

### this issue

Registration of APQN P.1
Congratulations David.. P.1
From the President's Desk P.2
Co-option to INQAAHE P.2
APQN Board Co-option P.2
HKCAAVQ Monograph P.3
INQAAHE Conference 2011 P.3
HEC & QAA-UK Collaboration P.4
TEQSA Update P.4
International Symposium on QA P.4
HEEACT International Conference P.5
QA in HE—Conference P.5
AUQA News P.5
GIQAC Project Updates P.6
APQN Membership P.9
Regional QA Networks Meeting P.10

## Registration of APQN

APQN is pleased to announce that it has now been registered as a non-profit organisation in Shanghai, China which is also the physical location of the APQN Secretariat. In order to maintain the registration and to fulfill obligatory requirements APQN will be required to submit an annual report in Chinese to the Civil Affairs Bureau of Shanghai and conduct an annual financial audit. There will be no change to the Constitution. The registration will remain in Shanghai for the period of the

## Congratulations David...

APQN congratulates Dr David Woodhouse on his appointment as Commissioner for Development with the Commission for Academic Accreditation of the United Arab Emirates. Dr Woodhouse commenced his new position on 4 July 2011. David is fondly remembered in the Asia-Pacific region as the first Secretary/Treasurer of APQN.

In relation to David's new appointment the Chair of the AUQA Board Professor Joanne Wright said, 'David was the foundation executive director of AUQA and has been the only person in Australia to hold this role. In his ten years at AUQA he has developed and managed a highly successful quality audit and enhancement agency with a worldwide reputation. The high regard in which AUQA is held internationally, and the strong endorsement of AUQA's role by stakeholders in Australia, is very largely due to David. David has given two decades of his career to assuring and enhancing quality in higher education in several countries and across a broad spectrum of international activities, including his presidency of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education, and his extensive publications on quality assurance. We trust that he will be able to continue a range of international activities into the future.'

The AUQA Board was pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Jeanette Baird as Executive Director of AUQA, following the departure of Dr David Woodhouse.

## Best wishes to Christine...

Christine has extended wonderful support to APQN for the past six months. She gave a professional touch to the APQNews and supported me in all my APQN work. The Board directors have shared with me very positive feedback about her work. She is moving to a new organisation in an executive position from next week. Today, 22 July 2011, is her last day with AUQA. While I am very sorry that we will miss Christine I am delighted about the challenging role she is going to play in her new position. She will be an asset to wherever she goes. Best wishes to you Christine. Antony Stella, President APQN.

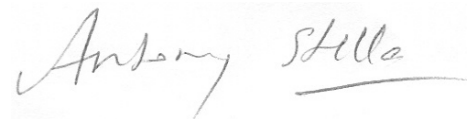
*To assist in the circulation of Quality Assurance knowledge in higher education, APQN encourages all members to translate segments of the APQN newsletter into the local language and disseminate to personnel within your agency or institution.*

## From the President's Desk...



Welcome to the second edition of the APQNews for 2011. Since the previous edition, APQN has now been registered in Shanghai where it will remain for the period of the Secretariat. We have also been busy finalising the contract for the GIQAC funding with UNESCO which has now been signed and APQN is awaiting the first instalment of funds. With this there will be an increase in activity for many of the project areas. Members are encouraged to keep a keen eye on the website as there will be several expressions of interest released for some of the funded projects.

The Board recently held its second meeting for 2011 electronically which proved a practical way to encourage productive input from the Board Members. We look forward to a busy and constructive third quarter.



## QAAC Director Co-opted to INQAAHE

Sri Lanka has a well-developed approach to conducting systematic quality assurance activities in higher education in comparison to other developing countries. In recognition of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council's (QAAC) active role, both nationally and internationally, the Director of QAAC, Prof. Colin N. Peiris, has been co-opted to the Board of the International Network for quality assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE). INQAAHE is the world body in Quality Assurance and has over 200 members spanning 6 continents and 79 countries. Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) has also co-opted Prof. Colin N. Peiris to its Board for the third consecutive term.



