



ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

APQN 15th Anniversary

(2003-2018)



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President's Message for APQN 15th Anniversary



On a sunny day 15 years ago (January, 2003) in Hong Kong, China, a small core group of QA persons (Peter Cheung of HKCAA, David Woodhouse of AUQA, and VS Prasad of NAAC) with a common wish for excellence in quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region had a meeting... and here APQN came into being!

Founded in 2003, the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), a non-governmental and non-profit network, has been continuously fighting *"to enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region through strengthening quality assurance work of both internal and external organizations and extending the cooperation among them"* for its ultimate goal of *"Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region"*.

Time flies! Fifteen years had passed by before we realized it. After the 15-year development, APQN has become the largest and the most influential international organization in the Asia-Pacific Region with 222 members from 41 countries/territories.

To mark this important milestone, APQN Board decided to produce a Brochure for APQN 15th Anniversary (2003-2018). The Brochure consists of 6 sections: 1) APQN at a Glance; 2) Presidency in the Past 15 Years; (3) 15-Year Development and Projects; 4) Reflections of the Old Good Days; 5) Witnessing APQN Development; and 6) APQN Milestones in the 15th Anniversary.

Founded in 2003, under the leadership of APQN founding fathers, pioneers and 5 Presidents - Mr. Peter PT Cheung, Ms. Concepcion Pijano, Dr. Antony Stella, Dr. Jagannath Patil and Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN has made remarkable achievements. Especially under the leadership of Jagannath, many new initiatives have been launched and APQN realized its self-sustenance. The 15-year efforts gave APQN the vitality of sustainable development and left the following spiritual legacy.

1. The Spirit of Dedication. Dedication is the passion and love for the cause of education quality bonded by the affection and friendship among our members. In

the call of this spirit, the Board directors fulfill their duties in their respective positions in their home countries while completing APQN work as a dedicated cause without compensation. One noteworthy feature of APQN is that its work is done on a pro bono basis.

2. The Spirit of Sharing. Sharing means selflessness, generosity and a global perspective that reflects the conduct and morality of APQN. APQN is an organization of shared information, experiences, theories, and practices of quality assurance. The 5 Boards have been working hard to create an atmosphere of mutual trust, cooperative learning and a custom to share.

3. The Spirit of Serving. Serving means that the Board directors should discover the requirements of higher education in the changing Information Age, answer the calls for excellent quality by the stakeholders, HEIs and the society, meet their needs and fulfill the duties entrusted. Being a board member is not a privilege, but an increased responsibility for service. To serve the members whole-heartedly, satisfy their needs and help them develop, are the fundamental keystones for the Board.

4. The Spirit of Innovation. The spirit of innovation is to improve and create new methods and new paths based on the needs of APQN members and the existing resources. The Board directors consider APQN as their own careers, do everything possible to contribute in their areas of expertise, and constantly improve operation modes of APQN.

5. The Spirit of Sustainable Development. Sustainable development is to meet the present needs of its members without compromising future needs. It contains three key concepts: 1) diversity - understand and accept the distinctiveness of all 54 countries/regions of the Asia-Pacific Region; 2) equality - make sure all members enjoy the same rights as prescribed in the APQN Constitution; and 3) harmony-promote harmonious relationship among APQN members, other international organizations and stakeholders in the quality assurance field.

These spirits mentioned above are the spiritual legacy of APQN over the past 15 years. The current APQN Board directors, together with 222 members in the APQN big family, pledge to inherit and carry on APQN's spiritual legacy-Dedication, Sharing, Serving, Innovation and Sustainable development.

I am particularly gratified to celebrate this anniversary as the future for the great cause of quality assurance is so bright. Demand for good quality of teaching and learning, sustainable and life-long student development, excellent services from HEIs in this quality era continues to grow, and APQN is at the forefront building new, dynamic QA systems for the Asia-Pacific Region.

Reflecting on APQN 15-year history, I'd like to acknowledge the founding fathers tremendous contribution to APQN. It is they who laid a solid and sustainable foundation for the development of APQN at its inception, such as APQN logo, administration structure, The APQN Constitution and others. It is because of them that APQN can come to what it is today!

To all APQN members, supporters, benefactors, stakeholders and friends - I thank you for your continued commitment to APQN! At the Inauguration speech in 2016 in Fiji, I solemnly proposed, let's ask "what I can do for APQN", instead of asking "what APQN could do for me". Today, I am proud to say that we have kept our promise.

On this bright and sunny day 15 years after the inception of the APQN, may we bravely and firmly continue the thousands-of-miles journey of quality assurance in higher education!

Dear APQN, Happy 15th Anniversary!

ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK 

Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang
APQN fifth President (2016-2019)
Chief Expert of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center
Professor of Yunnan University

I. APQN at a Glance

Goal, Mission and Vision

- ✚ The Largest and most influential non-governmental and non-profit network in quality assurance in higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- ✚ 222 members from 41 countries/territories from external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs) and higher education institutions (HEIs).
- ✚ APQN principles are target-orientated, project-orientated, sustainable development, and SMART (specific, meaningful, agreed-upon, results-oriented and tractable).

Goal

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

Mission Statement

To enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region through strengthening quality assurance work of both internal and external organizations and extending the cooperation among them.

Vision

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

Values

- *To be committed to the quality of higher education*
- *To be supportive of both internal and external quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region*

OBJECTIVES

- *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 in the development of new quality assurance organizations in the region;*
- *To facilitate links between quality assurance organizations and acceptance of each other's decisions and judgments;*
- *To assist APQN members in determining standards of institutions operating across national borders;*
- *To permit better-informed international recognition of qualifications throughout the region;*
- *To accredit external QAAs and HEIs to guarantee the good quality of them;*
- *To enhance the mobility of students among HEIs both within and across national borders;*
- *To establish effective working relationships with relevant international and sector groups who can contribute to the work of APQN, includes INQAAHE, UNESCO, World Bank, APEC, ASEAN, AQAN, AUN and others.*

APQN Constitution

A constitution is a set of fundamental principles and or established precedents of a political or social organization that determine the powers and duties of the governance.

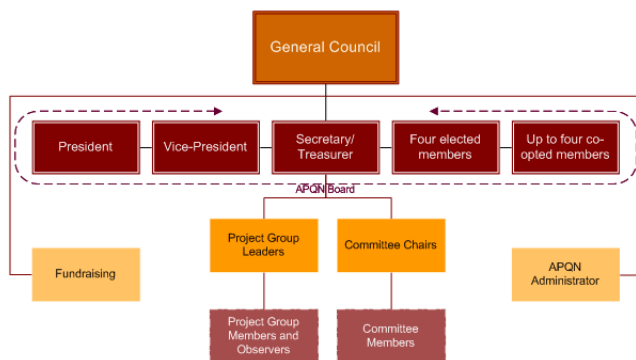
From its inception, APQN has been focused on the construction of its policies, regulations, constitutions and procedures. A draft of The APQN Constitution was developed at the INQAAHE workshop in the Sultanate of Oman in April 2004. As the legal charter and the activity guide, The APQN Constitution has been revised 8 times in the past 15 years. The latest APQN Constitution (v.8) was adopted at the AGM in 2014 in the Hanoi, Vietnam, which is made up of 9 sections and 55 articles:

No.	Sections	Articles	Sub-articles
1	I. Name	1-3	-
2	II. Purposes	4	4.1-4.8
3	III. Methods	5	5.1-5.4
4	IV. Finance	6-11	-
5	V. Membership	12-24	12.1-12.3; 15.1-15.2;18.3-18.3;19.1-19.3;21.1-21.4
6	VI. Governing Bodies	25-35	32.1-32.6
7	VII. The Board	36-51	40.1-40.2; 45.1-45.3; 46.1-46.3; 47.1-47.8; 50.1-50.3
8	VIII. Dissolution	52-53	-
9	IX. Dispute Resolution	54-55	55.1-55.3

The English version has been translated into Chinese by Prof. Jianxin Zhang for the great need in China. The APQN Constitution (both English and Chinese version) can always be downloaded from APQN website (<http://www.apqn.org/constitution>).

Organizational Structure

According to the APQN Constitution, the governing bodies and authorities of APQN are the General Council and the Board. The General Council is composed of Full Members, Intermediate Members, Associate Members and Institutional Members, each represented by one nominated person. The General Council meets at least once every year at APQN academic conference (AAC) and annual general meeting (AGM).



