

Action Plan for the External Evaluation of APQN

Recommendation 1: Minimum funding model

It is recommended that the APQN Board in the future, at a minimum, fund:

- * Annual conference with associated workshops
- * Secretarial support (refer to recommendation 6).

Action

The APQN Board has decided in the future it will, at a minimum, organise an annual conference with associated workshops, and fund secretarial support.

Recommendation 2: Website

It is recommended that the APQN Board:

- * Develop the notion that the APQN website be a gateway to all things pertaining to quality assurance in education.
- * Continue to develop the Virtual Library.
- * Review the website to include and extend the links page to other key sites. It is suggested that this links page be placed in a more prominent position.

The APQN Board will act in accordance with the recommendation provided.

Recommendation 3: Board co-option

It is recommended that the APQN Board consider the use of co-opting members as a means to mentor members that have less developed quality assurance systems. This would promote the notion of inclusiveness and of capacity building across the region.

Action

The APQN Board has will use co-options to the Board to encourage commitment, professionalism, participation from big and large agencies as well as mature and newly established members. Geographical location will also be among the criteria set for Board co-option in future.

Recommendation 4: Sub-regionalisation

It is recommended that the APQN Board examine options in relation to sub-dividing the Asia-Pacific region as a means to efficiently deliver quality assurance programs and to enhance the notion of inclusiveness.

Action

The APQN Board has decided to continue to explore the idea of sub-regionalization as a means to efficiently deliver quality assurance programs and enhance the notion of inclusiveness. APQN should continue building on its strengths and identify activities and areas of high importance to current and potential members.

Recommendation 5: Strategic Plan

The APQN Board should develop a Strategic Plan focusing on the next 5 to 10 years.

The APQN Board will act in accordance with the recommendation provided.

Recommendation 6: Secretariat

It is recommended that the APQN Board give consideration to a reconstructed Secretariat, to include a full-time administrator plus one full-time quality assurance consultant who is recognised within the Network.

Action

The APQN Board has decided to aim at ensuring through the financial arrangements and management that a Secretariat at the current level of activity can be maintained. Under the current funding arrangement, ie the main funding is membership fees and minimal income from GIQAC towards the Secretariat it is not possible to identify more resources for the Secretariat.

Recommendation 7: Fees

It is recommended that APQN Board review their fee structure and benchmark it against other such networks.

Action

The APQN Board has decided to organise a review of the fee structure, with reference to the patterns of other quality assurance networks, during the second half of 2008. If the review recommends any changes to the current fee structure a proposal should be prepared for the AGM in March 2009. The Board should take full account of the current condition of fee payments from members when reviewing.

Recommendation 8: Individual subscription category

It is recommended that the APQN Board give consideration to including individual subscription for interested individuals across the region, so that when access to information and services is restricted to members, individuals (for a fee) would have access to a number of limited services on the website, including the links page, Virtual Library, publications and mailing list.

Action

The APQN Board will continue its efforts to develop the institutional membership base, and review the matter after one year, rather than opening up for individual membership at this point in time.

Recommendation 9: In-kind contributions

It is recommended that the APQN Board continue the mobilisation of in-kind contributions.

The APQN Board will act in accordance with the recommendation provided.

Recommendation 10: Additional strategies

It is recommended that the APQN Board examine strategies to minimise costs associated with the delivery of its core capacity building activities and programs.

The APQN Board will act in accordance with the recommendation provided.

Recommendation 11: Sustainability

With the limited potential of on-going future funding it is recommended that the APQN Board should look toward maintaining core activities and any additional funding sources that will value add to the Network's regional capacity building activities, such as:

- (a) Development and dissemination of core quality assurance tools, possibly on a user pay principle.
- (b) Nominal charges for provision of print/electronic material on quality assurance.
- (c) Delivering programs in different (and cost effective) ways, such as the web.
- (d) Continuing to foster interaction that enables individuals and agencies to network and learn from others' experiences via techniques such as online forums.
- (e) Recruitment of additional members.
- (f) Continuing to seek sponsorship, support and in-kind contributions from key agency/organisation stakeholders within the region.
- (g) Utilising current expertise to develop a 'commercial arm' to undertake research and develop materials relating to quality assurance.

The APQN Board will act in accordance with the recommendation provided.