## APQN Board Co-option

In May 2011 Mr. Lemalu Lafi Sanerivi, Senior Educational Assessment Specialist, Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA) accepted APQN Board's invitation to be co-opted to the Board. The Board agreed that this co-option would ensure a balance of regional representation and would enhance its current expertise. Mr Lafi wrote 'I look forward to working closely with the Board on any area that supports and strengthens APQN and in particular the Pacific region.'

Mr Sanerivi is currently leading the development of the Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards for the fifteen Pacific Island Forum Countries. The Register comprises four domains namely the accredited qualifications; professional licensing and occupational standards; traditional knowledge and indigenous skills; and regional benchmarks for literacy, numeracy and life skills. The development includes coordinating technical support and advisory services to assist in the development of national qualifications agencies and qualifications frameworks. He also worked with SPBEA over the 2001 to 2004 period as Professional Officer for the Board's Senior Secondary School Qualifications.



## HKCAAVQ: 20th Anniversary Conference Monograph



The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) has produced a monograph of its 20th Anniversary Conference 'Quality Assurance at the Crossroads – A Critical Reflection after Twenty Years' held in September 2010. To be published on the 18 July 2011, the monograph captures the wide-ranging discussions and exchanges on issues that took place at the conference, such as the evolution of quality assurance in Hong Kong over the past two decades, world trends in quality assurance, the challenges that lie ahead, and the way forward in quality assurance practices in Hong Kong.

The HKCAAVQ is the Accreditation Authority and Qualifications Register Authority under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework. Formerly known as the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA), the Council was established in 1990 as an independent statutory body to provide authoritative advice on academic standards of degree programs in higher education institutions in Hong Kong. In 2007, the Council was reconstituted as the HKCAAVQ to reflect the expansion of its scope and responsibilities to include the vocational sector and its new role as the Qualifications Register Authority under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework.

The monograph is available from the HKCAAVQ's website

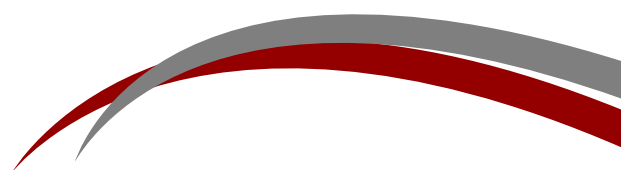
<http://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk>

## INQAAHE Conference 2011

The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) 2011 Biennial Conference was held in Madrid, Spain, 4 to 7 April 2011. The conference host, National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation (ANECA) is a state sector trust that contributes to the improved quality of the higher education system in Spain by way of evaluation, certification and accreditation of degree programs, teaching staff and institutions.

The theme of the conference was 'Quality Assurance: Foundation for the Future' with four sub themes.

As the conference also celebrated INQAAHE's 20th anniversary there was a focus on what had been learnt in these twenty years: the impact of globalization; the need to professionalize the technical aspects of quality assurance; the impact of these processes on higher education institutions; and the ways in which we can learn about and improve the outcomes of the teaching and learning process. Also discussed were: the limits of independence; vis a vis higher education institutions; governments and the global influence of quality assurance mechanisms; and an analysis of ways of summarizing quality indicators.



## HEC and QAA-UK Collaboration

With a key focus on international collaboration to improve quality assurance standards, the Quality Assurance Division of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan in conjunction with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), UK organised a three-day workshop - *International Training on Quality Assurance in Higher Education*. This event was held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 18 to 20 April 2011 and was attended by Directors of Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs), public and private, and officers from the Quality Assurance Division and Quality Assurance Agency of HEC.

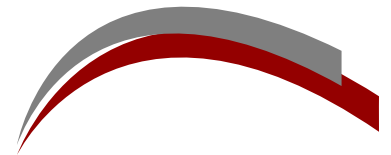
The training was conducted by three resource persons from QAA with a focus on the effective implementation of various quality parameters in higher education. This included quality enhancement processes in HEIs and external and internal quality review procedures for institutions. This training was the first of a series for which a MoU has been signed between HEC and QAA. The second training workshop is to be held in July 2011.