APQN Board is the decision-making body, consisting of the President, immediate Past President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer and four other elected members, and other members whom the Board may decide to co-opt, to a maximum of four co-opted members on the Board, provided immediate past president can have only one term ex-officio, if he/she has already served 3 successive elected terms in the Board.

APQN has formed “an organizational structure with the governing General Council and negotiating-democratic Board, based on the operational mechanism of the cooperative meeting system and professional project system”. The current APQN Board Directors (2018) are as follows:

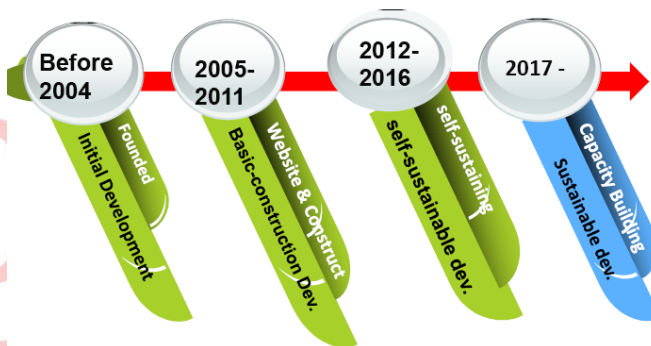


4 Stages of Development

The history of the APQN can be characterized as riding the wave of QA as a norm just as this wave started to cascade. The APQN has steadily surfed this wave, gathering new members through its norm-setting activities. (Meggan Madden)

In the past 15 years, APQN has gone through 4 important development stages:

Stage 1: the initial development from the beginning of early 21st Century to 2004, focusing on The APQN Constitution and its establishment; Stage 2: basic-construction development from 2005 to 2012, focusing on Website and other constructions; Stage 3: self-sustainable development from 2012 to 2016, focusing on self-sustenance; Stage 4: sustainable development from 2016 to present date, focusing on its sustainable development.



In “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region: APQN Strategic Plan (2016-2019)” made by APQN fifth Board in 2016, APQN has been dedicated to: 1) dissemination of information through newsletters, documents, journals and books; 2) train and development through seminars, workshops, conferences and staff movement; 3) reference to the databases and other resources of INQAAHE and other organizations; and 4) other appropriate tasks as determined by the General Council or the Board.

The Board meeting in Fiji in 2016

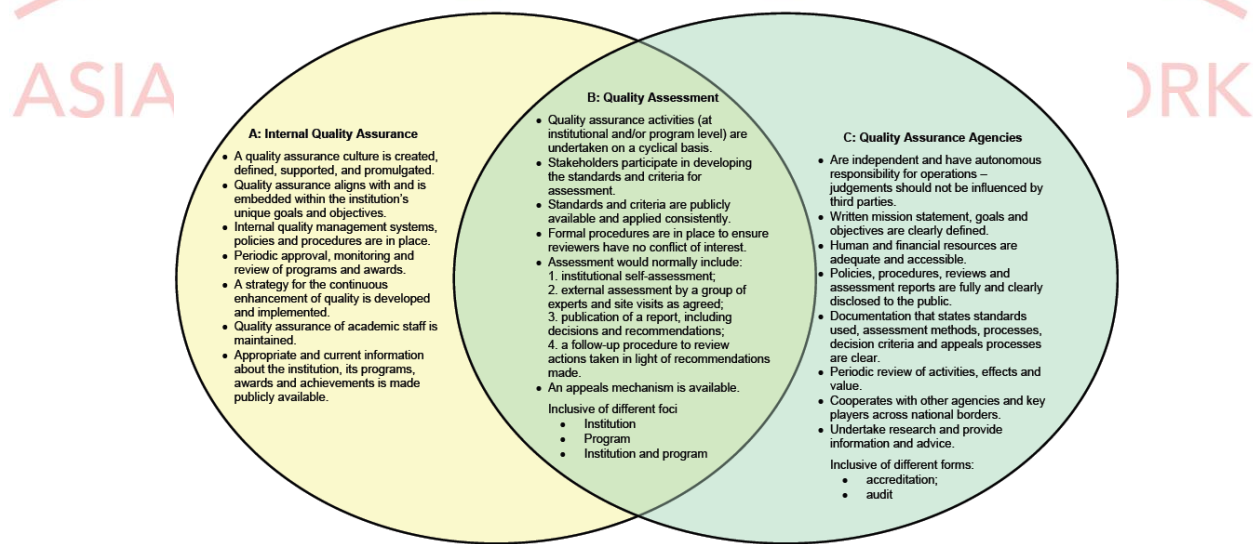


Framework for Quality Assurance Principles

“Higher Education Quality Assurance Principles for the Asia- Pacific Region” (Chiba Principles) chaired by Australia and supported by the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), was adopted at 2008 AAC and AGM in Chiba, Japan.

Chiba Principles is made of 3 parts: 1) Internal Quality Assurance; 2) Quality Assurance Agencies; 3) Quality Assurance. It is designed to provide guidance to both HEIs and QAAs interested in enhancing policies and practices. They are intended to complement national QA approaches and frameworks relating to recognition of qualifications (both domestic and international), institutions, courses and programmes and national registers of institutions, courses and QAAs.

It is designed to provide guidance to both HEIs and QAAs interested in enhancing policies and practices. It is regarded as an agreed point of reference for continuous enhancement, for developing shared understandings of each country's higher education systems and for aspiring towards international best practice.



Next Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education



Bengaluru Statement-2016 on “*Next Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education: A Shared Vision and Commitment for Fostering Partnership Beyond Borders*”, is the culmination of the first Global Summit organized by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India and co-organized by APQN in partnership with 16 leading QA organizations including networks and QA agencies from Asia Pacific, Europe, America, Africa and Arab regions on 16-17 September 2016 at Bengaluru, India. It has been counted as the major landmark in the International history of higher education quality assurance. This historic Bengaluru Statement expressed intent and aspirations for: 1) Cooperation among quality assurance networks and organizations to dissolve boundaries for quality higher education; 2) Endeavour to Foster Trust Beyond Borders in higher education quality assurance; 3) Sharing global information resources; 4) Promoting values and ethical practices in quality assurance; 5) Sharing and promoting good practices; 6) Strengthening of capacity building; 7) Developing strategies and resources for next generation quality assurance in the age of technology; 8) Resource mobilization for quality assurance; and 9) Strengthening professionalism in quality assurance.

Bengaluru Statement called upon QA networks, organizations and stakeholders to join hands and commit to working together to enhance quality in higher education in service of students and society. Global Partners in Higher Education Quality Assurance during the adoption of Next-Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education at Global Summit organized at Bengaluru was in the presence of Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Hon’ble Minister of State (HE), MHRD, Govt. of India.

Dr. Jagannath Patil (NAAC Adviser and Convener of Global Summit, Past APQN resident)

APQN Procedure Manual

On March 22, 2018, “APQN Procedure Manual” was released at the opening ceremony of 2018 AAC in Nagpur, India. This was witnessed by APQN Board directors and over 100 participants from 40 countries/territories at the Le Meridian Hotel, Nagpur, India.

Based on APQN Procedure Manual (v. 1) in 2007 and Finance Manual (v. 2) in 2011, referencing INQAAHE General Procedures Manual (version 17) in 2013, the APQN Procedure Manual (v.3) was revised and updated by Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang (chapter 1-12) with the assistance of Ms. Xinna Zhang, and Prof. Angela Yung Chi Houi (Chapter 13-14). The Manual was endorsed by APQN Board in September, 2017.

As we all know, the Manual acts as Rules for APQN, lays guidelines for its functioning, gives astonishingly positive results in its functioning in the area it belongs to. The Manual’s implementation can make APQN working smooth, question free and transparent which is the need for the sustainable development of APQN.



The release of “APQN Procedure Manual” at 2018 AAC in Nagpur, India

Publication of APQNews

APQNews is a half-year periodical newsletter on updating APQN on developments within the Network. It also gives members an opportunity to share QA activities within their organization. All members are invited to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews.

APQNews are used to describe a periodic publication distributed by e-mail to communicate with the members and relative readers. In general all the members, especially Board directors are supposed to make contributions to the news items. The contents of APQNews vary according to the activities and projects, but the followings are the main contents: (1) Key Speech; (2) The Board; (3) The Project; (4) The Cooperation; (5) Member News; (6) Coming-up Events and others.

