

APQNews

December 30, 2017



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Issue 16

APQN Mission Statement

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

APQN Values:

To be committed to quality higher education and supportive of quality agencies in the region

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2018 APQN NEW YEAR GREETING



Dear APQN members, dear colleagues and friends: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In a few days, the bell of New Year will be ringing. We'll say goodbye to the year of 2017 and greet the first ray of sunlight from 2018. On the occasion of New Year, we are extending our festival greetings and best wishes to 204 members and your families, extending our sincere appreciation and deep respect to those who care and support the development of APQN! We would like to thank you personally for your continual support of our goal of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region".

Looking back in the year of 2017, we are very proud. This year, APQN entered its 14-year-old blooming age, showing its vibrant, vigorous tendency of sustainable development.

This very year, 2017 APQN Annual Conference(AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) was co-hosted by National Centre for Public Accreditation(NCPA) on 25-28 May in Moscow in Russia under the theme of "New Horizons: Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region" with 114 participants from 27 countries and regions. 6 members were awarded at APQN Quality Award Ceremony. 86% of the participants are satisfied with AAC and have positive impressions and unforgettable experience.

This very year, "APQN Procedure Manual (version 3)" made up of 14 chapters was completed and released in November. It is the product of the Self-fundraising Project titled "APQN's Sustainable Development". It acts as administration rules for APQN, lays guidelines for its function, and will make APQN working smooth, question free and transparent and benefit for its sustainable development. At the same time, APQN has completed the first stage of its new website.

This very year, the International Conference on "New Developments of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance" was jointly organized by Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) and APQN on 22-23 November in Macao SAR, China. More than 30 renowned experts and scholars from U.K, Portugal, Ireland, Japan, Mauritius and other 9 countries and regions gathered to discuss the various factors affecting the quality of teaching and learning and to present the latest innovations and frontier developments of quality assurance.

This very year, "Russian Register" (RR) and National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA) in the Russian Federation have been approved for inclusion on the

Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR). In July and November, two review panels separately did on-site visit to RR and desk-review to NCPA. Based on its review of documents, interviews and validation of statements in the Self-Evaluation Report (SER), RR and NCPA have been accepted onto APQR, which is the 2nd and 3rd QAA onto APQR.

This very year, APQN published “APQNews (Issue 15)” and “APQNews (Issue 16)” with a total of 53 articles. Higher Education Evaluation and Development (HEED), APQN membership journal, jointly published in Emerald Publishing Group by Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) and APQN, has published 2 volumes of 8 academic papers.

This year, APQN took part in the following events: “the 30th Annual National Conference of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP)”, UNESCO-ICHEI’s “Regional Conference on Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Asia-Pacific” in Shenzhen of China, “INQAAHE-APQN Survey on the Landscape of IQA and EQA”, “Application for Erasmus-plus-Programme of Enhancing quality and credibility in higher education governance (INTEGRA)”, “Faculty and Staff: Creating Universities for Students” hosted by NIAD-QE in Tokyo, “the 4th Training Workshop of Program Evaluators” by National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) in Pakistan...

New Year’s footsteps are approaching; APQN will also enter its new year. There is no doubt that in the upcoming New Year, APQN will face more difficulties and challenges, but will also face new opportunities. Strength and weakness co-exist; opportunity and threat go hand in hand. Based on the solid foundation of APQN’s 14-year development, together with all members, APQN will work harder for our mission *“To enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them”*. APQN is sure to achieve the ideal of sustainable development.

Finally, on the New Year’s Day, APQN Board sincerely wishes all members “Happy New Year”, 12 months of happiness and good health, 52 weeks of love and prosperity, 365 days of non-stop fun. And See you in APQN Annual Conference in Nagpur in India!

Sincerely yours

APQN Board: Jianxin Zhang Angela Hou Yung-chi Li Yaogang Jagannath Patil
Manuel Corpus Zita Mohd Fahmi Galina Motova Malini Nair-Prasad

December 22, 2017

KEY SPEECH

Opening Remark at MPI's 9th HE International Conference in Macao

Respected President of MPI, Professor Lei Heong lok, Prof Im Sio Kei, MPPI's Vice President, Professor Luís Filipe Martins Menezes, Vice-Rector of University of Coimbra, Portugal, Ms. Dorte Kristoffersen, Executive Director, Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), Professor José Sarsfield Cabral, Member of the Board, Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES), Portugal, distinguished guests, dear colleagues & friends, dear teachers and students, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning!