## TEQSA Update

The *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Bill 2011* passed through the Parliament of Australia on 22 June 2011 and received royal assent on 29 June 2011. The Bill establishes the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) as the new national regulatory and quality assurance agency for higher education. TEQSA will take over the regulatory and/or quality assurance functions currently performed by eight states and territory agencies, the federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), and AUQA, reducing the number of Australian regulatory and quality assurance bodies for higher education from 10 to one. It is expected that TEQSA will come into existence in late July (one month after the assent of the TEQSA Bill) and will assume its full regulatory powers at the end of February 2012 (seven months after the assent of the Bill). There will be a brief period of parallel operation between AUQA and TEQSA as AUQA staff and AUQA's current audit responsibilities transition into TEQSA.

The DEEWR TEQSA Taskforce, with the assistance of Professor Richard James and Dr Kerri-Lee Harris of the University of Melbourne's Centre for the Study of Higher Education, has prepared a discussion paper on the development of teaching and learning standards in Australian higher education. The paper can be found at: [http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Policy/teqsa/Documents/Teaching\\_Learning\\_Discussion\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Policy/teqsa/Documents/Teaching_Learning_Discussion_Paper.pdf)



## International Symposium on Higher Education Quality Assurance

The Macao Polytechnic Institute, in cooperation with the Comparative Education Research Centre at the University of Hong Kong, has recently published the papers from the International Symposium on Higher Education Quality Assurance. This symposium was held in November 2010 at the Macao Polytechnic Institute, Rua de Luis Gonzaga Gomes, Macao, PR China. The title of the publication is '*International Symposium on Higher Education Quality Assurance*'. It contains 15 papers in Chinese and 17 papers in English on a diversity of topics in higher education quality assurance.

## HEEACT International Conference

On 3 June 2011 the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) hosted the international conference - *Internationalization of Standards in Higher Education: Accountability, Student Learning Outcomes and Collaborations in Quality Assurance Agencies*. Preceding the conference HEEACT held a joint pre-conference discussion with Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA) focusing on the exploration of graduate outcome measurement mechanisms and selected institutional and national experiences.



The conference focused on three issues: quality of QA agencies; assurance of students' learning; and collaborations among QA agencies in the regions. During the conference, HEEACT signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE), Japan and the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP), Philippines.

## Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Challenges in the Arab Region

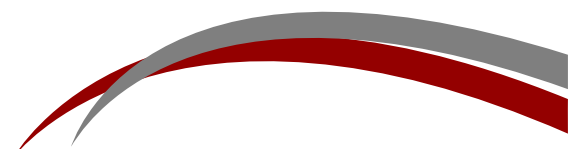
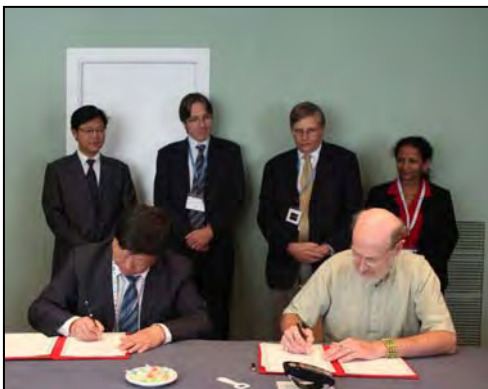
The first full conference of the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) will be hosted by the Commission for Academic Accreditation in the United Arab Emirates, under the patronage of His Excellency, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan. The conference will be held from 13 to 15 December 2011 at the Park Rotana Hotel, Abu Dhabi. The first day will be for pre-conference workshops followed by two days of conference presentations, committee meetings and a 'round-table' forum.

The Conference theme, *Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Challenges in the Arab Region*, will explore the unique issues facing higher education in Arab countries and will present good practices to be shared across the region.

## News from the Australian Universities Quality Agency

On 6 April 2011, during the INQAHE conference at Madrid, Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre (CDGDC).

In May 2011 AUQA released an occasional publication *Higher Education Private Providers and Non Self-accrediting Institutions in Australia*. It can be downloaded at: [http://www.auqa.edu.au/files/publications/hepps\\_and\\_nsais\\_in\\_australia.pdf](http://www.auqa.edu.au/files/publications/hepps_and_nsais_in_australia.pdf)



## Website Expansion and Maintenance

During the last quarter the following items have been uploaded to the website:

- APQN 2011 Conference and AGM details including the conference program, power point presentations and photographs of the event;
- Revised Finance Manual (effective from May 1, 2011); and
- APQN 2010 Annual Report.
- APQN continues to maintain and expand the database and has made the following updates/enhancements:
  - Updated the 'Board' page to include Mr. Lemalu Lafi Sanerivi who was co-opted in May 2011;
  - Updated the list of APQN members to include recent membership approvals; and
  - Inclusion of the Finance Committee and their profiles as part of the 'Board' page.