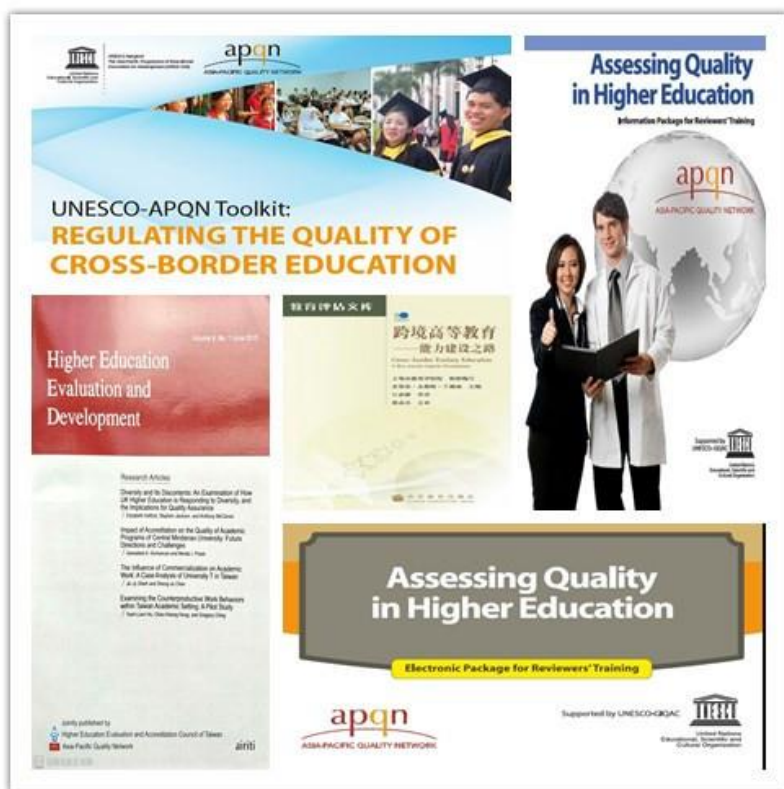
The first issue with a dozen of articles and news was released in August, 2008, which contains 6: 1) Meet the members; 2) GIQAC update; 3) Updates to the APQN website; 4) Articles of interest; 5) Diary dates; and 6) Useful websites. Since then, APQNews has been published two issues each year. As of 2018, APQN published 18 issues, a total of 338 articles in 388 pages. APQNews play an excellent good role in communicating with APQN members.



APQN Publications

In the APQN Constitution, its Vision that “to be a self-sustaining organization, the first point of reference for advice or support, efficient in its operations and open in its information sharing”. In order to realize the vision of information sharing, APQN has been committed to spreading information, knowledge, opinions widely by way of all kinds of publications.

A series of QA academic works were developed in different kinds of activities and cooperation. Among them, the following QA capacity-building tools have made great influences: 1) UNESCO-APQN Toolkit: Regulating the Quality of Cross-Border Education; 2) Cross-Border HE: Road towards Capacity Building; 3) Assessing Quality in HE: Information Package for Reviewers; 4) Academic journal Higher Education Evaluation and Development (HEED) and others.



Academic Proceedings

Sharing means selflessness, generosity and global perspective that reflects the conduct and morality of APQN. APQN is an organization of shared information, experiences, theories, and practices of quality assurance. In order to stick to the Spirit of Sharing, since 2012 APQN Board decided to publish a series of Academic Proceedings after APQN Academic Conferences (AACs) each year.

After AAC, the local host or one of the Board directors will sign an agreement with APQN to publish APQN Proceeding of the selected papers with the financial support from APQN, whose first responsibility and rights should be to APQN.

The proceedings are focused on the fixed theme each year. By 2018, APQN published 5 Proceedings in 6 AACs, a total of 144 papers. APQN is the only professional network that publishes the proceedings of their annual conferences, which reflect the results of current research and advancements in the sphere of quality assurance in education.



II. Presidency in the Past 15 years

APQN 5 Presidents

According to Article 45 of The APQN Constitutions, the responsibilities of the President are to: 1) actively represent APQN in all relevant fora; 2) chair General Council meetings; and; 3) liaise on behalf of APQN with INQAAHE and other bodies.

A total of five presidents have been elected in the past 15 years: Mr. Peter PT Cheung from Hong Kong, Ms. Concepcion Pijano from the Philippines, Dr. Antony Stella from Australia, Dr. Jagannath Patil from India and Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang from China.

In the picture: 1) President Peter Cheung (2004-2006): left in the first rank; 2) President Concepcion Pijano (2007-2010 as both Coopted and elected President): right in the first rank; 3) President Antony Stella (2010-2011): middle rank; 4) President Jagannath Patil (2012-2015): left in the third rank; 5) President: Jianxin Zhang (2016-2019): right in the third rank.



The 1st Board Directors in 2005/2006



The 1st Board Directors in 2005/2006

#	Year	President	Board Director
1 st	2004-2006	Peter PT Cheung	VS Prasad, David Woodhouse, Antony Stella, Dorte Kristofferson, MK Tadjudin, Concepcion Pijano, Manuel Corpus, Varaporn Seehanath, Jagannath Patil

The 2nd Board Directors



Concepcion Pijano
President
PHILIPPINES



Akihiko Kawaguchi
Vice-President
JAPAN



Dorte Kristoffersen
Secretary/Treasurer
HONG KONG



Zita Mohd Fahmi
MALAYSIA



Jiang Yanqiao
CHINA



Nuanthip Kamolvarin
THAILAND



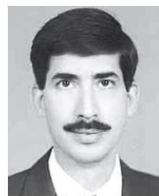
Colin N Peiris
SRI LANKA



Antony Stella
AUSTRALIA



Jagannath Patil
INDIA



Sohail Naqvi
PAKISTAN



Mike Willing
NEW ZEALAND
(until November 2008)

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The 2nd Board Directors

#	Year	President	Board Director
2 nd	2007-2010	Concepcion Pijano	Akihiko Kawaguchi, Dorte Kristoffersen, Zita Mohd Fahmi, Jiang Yanqiao, Nuanthip Kamolvarin, Colin N Peiris, Antony Stella, Jagannath Patil, Sohail Naqvi, Mike Willing, Kathy Maclaren, Somwung Pitiyanuwat, Kamanto Sunarto, Nurilya Shakhanova, Fepulea'i Sinapi Moli

The 3rd Board Directors



APQN President
Dr Antony Stella (Elected)
AUSTRALIA



APQN Vice President
Dr Jagannath Patil (Appointed)
INDIA



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



APQN Board Member
Dr Angela Hou Yung-chi (Elected)
CHINESE TAIPEI



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
Ms. Zia Batool (Co-opted)
PAKISTAN



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

ASIA

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The 3rd Board Directors

#	Year	President	Board Director
3 rd	2011	Antony Stella	Jagannath Patil, Li Yaogang, Angela Yung-chi Hou, Kazuo Kkamoto, Zita Mohd Fahmi, Colin N Peiris, Jan Cameron, Vicheanon Khieu, Zia Batool, Lamalu Lafi Sanerivi

The 4th Board Directors



APQN President
Dr. Jagannath Patil (Elected)
INDIA



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



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



APQN Board Member by Feb., 2016
Dr. Jan Cameron (Elected)
NEW ZEALAND



APQN Board Member
Prof. Pornrungraj Channarong (Elected)
THAILAND



APQN Board Member
Prof. Jianxin Zhang (Elected)
CHINA



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



APQN Board Member
Dr. Erika Soboleva (Co-opted)
RUSSIA



APQN Board Member by Mar., 2016
Dr. Richard Terry Ung Wah (Co-opted)
FIJI

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The 4th Board Directors

#	Year	President	Board Director
4 th	2012-2013	Jagannath Patil	Angela Yung-chi Hou, Li Yaogang, Zia Batool, Kazuo Ckamoto, Zita Mohd Fahmi, Colin N Peiris, Jan Cameron, Vicheanon Khieu, Lamalu Lafi Sanerivi
	2013-2015		Li Yaogang, Angela Yung-chi Hou, Jan Cameron, Pomrungraj Channarong, Jianxin Zhang, Zia Batool, Colin N Peiris, Erika Soboleva, Richard Terry Ung Wah

The 5th Board Directors



APQN President
Prof Dr. Jianxin
Zhang(Elected)
CHINA



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



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



Immediate Past President
Dr. Jagannath Patil
(Ex Officio)
INDIA



APQN Board Member
Dr. Manuel Corpus
(Elected)
PHILIPPINES



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



APQN Board Member
Dr. Galina Motova



APQN Board Member
Ms. Malini Nair - Prasad

ASIA

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The 5th Board Directors in 2017

#	Year	President	Board Director
5 th	2016-2019	Jianxin Zhang	Angela Yung-chi Hou, Li Yaogang, Liu Pingping Jagannath Patil, Manuel Corpus, Galina Motova, Malini Nair-Prasad, Deepthi C. Bandara, Zita Mohd Fahmi

The 1st Host of the Secretariat



In January 2003, coincidentally at a meeting in Hong Kong, the regional participants decided to create the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN). The Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) provided the Secretariat. Dr. David Woodhouse from AUQA was APQN Secretary/Treasurer and Peter PT Cheung was President. Ms. Liesha Northover was APQN administrator. Later on, Dr. Antony Stella and Dorte Kristoffersen from AUQA became Board directors, too, and Dr. Antony Stella was then the third President.