On this sunny day, in this beautiful "Sea Garden"- Macao, 9th International Conference on "the New Developments of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher Education" is held as scheduled by Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN). On behalf of all APQN Board members and 204 members from 40 countries/territories, I would like to express my sincere greetings to all the participants, and express my heartfelt thanks and warm congratulations to MPI for hosting this great event! (Claps)

It is a must that we warmly congratulate MPI to host the 9th International Conference! 1 university, 9 international conferences in 9 years. This is rare, unique among over 2000 universities in China. As you know, in 2015, MPI got "APQN's Best Internal QA Award", and in 2017 Conference in Moscow, MPI again carried back home the trophy of "APQN's Best Model of Internal QA Award", which made MPI the most outstanding example among over 100 institutional members. We are especially happy that the Conference in 2015, 2016 and 2017 deal with the same theme "Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning", in the same place (Macao), organized by the same host (MPI), co-hosted by the same organization (APQN). As we all know, it is not difficult to do a good thing, but it is difficult to do the same good thing for all the time. The great philosopher in ancient China, Lao Tzu said: "One is the child of the divine law. After one comes two, after two comes three, and after three come all things." "一生二，二生三，三生万物". According to Laozi's philosophical thinking, MPI's International Conference can surely promote high quality of teaching and learning in higher education and deliver many by-products related to "teaching" and "learning".

At the Open ceremony last year, I expressed 3 points: No.1, the theme of "Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning" is of great importance; No.2 the conference is a typical case of "thinking globally and acting locally"; No.3, the international conference is one of the many steps in the long journey of "Dissolving Boundaries

for a Quality Region". At the same time in last presentation titled "Current Five Features and Approaches of Teaching Quality Assurance", I shared 5 approaches: 1) program evaluation guarantees the quality of teaching core; 2) staff job-performance evaluation guarantees the quality of teaching body; 3) assessment of student professional competence guarantees the quality of students' ability; 4) student learning outcomes guarantees the quality of learning results; and 5) graduates evaluation guarantees the quality of teaching output. On this foundation, I'd like to present three ideas today:

1. The idea of "教学 (teaching)", used in daily routine is not equal to the ideals of "teaching" and "learning" in the conference. Generally speaking, when we refers to "教学 (teaching)", we emphasize teachers' "teaching", not students' "learning". But the real meaning of 教学 (teaching) " should include two concepts: "teaching" and "learning", not a single concept. The purpose of emphasis on "teachers' teaching" is for students' learning, to pay more attention to cultivating students' critical thinking spirit and innovative consciousness, to guide students to question the authorities, to cultivate the students' learning ability and development ability, to emphasize students learning outcomes.

2. In order to achieve the purpose of this conference "New Developments of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance", we must change the concept and behavior of learning and teaching. (1)change learning concept- learners are not a passive bystanders, not a simply copy-input process of students "take over" "put in" "save" and "take out" information, but a whole process of students' self-explaining information, producing knowledge and constructing knowledge; (2) change teaching concept - teachers should be questioned as the metaphors of "soul engineer" "water bucket", student should be the center of teaching, teachers are their supporters, promoters, walking sticks for students, help students grow, and finally achieve the final goal of teaching: "Teachers teaching is for no teaching, students' learning is for creation"("教为不教, 学为创造").

3. "New Developments of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance" is to have modern teaching philosophy in "teaching" and "learning". The modern "teaching" and "learning" can be summarized as "one-two-three project": (1) To stick to "one main line", which is to train the students' thinking, to develop their intelligence, to cultivate their ability, to promote the all-round development person, to lay a solid foundation for their lifelong learning in one's whole life; (2) to promote "two changes", one is to promote teachers' teaching methods from "spoon-feeding teaching" change into "inquiry teaching", the other is to promote students' learning styles from "passive receptive learning" change into "active research-based learning"; (3)to highlight the "three-dimensional target" : knowledge and ability, process and method, emotion, attitude and values. I'm sure all of you here, have many wonderful ideas and practices that you can't wait to get started and share with us.

As a Chinese proverb goes, "it's easy to know, but it's difficult to do"("知之非难, 行之不易。"). Ladies and gentlemen, in this stage of "Thinking Globally, Acting

Locally”, focusing on the eternal theme of teaching and learning quality assurance, hope we can make full use of this stage to exchange theoretical ideas and practical experience; hope we can join hands and fight for the thousands-of-mile journey of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region"; hope the 9th International Conference a great success! Thank you!

