



- ▲ Has EQA made real impact on Quality in higher educational institutions?
- ▲ Innovations in quality assurance
- ▲ Quality Assurance and student mobility
- ▲ Do we need Regional and International accreditation?
- ▲ Living with national and global rankings– what is the response of QA community?
- ▲ Promoting Quality assurance in higher education as a profession– Learning from Industry
- ▲ Experiments with Outcomes based assessment
- ▲ Internal quality assurance
- ▲ Student engagement in QA

A number of topics will be covered in the workshops and parallel sessions. Following is the indicative list of the topics that will be of interest to the APQN members:

- ▲ Assuring Quality of Distance and e–learning programmes
- ▲ Benchmarking and making of world class universities
- ▲ Developing Quality Information Systems

In addition, the APQN Conference is followed by the 2013 INQAAHE Conference and AGM in the same venue from April 8–11, 2013. More details of the event could be available at: <http://www.apqn.org/events/>.



2012 REPORT ON FINANCES
APQN Statement of Income and Expenses (in USD)

| INCOME | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | Budget for APQN | APQN | GIQAC | Total |
| Membership Fees | | | | |
| Annual Membership Fees | 31,702.90 | 28,195.76 | | 28,195.76 |
| 2012 Initial Joining Fees | 20,500.00 | 15,985.00 | | 15,985.00 |
| Sub-Total | 52,202.90 | 44,180.76 | | 44,180.76 |
| Income for service | | | | |
| Training Project for Vietnamese | | 4,552.49 | | 4,552.49 |
| GIQAC Grant from UNESCO | | | 18,032.00 | 18,032.00 |
| Sub-Total | | 4,552.49 | 18,032.00 | 22,584.49 |
| Other Income | | | | |
| Interest | 850.00 | 839.84 | | 839.84 |
| Project Fund Returned from Member Agencies | | 621.41 | | 621.41 |
| Registration Fees for 2012 Conference and AGM | | 1,123.00 | | 1,123.00 |
| Sub-Total | 850.00 | 2,584.25 | | 2,584.25 |
| Funds carried forward from 2011 | | 147,149.29 | 65,349.11 | 212,498.40 |
| Sub-Total | | 147,149.29 | 65,349.11 | 212,498.40 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 53,052.90 | 198,466.79 | 83,381.11 | 281,847.90 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Cost of Business Activities | Budget for APQN | APQN | GIQAC | Total |
| APQN Website: Expansion/Development/Maintenance | 7,500.00 | 240.00 | | 240.00 |
| APQN Website: Expansion/Development/Maintenance | | | 1,020.00 | 1,020.00 |
| Internship Programme | | | 7,100.60 | 7,100.60 |
| Mutual Recognition Programme | | | 10,843.53 | 10,843.53 |
| APQN Projects | 15,000.00 | | | |
| Capacity Building for the Pacific Nations | | | 5,555.00 | 5,555.00 |
| Liaison and Communication Among APQN Members and Regional Networks | | | 13,226.66 | 13,226.66 |
| Moderated Online Discussion Forum | | | 2,468.00 | 2,468.00 |
| Consultants Database Development | | | 3,140.00 | 3,140.00 |
| Peer Review of QA Agency | | | 5,680.00 | 5,680.00 |
| Workshop-Round Table Discussion for the 2008 Batch of Interns | | | 10,416.58 | 10,416.58 |
| Publication of Electronic Package for Reviewer's Training | | | 2,923.00 | 2,923.00 |
| Quality Information Systems Toolkit | | | 6,473.30 | 6,473.30 |
| Others | | 1,703.00 | | 1,703.00 |
| Sub-Total | 22,500.00 | 1,943.00 | 68,846.67 | 70,789.67 |
| Cost of Administration | | | | |
| 1. Administrator salary | 14,421.74 | 14,421.74 | | 14,421.74 |
| 2. Administration Expense | 1,000.00 | 675.34 | | 675.34 |
| 3. Training Project for Vietnamese | | 12,014.74 | | 12,014.74 |
| 4. Miscellaneous | 1,000.00 | | | |
| 5. Audit fees | 1,000.00 | 951.31 | | 951.31 |
| Sub-Total | 17,421.74 | 28,063.13 | | 28,063.13 |
| Financing Cost | | | | |
| 1. Bank Fees | 100.00 | 63.97 | 1,737.40 | 1,801.37 |
| Sub-Total | 100.00 | 63.97 | 1,737.40 | 1,801.37 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 40,021.74 | 30,070.10 | 70,584.07 | 100,654.17 |
| NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) | 13,031.16 | 168,396.69 | 12,797.04 | 181,193.73 |

apqn

ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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