On 1 December 2004, APQN was formally registered as a legal entity within the state of Victoria, Australia thereby making it an independent non-profit association. Continued efforts were made in capacity building. Activities organized include conferences and seminars, workshops, project groups, consultancy visits and the creation of a regional reservoir of experts and reviewers for common use. 2005 was a productive year. In February/March, the first APQN Meeting took place in Hong Kong. In April, the first AGM, at which elections for the Board took place, was held in Wellington. 40 funded individuals took part in staff movement for capacity-building and other achievements occurred.



Based on the change approved by the General Council on 20 February 2008, APQN Secretariat moved from AUQA to the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) in China in March 2009.

Back row: Dr. Antony Stella and Dorte Kristoffersen

Front row: Liesha Northover and Dr. David Woodhouse

The 2nd Host of the Secretariat

Thanks to the leadership of the Board, especially the Office Bearers and the continuous support of the members and interested parties, the APQN Secretariat, at Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) has been the secretary members since 2009. SEEI has devoted lots of energy to serve for the members and the Board, dealing with the financial issues, the management of ACC and the projects, and the publications and the maintenance of the relationship between the other parties within the Asia-Pacific Region. At APQN 15th Anniversary, SEEI hopes that APQN would own her bright future as the most essential organization around the Asia-Pacific area.



The 3 successive secretary/treasurers from SEEI since 2009 are Dr. Jiang Yanqiao (Mar.2009-Mar.2011), Prof. Li Yaogang (Apr.2011-Jul.2018) and Ms. Liu Pingping (Aug.2018-Mar.2019), and the 3 successive administrators



are Mr. Fang Le (Mar.2009-Sep.2014, Apr.2015-Sep.2016), Dr. Guo Chaohong (Oct.2014-Mar.2015) and Mr. Zhang Lingfei (Oct.2016-Mar.2019).

The 3rd Host of the Secretariat



As the incoming secretariat of APQN, the Higher Education Evaluation Center (HEEC) of the Ministry of Education in China would like to express our heartfelt congratulations on APQN 15th Anniversary. HEEC looks forward to strengthening ties with APQN, collaborating in staff capacity building, and contributing to APQN's sustainable development and the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region to “Dissolve

Boundaries for a Quality Region”.

HEEC, Founded in 2004, is the authoritative national quality assurance agency for higher education evaluation, assessment and accreditation in China. With the mission of being a “Guardian of National Education Quality and Provider of Professional Evaluation Service”, HEEC's main task is to organize and implement evaluation of undergraduate education in higher education institutions. The overall goal of HEEC is to establish a world-class higher education quality assurance system with Chinese characteristics, and to improve the quality of evaluation and monitoring work.

Deputy Director-General of HEEC, Mr. Zhou Aijun is the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, and Dr. Wang Shuo is APQN administrator, who will officially take office in March 2019.



III. 15-Year Development and Projects

The 1st AAC and AGM

APQN first meeting was held in Hong Kong, hosted by HKCAA, from Jan.31 to Feb.1, 2005.



APQN held its first AGM in Wellington, New Zealand on 31 March, 2005, in conjunction with the annual INQAAHE conference.



Board elections voting process

The 1st Workshop and Consultancy

APQN First Workshop hosted by Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) in Sydney in July, 2005



APQN's first consultancy occurred in September between the Philippines and Cambodia.

Through spreading knowledge and sharing experiences, APQN continues to enhance standards and increase cooperation across the region.

APQN Academic Conference (AACs)

APQN Academic Conference (AAC) is a major event of the year and it is an opportunity for members to update themselves on the latest trends in quality assurance and liaise with their colleagues in the region, which coincides with the AGM. AACs just focus on academic exchange, and will not involve in any political issue of any country.

In the past 15 years, APQN has held 15 AACs which brought together all APQN members and participants both local and international representatives, share their researches, experiences and good practices in QA:

S/N	Date	Venue	Theme
1	Aug., 2004	Melbourne, Australia	Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC)
2	Feb., 2005	Hong Kong, China	WTO and International Trade in Education Services: The Opportunities and Challenges of Transnational Higher Education
3	Mar., 2006	Shanghai, China	Regional Mobility: Cooperation in Quality Assurance
4	Feb., 2007	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Emerging Challenges, Emerging Practices: Sharing a Global Vision of Quality Assurance in Higher Education
5	Feb., 2008	Chiba, Japan	Future of Quality Assurance in Asia-Pacific: Cooperation amidst Diversity
6	Mar., 2009	Hanoi, Vietnam	Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Balancing the National Contexts and International Aspirations
7	Mar., 2010	Bangkok, Thailand	Enhancing Quality of Higher Education in the Developing World
8	Mar., 2011	Bangalore, India	Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Expectations and Achievements
9	Mar., 2012	Siem Reap Angkor, Cambodia	External Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific: What has changed over a decade?
10	Apr., 2013	Taipei, China	Has external QA made an impact? Looking back at the decade of quality assurance
11	Mar., 2014	Hanoi, Vietnam	Higher Education Quality Assurance in a Changing World: Envisioning the future of Asia Pacific
12	Apr., 2015	Kunming, China	Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance of Higher Education
13	May, 2016	Natadola, Fiji	Sustainable Development of Quality Assurance in Higher Education
14	May, 2017	Moscow, Russia	New Horizons: Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region
15	Mar., 2018	Nagpur, India	Capacity Building for Next- Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the important annual meeting of the General Council (GC). The governing bodies and authorities of APQN are the General Council and the Board. The GC is composed of Full Members, Intermediate Members, Associate Members and Institutional Members, each represented by one nominated person.



The General Council meets at least once every year. At AGM, all the office bearers of Board directors should make the reports to the GC and get its approval. “APQN Annual Report” especially financial report from the Secretariat is distributed to all the members at AGM.

Each volume contains 3 parts: 1) Introduction of APQN, including organizational structure, members-general council and the board; 2) Activities, including AAC, AGM, MoU, all kinds of main projects, such as staff capacity building; 3) Reports from the office bearers such as Report on Finance.

As of 2018, 14 volumes of “APQN Annual Report” have been sent or e-mailed to all the members, at the same time it is uploaded to the APQN website.

APQN-MPI International Conference on Quality

Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) and APQN have been jointly organizing international conferences on quality of teaching and learning quality in higher education in Macao since 2015. In the past four years, over 100 scholars and experts coming from countries or regions such as the United Kingdom, Portugal, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Sri Lanka, Fiji, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Chinese Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao, spoke or presented their latest research, attracting the participation of hundreds of academics, QA experts, and higher education students in the Asia-Pacific Region.



This conference series is an inheritance of MPI's long-term endeavors. Since 2009, MPI has formed a tradition to organize an international conference every year to gather academics and QA practitioners worldwide exploring the latest developments and sharing good practices in higher education. In 2018, it is the 10th conference. With the support of APQN since 2015, it has now become a vital platform to foster international exchange and collaboration in higher education quality assurance. To sustain the dialogues and discussions at the conferences, the papers presented since 2015 were compiled for publication as 3 proceedings. The 4th one will come out soon in 2019.



APQN Global Summit (APQS)



APGS is one of the main annual events for discussing and advancing quality assurance in higher education throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Since 2016, APQN has successfully organized 3 APGSs:

1) 1st APGS: *“Sharing Values and Fostering Trust beyond Borders”* pioneered and jointly organized in 2016 by APQN and NAAC, India; 2) 2nd APGS: *“Regional Cooperation and Harmonization: ASEAN Countries and East Asia in Quality Assurance of Higher Education”* in 2017 jointly organized by APQN and HEEACT, Chinese Taiwan; 3) 3rd APGS: *“Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0 - Issues and Challenges”* in 2018 jointly organized by APQN, NAAHE, AQAN and BAN-PT, Indonesia.