APQN President: Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang on November 22, 2017

Address by the Key Resource Person of NAEAC's Workshop

Distinguished Director General (DG) of Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) of Pakistan Higher Education Commission -Dr. Mohammad Rafiq Baloch, Ex. Advisor HEC-Prof. Dr. Riaz Hussain Qureshi, Mr. Naseer Alam Khan and NAEAC staff, dear future evaluators, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

It is my great honor and pleasure to be here as a resource person! It is my fourth time to come to Pakistan. Thank you for having me with you!

As APQN President, I'd like to say: "thanks to Quality Assurance Agency of Pakistan Higher Education Commission (HEC) who has done great contribution to APQN"!

As you all know, Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) was founded in 2003 and it is 14 years old this year, with 204 APQN members from 40 countries/territories. As the fifth President of APQN, I am fully aware that Pakistan is an exceptionally excellent example for APQN:

1) For the past years, Pakistan HEC have been very supportive to all of the APQN activities, e.g. In 2015, APQN Annual Conference(AAC) was held in Kunming, my city, among 56 submitted papers, Pakistan ranks No. 1, covering 20% of the total papers, except the host country.

2)Pakistan HEC has encouraged 76 Degree Awarding Institutions to become APQN members, which has covered 38.6% of the total number of APQN members by the end of 2016.

3)Pakistan HEC has done great job in quality assurance, you have "University Ranking", "Review to HEIs", "Plagiarism Policy and Guidelines for Turnitin", "Pakistan Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) in HEIs", "the system of workshop for external evaluators", just like our workshop today which is sponsored by HEC...

As APQN President, I offer you my sincere and heartfelt thanks and respect for what HEC has done. And here I promise that I will come to you whenever you need me, you have my word.

As a resource person of this workshop, I'd like to say "to seek for excellence of quality assurance in higher education" is to do the right thing, to say the right words with the right persons at the right place at the right time. Let's ask you 3 famous questions of Leo Tolstoy who is the author of "War and Peace", "Anna Karenina".

- 1) What is the most important time in the world? --Now!
- 2) Who is the most important person in the world? -- The person who is in front of me!
- 3) What is the most important thing in the world? -- What I'm doing now!

Now I add my own question: what are we doing now?—to have a 3-Day Workshop for external Evaluators!

At last, let me ask my last question: What conclusion do you draw from the answer you gave? – Now, He, She, They, You, I, We, are the most important persons, and “the 3-Day Workshop” is our most important thing in the world.

To seek for excellence of quality assurance in higher education, we have to cherish him, her, them, you, me, us and all here in the workshop and be on action! A Chinese proverb goes like this “A thousand mile begins with the first step”(千里之行始于足下). Now let’s begin our first step together actively and happily. Hope the workshop is a great success! Thank you!

APQN President: Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang
September 28, 2017



THE BOARD

APQN Additional Board Meeting Held in Taipei

On September 22, 2017, APQN additional Board Meeting was held at HEEACT, Taipei. Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang (President), Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi (Vice-President), Dr. Jagannath Patil (immediate Past President) and Prof. Zita Mohd Fahmi (Board member) attended the meeting.



This additional meeting was held at the same venue of *“Global Summit on Regional Cooperation and Harmonization: ASEAN Countries and East Asia in Quality Assurance of Higher Education”* organized by the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) in Taiwan and co-organized by APQN. On the first day, Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang signed *“Partnership Project Agreement of Quality Assurance: Internal and External Quality Assurance Landscape”* with the representative from the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), Dr. Marti Casadesus Fa.

The Board Meeting reaffirmed the venues and the Program Committee (PC) of 2018 APQN Annual Conference (AAC) and proposed the dates and the keynote speakers. Furthermore, the following items were discussed and reached the agreement:

- 1) To revise *“Higher Education Quality Assurance Principles for the Asia Pacific Region” (Chiba Principles)* and a workshop on it will be held at 2018 AAC (Prof. Zita Mohd Fahmi as the team leader);
- 2) To hold *the Seventh On-line Forum on Staff Capacity Building* will be held next July, 2018 (Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi as the team leader);
- 3) To call for up-dating Consultant Database in APQN new website (Dr. Jagannath Patil as the team leader) this October;
- 4) To sign the Memorandum with ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) has been placed on APQN agenda;
- 5) To call for the Expression of Interest (Eoi) to host 2019-2022 APQN Secretariat one year ahead of the term;
- 6) APQN-HEEACT Joint Internationalization Accreditation of the Asia-Pacific

Quality Label (APQL), Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR), and the third Global Summit, the Journal of Higher Education Evaluation and Development (HEED) and other things were discussed.