The APQN Board has recently concluded their second board meeting for 2011 which was conducted in an online discussion board format.

## Database Expansion

APQN is expanding its Database of Consultants in collaboration with Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE). Twenty four nominations were received from the ANQAHE members. The following experts reviewed these nominees:

- Dr Jagannath Patil, Vice-President of APQN and Deputy Advisor of National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India (facilitator of the review process),
- Prof. Badr Aboul-Ela, Director of Commission for Academic Accreditation, United Arab Emirates, and
- Dr Tariq Al-Sindi, Secretary General of ANQAHE and Senior Director of Quality Assurance Authority for Education and Training, Bahrain.

The entire refereeing process was conducted online. After the review, 20 of the 24 applicants have been recommended by the Review Committee. The final outcome is waiting for the approval of the Board.

## Good Practices in Quality Assurance

A workshop on Good Practices in Quality Assurance will be organised by Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAHE) who administer a database of good practices in quality assurance (GPQA). Only members of the network will be invited to attend the workshop. All attendees will be required to submit, in writing, at least two potential good practices prior to the event. Practices which are found by the participants to be transferable to other quality assurance bodies will be presented in plenary to ensure an immediate sharing in the larger group. These practices will then be submitted for review to INQAHE and, if approved, will be uploaded to their website.

The preparation for the workshop has already been initiated with a tentative plan for it to be held in Tokyo before the end of October 2011. Further details will be announced soon.

## SPBEA: Regional Consultation on the Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards

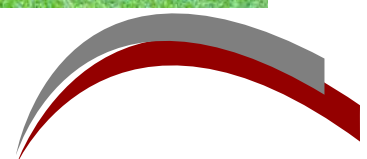
The second regional consultation on the Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards (PRQS) took place from 23 to 27 May 2011 at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji. This event was co-sponsored by AusAID and Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and was attended by approximately 40 delegates from 12 Pacific Island states and representatives of the higher education sector in the Pacific.

Resource personnel were drawn from Australia (Dr Jeanette Baird and Ms Andrea Bateman) and New Zealand (Dr Martin Grinsted and Mr David Lythe). The consultation comprised of discussion sessions, the finalisation of operational policies and procedures for the PRQS and workshop sessions on practical implications of the Register.

The regional consultation endorsed the following:

- Operational policies and procedures for PRQS were accepted with minor edits. Further discussion at the national level will address issues such as credit definition, accreditation of programs, and application of the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) as a translation device.
- The three levels of quality assurance processes.
- The proposed relationship between the National Qualifications Framework and the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) including all the PQF descriptors.
- Special arrangements for small island states where the existence of a National Qualification Agency may not be viable and how they relate to the Pacific Register. They strongly recommended that the Register continue to be embracive of all Pacific states.

Seven countries have each volunteered two programs for a Pilot of the Pacific Register during the latter half of 2011. The quality assurance processes, inclusive of registering providers, accrediting programs, referencing qualifications against the PQF and eventual submission for registration onto the Pacific Register, will start the process of populating the Register.



## Institutional Membership



As mentioned in the March 2011 newsletter, APQN has constituted a working group to review the institutional members' needs and is considering a number of initiatives to add value to this membership category. Part of this review identified an opportunity to provide institutional members with a dedicated section in the quarterly newsletter that will be rich in 'quality' information and cover topics of interest to institutions in the region.

The APQN Board has invited Dr. Kim Nguyen, Vice Director General of the Institute of Educational Research (IER), to undertake the liaison role with institutions and will now be the contact for discussions on topics and areas of interest to be included in the newsletter.

Dr. Nguyen has been working at IER for more than 7 years and is in charge of training programs, consultation and research in higher education, educational assessment, evaluation and accreditation. Kim's expertise includes educational management, leadership in education, quality assurance and accreditation, research in education, educational assessment, evaluation, student evaluation and teaching methods.

Kim has published numerous articles on various educational issues in leading educational journals, both international and national such as Quality in Higher Education, Educational Review and Education Science and the APQN Board feels very fortunate that Kim has accepted this project.