One of the achievements is the *“Bengaluru Statement on Next-Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education: a Shared Vision and Commitment for Fostering Partnership beyond Borders”*. Over 120 delegates including 23 representatives of about 20 countries participated and witnessed “Bengaluru Statement.



APQN Quality Award (APQA)

APQN Quality Awards were initiated in 2013 to mark the decennial celebrations of APQN 10th Anniversary.

It is the first international quality assurance award in the Asia Pacific region, which can encourage members that have done outstanding work individually, institutionally, nationally as well as internationally in quality assurance in higher education. Their incredible achievements have the potential of replications in the Asia-Pacific Region for APQN's final goal of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region". Its significance has gone beyond the quality award itself. It is a platform to promote positive energy, to encourage excellence in education. It is also a good opportunity to catch up with old friends, to make new friends and to enjoy.

By 2018, 51 awards have been given to prize winners both within and outside the Asia-Pacific Region.



APQN Quality Register (APQR)

APQR set up by APQN is a Register of external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs) that demonstrated certain thresholds of maturity. An independent external review by peers would be the backbone of the APQR. The official website of APQR is www.apqr.co.



APQR came into effect from January 2015, and the first meeting of APQR Council was held in Kunming, China during 17-19 April, 2015. The first formal review for the APQR was conducted in Fiji during 24-26 June, 2015.

APQN Board considers the following as the primary purposes for establishing the APQR: 1) Provide an inspirational target; 2) Serve as a quality hallmark and qualification to accredit HEIs/programs; 3) Provide a basis for mutual recognition of cross-border operations of EQAAs and HEIs; 4) Offer a reference to global stakeholders on trustworthy external EQAAs in the Asia-Pacific Region.

A set of 11 criteria are considered in the APQR. Recognition by or inclusion onto APQR is based on a review of the agency against its adherence to compliance with the criteria.

As of now the following 4 QAAs are registered in APQR: 1) Fiji Higher Education Commission(FHEC) based in Suva, Fiji; 2)Certification Association “Russian Register” (RR) based in Saint Petersburg, Russia; 3) National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA) based in Russia; 4)Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health” (IAAHEH) based in Jakarta, Indonesia. Another 4 QAAs are in various stages of application/review.

Dr. Jagannath Patil, NAAC Adviser, Past President of APQN, APQR Founder Chairperson

Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL)



APQL as regional/international accreditation was launched in January, 2014. The overall objective is to support, develop, improve and enhance excellent internationalization or student learning outcomes (SLOs) in higher education institutions (HEIs) and programs in the Asia-Pacific region.

Its mission is to improve internationalization or student learning through HEIs/program accreditation. It aims to achieve this by designing and implementing an APQL accompanied by a methodology to assess the internationalization and SLOs in this region.

The criteria for the acquisition of APQL on accreditation of internationalization are made up of 5 criteria in 12 indicators: 1) International Mission and policy; 2) Organization and administration; 3) International Mobility; 4) Student Support; and 5) Student Learning Outcomes (SLO).

The criteria for the acquisition of APQL on accreditation of the SLOs are made up of 3 criteria in 29 indicators: 1) Domain-Specific Skills; 2) Domain-General Skills; and 3) Core Competencies.

Any HEI or program may request APQN to implement the review of APQL as accreditation of Internationalization or the SLOs, or request APQN and another QAA who has been registered with APQR to implement a joint review. If you are interested in APQL, please contact at <948661302@qq.com>.

The first review of APQL on the accreditation of internationalization is being organized in India on application of Symbiosis International University, Pune, on April 7-9, 2019.

IV. Reflections of the Old Good Days

The 1st President: Mr. Peter P T Cheung



In this joyous occasion of the APQN's 15th birthday, I am indeed honored to have been invited to contribute a small message as its founding president.

APQN has come into being not because of a push but a strong pull. We come together not because of any coercion or requirement but a common wish to learn from one another and to help one another. We are concerned about quality, especially the quality of our own work. And this is basically the reason why APQN was established so quickly and how it has become the example for other regional networks which, like APQN, were set up under the auspices of INQAAHE.

It all started with the practice of INQAAHE providing opportunities for agencies to meet by the region at the fringes of its conferences. Eventually India and Hong Kong were tasked to explore the option of having a regional sub-network for Asia.

A meeting of QA agency heads in Hong Kong in 2003 established the common wish and a small core group was formed to follow up. There were 3 persons, David Woodhouse of AUQA, VS Prasad of NAAC and myself, having just taken over from my predecessor in HKCAA Wong Wai-sum. And rather fortuitously Majorie Peace Lenn, a member of INQAAHE Board from the United States, in the nick of time secured an agreement in principle from the World Bank to give us a three year starting grant.

From then on, things seemed to flow. We were fortunate - I had a strong desire to achieve as I was new to the scene, David had high standing internationally; he knew QA through and through; and was a master in governance matters and rules. On the other hand, VS was very experienced and subtle. He could always hold us steady when we wanted to be too ambitious.

In a rather quick succession, the core group came up with a rough plan and took steps to get the network going, starting with a first structure, basic rules and tentative objectives (enhancement, capacity-building, mutual cooperation and information sharing) then there was the Inaugural Meeting of APQN in 2005 in Hong Kong and the subsequent AGM and Conference in Shanghai.

Another thing during my presidency I remember well is APQN's effort in reaching out to QA agencies in China, culminating in a workshop and a roundtable in Kunming, Yunnan in 2007. This opened the way for various QA agencies in China to come together regularly and I believe many of them have become APQN members since.

Now I am so very glad to learn that from the original 20 or so APQN membership has grown to 222 covering 41 counties/territories.

APQN, I would always like to believe, is more a brotherhood than an organization. We don't have many resources and membership is entirely voluntary, but we have a tradition of achieving by working hard pro bono and helping one another proactively. If we maintain this spirit, I am sure that our success story will continue.

Peter P T Cheung on 10 December 2018

The 2nd President: Ms. Concepcion V. Pijano



In 2018, APQN celebrated its 15th anniversary. From 11 founding members in 2003, the network has grown to 222 members from 41 countries/territories. This is indeed an achievement.

I am privileged to have served as its second president from 2007-2010. Shortly after my term began, the Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC), a partnership between the World Bank and UNESCO, was launched and implemented. GIQAC aimed to serve as a worldwide vehicle to build capacity for quality assurance to support regional training and knowledge sharing activities and assist emerging QA systems in building capacity. Through this grant, APQN supported the development of quality assurance agencies across the region through networking, access to online resources, internships, cross-regional staff exchange programs and workshops.

In 2009, the APQN secretariat moved to the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute. It was originally hosted by the Australian Universities Quality Agency from 2004-2008.

I wish APQN the very best as it continues to implement its mission to enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific Region. May the level of commitment and cooperation among its members continue to flourish, while APQN strengthens its existing alliances and develops new partnerships to ensure a sustainable future.

The 3rd President: Dr. Antony Stella



APQN has been acknowledged as a leader in regional capacity development in quality assurance. It has provided a sustainable platform for the quality assurance agencies of Asia-Pacific to share their experiences and learn from each other.

In a region known for its diversity, APQN's approach is a success story of cooperation and collaboration. Even before APQN was given the legal persona by which it is known today, the quality assurance agencies of the region came together and collaborated through project groups over seen by a Steering Committee.

I am pleased that I was a part of this simple beginning through the project on Indicators of Quality. As APQN grew from strength to strength its commitment to projects on areas of interest has always remained high and I recall the period when I was the President that saw the project on Mutual Recognition gaining momentum.

APQN has reached many noteworthy mile stones in the last fifteen years and I am particularly appreciative of the Chiba Principles that has the potential to strengthen regional approach to quality assurance further.

Antony Stella on December 12, 2018

The 4th President: Dr. Jagannath Patil

1. The APQN's new decade: A beginning of sustainable development



In 2013, Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) celebrated its existence of 10 years in the service of Asia-Pacific Community of quality assurance in higher education. The decennial celebrations of APQN coincided with the election of the new board. I had a great fortune of being elected president of APQN as we launched our 10 years celebrations. While celebrating the achievement of a decade, we also committed ourselves to an agenda for the new decade to

develop APQN as the strong and sustainable platform for quality assurance in Asia-Pacific.

2. APQN - A Role Model of Sustainable Development

The beginning of new decade of APQN coinciding with my tenure in the APQN President till 2016 has seen APQN growing from strength to strength making it one of the most respected and valued quality assurance organization not only in the region but also in the world. A few key initiatives listed below can give an idea about the huge work done in those 3 years: 1) Introduction of APQN quality awards to encourage and exchange good practices and contributions in quality assurance. Three editions completed and the fourth edition is due in May, 2016 in Fiji; 2) Launch of the quality journal “Higher Education Evaluation and Development” (HEED) in collaboration with HEEACT-Taiwan. The first and perhaps only network to run its own quality journal; 3) Collaboration and MoUs with Commonwealth of Learning (COL)-Canada, European Consortium of Accreditation (ECA), Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE); 4) Consortium project on QACHE in collaboration with ENQA and ANQAHE; 5) Contribution to UNESCO initiatives and working groups such as regional qualification framework and recognition of qualification, etc. 6) APQN exchange programme within the region as well as outside the region in collaboration with European Partners; 7) Launch of Asia Pacific Quality Information Portal; 8) Project on APQN Quality label; 9) Series of publications based on select papers in Annual conferences since 2012; 10) Support provided to various APQN members as co-

organizer of International conferences held in the region (ONESQA, Thailand, MPI, Macau, Fu Jen University, Taipei and so on); 11) Financial and mentoring support to projects undertaken by agencies (over 10 projects in last 3 years); 12) Increase of more than 50 members in 3 years indicating the growing popularity of APQN; 13) Successful development and launch of Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR).

The key highlights presented above provide only bird's eye view of various activities and achievements by APQN in last three years. It is significant to note here that except one or two externally funded projects like QACHE, all other projects and activities are carried out within the limited funds available by way of membership fees. This has been possible primarily because of: 1) A very low cost for efficient secretariat provided by SEEI-Shanghai; 2) A large amount of free and voluntary time by the committed APQN board members on various projects and initiatives; 3) Goodwill and active participation by APQN members contributing to the success of various initiatives; 4) While expressing satisfaction of this commendable work, I would give credit of this to team spirit of the APQN board and a deep sense of fraternity and networking among the APQN members.

Even after completing my presidency, I continue on the board as immediate past president, it is gratifying to note that several key initiatives of APQN launched during my tenure are continuing with new zeal and strength under the leadership of current President Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang and Vice-President, Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi.

I have a great fortune being part of every single development of APQN since its very first general meeting in Wellington, New Zealand and as this great organization complete 15 years, I have no doubt that APQN will emerge and strengthen its position as global leader of quality assurance movement in higher education.



Dr. Jagannath Patil

Adviser, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru, India; Past President, Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), Founder Chairperson, Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR)

The 1st Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. David Woodhouse



Throughout the 1990s, INQAAHE facilitated, at each of its conferences, regional meetings of agencies. At the INQAAHE conference in Bangalore in 2001 there was a large gathering of agencies from Asia. The meeting decided to form an Asian QA network and asked the Indian and Hong Kong agencies to facilitate this. As a result, a meeting in Hong Kong in January 2003 created APQN. The meeting decided to work by focusing on topics of interest to the region. Various participants volunteered to lead on different topics, and the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) took on the role of the Secretariat of the new APQN.

AUQA appointed Liesha Northover as APQN's Administrator. Liesha and David Woodhouse, Secretary of APQN and head of AUQA, designed the APQN logo. We made the Q a different color so that the quality aspect stood out, and the arc beneath it symbolized the bridge between nations. This had multiple meanings, including the cross-border recognition of qualifications, the umbrella holding them all, the same concerns, sharing ideas, and so on.

In its early years, APQN benefited from a World Bank grant, which facilitated its initial development. Some people were concerned that when the grant came to an end, APQN would falter, but in fact it has gone from strength to strength, under good leadership and committed membership.

I am delighted to have been a part of the early establishment and continuing development of such a useful and successful organization.



Vice-president: Dorte Kristoffersen



APQN has existed for 15 years. That is in other contexts not a very advanced age. For a network in higher education, APQN has achieved a lot in its short life time. To mention a few highlights, it has grown its membership substantially, it has allowed institutions to be part of the membership, and it has supported and continued to support the establishment and further development of quality assurance bodies in the region. It functions as a platform for quality assurance practices. This is a

critical role that helps ensure that students in the APQN member economies receive quality education.

Although a lot has been achieved, it is also important not to become complacent but continue to strengthen APQN's activities so it will continue to be a relevant network for its members in the future. To achieve that APQN needs the continued support from its members and the higher education community.

Congratulations APQN with the 15th Anniversary and best wishes for another 15 successful years!

Dorte Kristoffersen

Secretary/Treasurer (2007-2009)

Vice-president (2009 - Jan 2010)

Vice-President: Angela Yung Chi Hou



It has been 10 years since I first joined APQN activity- the annual conference held in Chiba, Japan in 2008. By learning from QA experts and agencies' administrators in Asia and all over the world, I gradually fell in love in the field and made a lot of good friends. I have been so grateful that I would be given the opportunity to work with the colleagues from the other APQN

member agencies and grow with each other. Served as elected Director of the Board since 2011 and taking the position of Vice President in 2013, I helped APQN President to promote and take part in several important initiatives, including on-line forum, Higher Education Evaluation and Development (HEED) journal, APQR, staff exchange programs, Global summit, APQN manuals etc. With everyone's efforts, I witnessed the big changes and progress that APQN has made over the past 15 years.

APQN as the most influential QA network in Asia, it needs to take the lead in QA fields of theories and practices as well as brings all members together to pursue a better quality of education. Being the APQN volunteer, I would constantly support the APQN to create the glories in the next 15 years!!

Angela Yung Chi Hou

Vice President, APQN

The 1st Administrator Liesha Northover: Building a quality future

*The higher the skyscraper you want to build, the stronger foundations you need. (Blaz Kos)*¹

I am honoured to contribute some of my early recollections of APQN to this 15th anniversary celebratory publication.

With the plans in place by 2004 and the first phase of construction ready to commence, Dr David Woodhouse, then Executive Director of AUQA, engaged me as the APQN Administrator to begin placing the initial bricks of the building that was to become the largest regional quality assurance network in the world. My first tasks were to: 1) finalise the constitution and incorporate the network as a legal entity; 2) establish a constituency; and 3) design and develop a website.

Initially I worked only 2 days per week, but this quickly grew to 4 days per week as APQN expanded and requirements increased. On 9 October 2004, we first met with World Bank representatives in Sydney to discuss the Development Grant Facility (DGF). They wanted to create a model where developed countries could assist developing countries. Regional activity was a radical step for World Bank back then, but they considered the APQN DGF a pilot for replicating this in other regions. In order to receive the DGF, APQN needed to be incorporated as a legal entity.

During the next phase of construction, we spent a lot of time defining the boundaries of the region. Initially the APQN region was much smaller than it is today, but we received many enquiries from agencies who wished to be included but were outside the defined boundaries. It was then that we decided the APQN region should reflect the UNESCO definition of Asia and the Pacific². And so was set the fence line for APQN.

One of the first membership categories established was actually 'prospective member', and this included those agencies we deemed to be potential members within our region. In those early days we had 36 prospective members, and only 10 full members, 3 intermediate members, 5 associate members and 3 observers.

¹ Setting strong foundations <<https://agileleanlife.com/setting-strong-foundations>>

² The UNESCO definition of Asia and the Pacific <<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/worldwide/asia-and-the-pacific/>>

These numbers increased steadily as APQN grew. For more detail on the first members and observers of APQN, please refer to the earliest archive of the APQN website as captured by the Wayback Machine.³

With our APQN house now well-built with a roof and all its walls and windows in place, a strategic decision was made to relocate the Secretariat from AUQA in Australia to the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) in China. It was sad for me to let go, but I was heavily involved in the transition arrangements and ultimate handover to SEEI, and was honoured to visit SEEI again to work with the new Secretariat during the changeover.

I only watch from the sidelines now, visiting the APQN website occasionally and referring to it in my current role as Executive Officer with the Australasian Association for Institutional Research⁴. In this role, I have continued my love of working with not-for-profit organisations in the higher education sector.

I absolutely loved being the APQN Administrator and am grateful for the opportunity to have been involved during the early construction phases. I also loved working at AUQA under David's leadership. I look back on my time with APQN with great pride for what we achieved, and with tremendous fondness for a network that I helped make great. My role with APQN also opened my eyes to the beauty and cultural diversity that is Asia, and I now spend most of my holidays exploring Asia more deeply.