## Mutual Recognition

The Mutual Recognition Project is half way through the observation phase. Two project group members have observed institutional audits conducted by the other two members' agencies. Dr M S Shyamasundar of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), observed the Auckland University of Technology audit conducted by the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit (NZUAAU) in June 2011. At the same time Prof. Zita Mohd Fahmi from Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) observed an audit of Deakin University with the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA).

Dr M S Shyamasundar reports that it was an enriching experience to compare and contrast the various procedures of two quality assurance agencies and noted many similarities to NAAC's processes. He was impressed with the preparation of the audit questions to assist the panel members to conduct the audit in a systematic, streamlined and focussed manner. He commented positively on the use of a note-taker for every meeting and the time management skills of the panel members. The panel composition was also of interest as it included an international expert, a member from the industry and the academics. Although there are some differences in the conduct of audits, such as the panel not writing the outcome report, Dr M S Shyamasundar does view there to be an opportunity for mutual recognition between New Zealand and Indian quality assurance systems.

Both observers used a template developed by the project group to evaluate the processes observed against those used by their own agencies. A mid-project meeting, to have been held in New Zealand, was cancelled due to travel disruptions caused by the Chilean ash cloud.



*Dr M S Shyamasundar with the Auckland University of Technology audit panel.*



## APQN Membership

APQN welcomes the following 8 new members who were approved during the period 20 March – 30 June 2011.

No.	Country	Agency	Membership Status
1		Secretariat for the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment	Intermediate
2	Pakistan	Quality Enhancement Cell, Kohat University of Science & Technology	Institutional
3	Pakistan	National Textile University	Institutional
4	Pakistan	Beaconhouse National University	Institutional
5	India	Government College of Education, M.A.Road, Srinagar, J&K	Institutional
6	Pakistan	Institute Of Business Management	Institutional
7	Pakistan	The University of Faisalabad	Institutional
8	Pakistan	Quality Assurance Directorate, Bahria University	Institutional

The current membership across all categories is 84 representing 33 countries or territories including:

- (1) 26 Full Members;
- (2) 13 Intermediate Members;
- (3) 35 Institutional Members;
- (4) 6 Associate Members; and

## Finance Manual

The APQN Finance Manual has recently been revised by the Finance Committee and has been formally approved by the Board. The revised Finance Manual took effect on 1 May 2011 and is available on the 'Members Only' area of the APQN website: [http://apqn.org/members/virtual\\_library/](http://apqn.org/members/virtual_library/).

### APQN Logo

To facilitate the exposure of APQN to the wider community, we have provided the APQN logo in a downloadable format for members to use on their respective websites. There are three versions of the logo – large and small JPEG suitable for websites and other documents and an EPS for print materials. The downloadable logo can be located on the home page of the 'Members Only' section of the website. If you are experiencing difficulty logging into this area or downloading the logo, please contact Mr Fang Le—APQN

Administrator - [fangle666@gmail.com](mailto:fangle666@gmail.com)

### Next edition

Does your organisation have any news that you would like to share with the region? Are there any upcoming quality events that you would like to publicise in the APQNews?

APQN welcomes all contributions for the next issue of APQNews and requests that you email them to

Mr Fang Le—APQN Administrator [fangle666@gmail.com](mailto:fangle666@gmail.com)  
by 30 September 2011.

## Regional QA Networks Meeting



A meeting of the Regional QA networks was organised on 7 April 2010 at ANECA Offices, Madrid on the sidelines of the INQAAHE 2011 conference. The main reason for the meeting was to learn from each other and also to see how the networks can actively collaborate and support each other. The regional representatives shared their experiences in the first session of the meeting. In the second session on regional accreditation that cross national boundaries Ms Maria Jose Lemaitre spoke of the MERCOSUR/RIACES experience and Mr Mark Frederiks shared the European experience. Participants actively contributed good ideas and practices

they use or are aware of in relation to network organisation. Some of the ideas proposed included sharing of database of reviewers/consultants and sharing the calendar of activities such as seminars and conferences.



*Newsletter Design*  
Ms Christine Ashton  
AUQA Administrator



*Newsletter Support*  
Mr Fang Le  
APQN Administrator