I wish to thank APQN President, Professor Jianxin Zhang, for this opportunity to contribute to the 15th Anniversary publication, and I wish APQN the very best as it continues to grow and add benefit to the region in the future.

Liesha Northover⁵ The first APQN Administrator



³ The earliest known archive of the APQN website on the Internet Archive Wayback Machine <<https://web.archive.org/web/20060206114239/http://www.apqn.org:80/membership/members/>>

⁴ Website of the Australasian Association for Institutional Research (AAIR) <<https://aaair.org.au>>

⁵ Connect with Liesha on LinkedIn <<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lieshanorthover/>>

The 2nd Administrator Fang Le: Congratulations to APQN 15th Anniversary



Happy Birthday to APQN for the 15th Anniversary!

I have a close connection with APQN for a long time. When I started to work in Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) in July, 2005, one of my tasks was to prepare for the 2006 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Shanghai. In December, 2006, I was lucky to get the grant from APQN for my secondment to Australian University Quality Agency (AUQA), which was the host of the APQN Secretariat at that time. Then in October, 2008, with a bid process the APQN Board selected SEEI to host the Secretariat from March, 2009, and I was appointed as the Administrator after Ms. Liesha Northover. It is a wonderful and valuable experience as the Administrator for my term to September, 2016, which provides me with a solid foundation for my future development and will be cherished in my whole life. I will contribute as much as I could whenever and wherever for the benefit of APQN.

Here I would like to express the sincere gratitude to the APQN Board members for the years, especially Mr. Peter Cheung, Ms. Concepcion Pijano, Ms. Antony Stella, Dr. Jagannath Patil, Dr. Jianxin Zhang, Ms. Kristofferson Dorte and Ms. Angela Hou, and also to the leaders of SEEI, especially Dr. Weijiang Zhang, Dr. Qi Wang, Dr. Yanqiao Jiang, Dr. Hui Feng, Dr. Yaogang Li and Ms. Pingping Liu, and special thanks to the friends from the member agencies and relevant organizations.

V. Witnessing APQN Development

INQAHE President Susanna Karakhanyan



Honorable founding members of APQN, past and current Presidents, past and current Board directors and APQN proud members,

On behalf of the INQAHE Board of Directors, I am honored to extend our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of APQN establishment.

As APQN marks its 15 years of success in excellence, the Network has every reason to be proud of its past, its commendable achievements as well as excited about its future. This milestone offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the major achievements and the important contributions it has made to the regional and international higher education system enhancement and sustainability.

APQN is a spin off from INQAHE due to major need to join the efforts of QA providers at the regional level to address the regional issues. And here I cannot help mentioning the major and invaluable role Dr. David Woodhouse, then President of INQAHE, played in establishing the Network. Today, we are proud to see the significant achievements made and the efforts APQN is continuously investing to enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region through strengthening the work of both internal and external quality assurance bodies. Likewise, APQN has been active internationally, which is manifested

through a diversity of joint projects with INQAAHE and other regional networks and QA organizations - all aimed at the noble mission of promoting quality culture.

As President of INQAAHE, I take this opportunity to extend my highest commendations for the admirable job done by the APQN to enhance and sustain quality culture in the Asia-Pacific Region and wish an absolute success with the noble mission. I am certain that APQN will continue its services to the higher education, and society, at large, successfully for many years to come.

We wish you continuous success and many more years of fruitful service and contribution to the community.

Yours sincerely,



INQAAHE VII President: Susanna Karakhanyan, PhD

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From left to right: Liesha Northover (1st Administrator), Dr David Woodhouse (1st Secretary/Treasurer, Peter Cheung (1st President) at the first meeting of APQN in Hong Kong, 2005.

CHEA President Judith Eaton



Dear Colleagues of APQN, as CHEA President, I am honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of APQN 15th Anniversary! Happy Anniversary!

The Asia-Pacific Region is a fast-growing region, characterized by cultural, linguistic, social, political and economic diversities. However, comparatively speaking, not all the HEIs in this region realize the importance of quality assurance. Fortunately, in 2003 APQN was founded “to enhance the quality of higher education” in the Asia-Pacific Region. After 15-year development, APQN has become the largest and the most influential international organization in this region. Congratulations!

In 2012 CHEA launched the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG) to advance understanding of international quality assurance and to promote high-quality higher education through international accreditation bodies worldwide. APQN actively joined CIQG to distribute “*International Quality Principles*” for creating a sense of urgency for a shared understanding of educational quality, and some of APQN members also became CIQG members, too. In 2015 and 2017 I was twice invited as a keynote speaker to APQN Academic Conferences separately held in Kunming, China and Mosco, Russia. There I witnessed APQN Quality Award Gala, exotic singing and dancing, diverse cultures and their QA achievements. Prof. Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic and I were honored to be awarded “Special Quality Champions Award” for our QA enthusiasm to this region.

Once again, my congratulations go to APQN great achievements and I certainly look forward to continuing the very successful relationship we have developed with APQN over the years.

Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), China

On behalf of HKCAAVQ, we would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to APQN for the glorious success over the past 15 years!

Our former Executive Director, Mr. Peter Cheung, was one of the founding presidents of APQN back in 2003. Ever since its founding, APQN has taken an active role in establishing active collaborations among HE institutions and QA agencies and enhancing the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific region. HKCAAVQ, formerly the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA), had been involved in projects designated by the APQN, namely the APQN Conference cum Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2006 and 2007, held in Shanghai and Kuala Lumpur respectively. The then ED, in the capacity of the President of APQN, chaired the Conferences and AGMs.

Over the years, our close partnership and cooperation have never ceased. As a key QA partner also sharing the goal of enhancing quality education, HKCAAVQ has participated in several series of APQN Conferences and workshops and ED of HKCAAVQ also served as keynote speaker of APQN Conferences in recent years as well. HKCAAVQ was honored to be awarded the APQN Quality Awards in 2013 and 2014. We cherish the long-standing cooperation and are pleased to see the good progress made over the years.

Congratulations and we wish APQN all the success for many more years to come!



Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), Australia

TEQSA has a long standing relationship with APQN and shares its aim of strengthening cooperation to ensure quality. APQN performs an important role in providing the platform for dissemination of good practice and exploration of global approaches to quality assurance, leading to the continued building of capacity in higher education quality assurance in the region. TEQSA was proud to receive the APQN award for International Cooperation in Quality Assurance, on behalf of its Quality Beyond Boundaries Group colleagues, in 2017. TEQSA looks forward to continuing to engage with its partner organizations in the region through APQN into the future.

National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia



We first met our colleagues from the Asia Pacific Region in March 2001 in Bangalore (India) at the 6th INQAAHE conference which was hosted by NAAC.

In 2006 the first Russian accreditation agency became a full member of APQN.

Over 15 years we have been maintaining friendly contacts with our colleagues from QAAs. Mutual assistance and support facilitate joint projects in the sphere of quality assurance. Thanks to our close contacts in APQN the world becomes more open and friendly. Our joint efforts inspire new ideals, promote trust and enhance the quality of education and the quality of life.



Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI), China

Warmest congratulations to APQN 15th anniversary from Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI)! It is a significant milestone that deserves celebration. Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) has joined hands with APQN to organize international conferences on quality assurance every year in Macao since 2015. Witnessing the devoted efforts of APQN in spreading good practices and promoting higher education quality in the Asia-Pacific region, we are grateful to serve as an institutional member of APQN working together to provide students with the best possible learning experience in higher education.

MPI is a multidisciplinary public institution of higher education with an emphasis on applied knowledge and skills. MPI strives for excellence with its philosophy of high-quality, student-centered education and endeavors to grow into a continuously improving higher education institution of excellence regarding teaching and research within a vibrant academic culture. MPI considers quality assurance and enhancement central to realizing these ambitions. This has led MPI to become the forerunner in the field of quality assurance and academic accreditation in the Macao Special Administrative Region (Macao SAR). In 2013 MPI received the Institutional Review of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, UK. This is the first internationally recognized institutional review ever undertaken by a higher education institution in Macao. In 2015 and in 2017 MPI received APQN's Best/Model Internal Quality Assurance Award.



澳門理工學院
Instituto Politécnico de Macau
Macao Polytechnic Institute

New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), New Zealand



The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) congratulates APQN on their 15th Anniversary. APQN membership has been an important vehicle for NZQA's active participation in the Asia-Pacific region via the APQN network of quality assurance agencies and specialists. Attendance at APQN conferences has served to enhance NZQA's high regard and profile among partner agencies in the region and facilitated NZQA's efforts to support the development of emerging QA regimes in some countries. NZQA welcomes future opportunities to assist APQN to achieve its ultimate goal of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region".

By Grant Klinkum, Deputy Chief Executive Quality Assurance of NZQA

American International University - Bangladesh (AIUB)

AIUB is a leading private university in Bangladesh offering degree programs in Business, Engineering, Science and IT, Arts and Social Sciences. AIUB is an institutional member of APQN since 2007 and has participated in international conferences organized by APQN. APQN also assisted AIUB to hold the first international workshop in Dhaka to introduce QA in academia.



AIUB is the first university in Bangladesh to establish Quality Assurance Center in 2008 and introduced IQA culture in academic and non-academic activities. APQN awarded AIUB as the Best QA Model in 2016. We participated in Staff Capacity-Building organized by APQN and HEEACT, participated in on-line QA fora, provides technical expertise on QA to public and private universities in Bangladesh.



CECOS University of IT & Emerging Sciences Peshawar, Pakistan



CECOS University endeavors to nurture intellectually stimulating environments that provide rich and holistic educational programs with world-class research and innovation to produce highly skilled strong character graduates. We take great pride to contribute in society through the pursuit of our distinctive commitment to quality, ethics, tolerance, social responsibility and academic freedom.

With quality being part of our mission, it is crucial for us to collaborate nationally as well internationally under one governing body. In our home country Pakistan, Higher education Commission, Quality Assurance Agency (HEC-QAA) plays a vital role to bring all HEI's under one umbrella, and internationally APQN plays a plausible role by organizing conferences, seminars and publishing APQNews that bring all the members on the same page and provide knowledge which opens new horizons to all of the 222 members from 41 countries/territories.

We, CECOS University, would like to congratulate APQN for strengthening the work in the field of quality assurance for 15 years and to all of the members for being part of APQN that is striving to explore the good quality practices and procedures to educate and train the quality professionals around the globe.

Ms.Elly Nurachmah of IAAHEH: A Shiny Little Star in a Big World

APQN is an entity of quality assurance that has succeeded to support its members to achieve a higher level of quality in running their organization. That is why the Indonesian Accreditation Agency of Higher Education in Health (IAAHEH/ LAM-PTKES), as an independent accreditation agency has been its member and trying to get recognition from the APQR this year.

APQR review panelists have comprehensive analyses of the IAAHEH current condition and potential futures. They have ideas to motivate IAAHEH to implement optimal strategies in achieving its dreams to be a credible agency. Therefore, the APQN is like a little star brightening the grey side of the members.



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Ms.Zhang Xinna: My Research Experience on APQN



On one sunny day 4 years ago, Prof. Jianxin Zhang, my supervisor at Yunnan University (YU) gave us graduates a lecture on APQN, which for the first time drew my great interest in quality assurance of higher education as well as volunteer. Later I was lucky to be a volunteer for 2015 AAC held in YU, Kunming, China. I witnessed the awesome open ceremony keynote speeches, plenary and parallel sessions, workshops and idea-exchange of the bigwigs in QA. I made up my mind to devote my research in QA.

With the guidance of my supervisor, on one bright day I submitted my dissertation proposal titled “Study on the Capacity Building of APQN”. From then on I got fully involved in APQN’s activities, as a volunteer in APQN different activities, reception of Fiji staff members in staff Capacity-building in YU, interviewing with the Board directors, and presenting my progressive achievement in 2017 AAC in Moscow, Russia... Finally I completed my research on APQN in 8 chapters:1) Introduction; 2) Literature Review; 3) Development of APQN; 4) APQN Resource Capacity Building; 5) APQN Management Capacity Building; 6) APQN Professional Capacity Building; 7)Capacity Building of the Networks; and 8) Problems and Suggestions. In my degree thesis defense, I got good result and praise from the experts.

Now I am an official in the education bureau. However, APQN’s unstopping spirit of making every effort to foster a quality community in the Asia-Pacific region truly moves me ever since. APQN spirit always rings a bell in my head every time when I face the difficulties in my work, and encourages me to do my duty in promoting regional education development. Happy APQN 15th Anniversary!

VI.APQN Milestones in the 15th Anniversary

Date/Year	Venue/ Organization	Event
Mar. 2001	Bengaluru, India	Region wise meeting of the QAAs in the Asia-Pacific Region during INQAAHE conference at NAAC, Bengaluru, formal agreement to organize the APQN in the next meeting to be held in Hong Kong, China
Jan.-Feb. 2003	Hong Kong, China	Beginning of APQN with the 1 st formal meeting.
Apr. 2004	Sultanate of Oman	Formation of the Network and APQN Constitution(draft discussion) at the INQAAHE workshop
Sep. 2004	APQN	Development Grand Facility (DGF) of the World Bank (2004-2008) (Beginning of world bank funding)
Mar. 2005	Wellington, New Zealand	Hosted 1 st AGM, in conjunction with the annual INQAAHE conference and Board elections voting occurred.
2005	APQN	the first project on Qualifications Frameworks and QA-QF Nexus
Jul. 2005	APQN-AACCUP	the first capability-building on Institutional Accreditation was held in Manila, Philippines
2005	APQN	Formation of APQN organizational structure with the office bearers - President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer - along with 4 elected members, plus co-opted members. 1 st APQN Administrator was appointed
2005	APQN	First “Annual Report (2004–2005)” was published with ISSN 1833-5462 in 45 pages (As of 2018, APQN published 14 annual reports)
Oct. 2008	APQN	First “APQNews” was published with 20 articles and news in 6 pages (As of 2018, APQN published 20 issues)
Jan. 2008	APQN	The release of “Higher Education Quality Assurance Principles for the Asia-Pacific Region” (Chiba Principles) in collaboration with Government of Australia
2008	APQN	Support of Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC) to APQN by UNESCO and World Bank
Mar. 2009	APQN	The Secretariat moved from AUQA (Australia) to SEEI (China)
Jun. 2012	APQN	Fresh legal Registration of APQN at Shanghai
Dec. 2012	APQN	End of GIQAC funding by UNESCO and World Bank to APQN
Jun. 2012	Meggan Lee Madden	Ph.D thesis “Exploring Higher Education Regionalization through a Study of the Asia Pacific Quality Network” written by Meggan Lee Madden from Ontario Institute for Studies in Education University of Toronto, Australia
Jun. 2012	APQN –QAC, Sri Lanka	The launch of pilot review on Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR)
Jul. 2012	APQN-	International Workshop on Quality Information System in Quezon City,

	AACCUP	Philippines
Apr. 2013	Chinese Taipei	The beginning of APQN's self-sustained journey coinciding with 10 year anniversary
2013	APQN	Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education (QACHE) Project in collaboration with ENQA, INQAAHE and other partners.
2014	Taiwan, Chinese Taipei	The launch of APQN quality journal "Higher Education Evaluation and Development" (HEED) in collaboration with HEEACT-Taiwan
Nov. 2015	APQN-MPI, China	First APQN-MPI International Conference on Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning(the forth one in 2018)
Dec. 2015	APQN – YHEEC, China	First Proceedings of APQN Academic Conference is published (As of 2018,APQN published a series of 5 proceedings)
Aug.2016	APQN	The launch of the 1 st self-fundraising project with 50,000 CNY donated to the research on "Capacity Building of APQN Sustainable Development" by Mr. Zhang Jianping in China.
Sep. 2016	NAAC – APQN Bengaluru, India	1 st Global Summit on Quality Higher Education: Sharing Values and Fostering Trust Beyond Borders and "Bengaluru Statement-2016 on Next Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education", the culmination of the Global Summit.
Aug. 2017	APQN	The launch of Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL)
Jun. 2016	Zhang Xinna	Master Degree thesis on "Study on the Capacity Building of APQN" written by Zhang Xinna from Research Institute of Higher Education in Yunnan University, China
Mar. 2018	APQN	The release of "APQN Procedure Manual (V.3)" with 14 chapters
Jan. 2019	APQN	15 th Anniversary of APQN – release of little brochure

Compiled by Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser of NAAC, India, Past President of APQN, Founder Chairperson of Asia Pacific Quality Register)



APQN 15th Anniversary

(2003-2018)

**APQN 15th
Anniversary**

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