The additional meeting was very efficient and practical. And it is decided that such a meeting should be held at the end of the year if possible.

Work Meeting at APQN Secretariat in SEEI in Shanghai



On November 14th APQN president, Prof. Dr. Zhang Jianxin, held a work meeting with the Secretary/Treasurer, Prof. Li Yaogang and the Administrator, Mr. Zhang Lingfei at APQN Secretariat, located in Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI). Prof. Zhang was warmly welcomed by SEEI 3 vice-presidents - Dr. Feng Hui, Prof. Li Yaogang and Mrs.

Liu Pingping.

First of all, President Zhang visited the surrounding of APQN secretariat with the guide of Prof. Li Yaogang who introduced every staff member and every department of SEEI in detail. Prof. Zhang had several warm talks with the old friends and the colleagues in SEEI. It is the first time for her to visit APQN Secretariat and SEEI's office building with over 100-year history. She is highly appreciated the well-organized offices and got a deep understanding of SEEI and APQN Secretariat.



Then, President Jianxin Zhang, Secretary/Treasurer Li Yaogang and Administrator Zhang Lingfei held a work meeting. The secretariat introduced the administration work of 2017. The Secretariat made great effort on the following works: (1) collecting membership fee; (2) the certificate from Shanghai Bureau of Civil Administration (SBCA); (3) the re-construction of APQN website; (4) the preparation for

APQN 2018 ACC and AGM; and (5) many negotiation and liaison jobs. President Zhang gave some advice on the work of Secretariat, especially on the details of preparation for 2018 ACC and the reconstruction of APQN website. She sang high praise for the Secretariat's achievement, especially to SBCA's certificate. She said, "Since 2009, SEEI held APQN Secretariat, you have contributed greatly to the development of APQN. On behalf of all members, I express heartfelt thanks to you!" President Zhang hopes, with the effort of the Secretariat, APQN can become better and better.



(Written by Zhang Lingfei, APQN Administrator)

THE PROJECT

MPI-APQN Successful Held the 9th HE International Conference

The 9th Higher Education International Conference on “*The New Developments of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance*”, which was jointly organized by Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) and Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), was held on 22-23 November at Macao Polytechnic Institute, Macao SAR, China. More than 30 renowned experts and scholars from the United Kingdom, Portugal, Ireland, Japan, Mauritius, Vietnam, Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao gathered in Macao to discuss the various factors affecting the quality of teaching and learning and to present the latest innovations and frontier developments of quality assurance. In total, more than 100 representatives from higher education institutions participated in the conference.



The highlights of the conference included four keynote speeches and a teaching and learning enhancement workshop. Eight parallel sessions conducted in English and Chinese were also held.

I. Conference Themes

This year’s conference theme was on the ‘New Developments of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance’. Discussions and exchanges spanned various sub-themes such as the theories and practices of teaching and learning quality assurance systems, enhancement of teaching and learning in higher education, outcome-based approaches to teaching and learning, learning environment of students, student evaluation of teachers (SET) and teacher self-evaluation (TSE),

assessment of students' professional competence, voice of students to enhance teaching effectiveness, use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in teaching and learning enhancement, professional development for teachers in connection with teaching and students' learning, quality assurance framework to safeguard and enhance experiences of international students, case studies of teaching and learning quality assurance in higher education with special reference to Asia-Pacific, and other relevant topics related to the conference theme.

II. Opening Ceremony

The 9th Higher Education International Conference on The New Developments of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance opened on 22 November at MPI. The opening ceremony was officiated by Professor Jianxin Zhang, President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network, Professor José Sarsfield Cabral, Member of the Board, Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES), Portugal, Professor Luís Filipe Menezes, Vice-Rector of the University of Coimbra, Portugal together with Professor Lei Heong lok, President of MPI. In his opening address, Professor Lei Heong lok stated that the conference is in its ninth year and provides a valuable platform for participants locally and from abroad to discuss emerging and evolving notions of teaching and learning quality assurance. Professor Lei added that MPI is constantly at the forefront of quality assurance and academic reviews in Macao higher education. MPI was awarded the APQN's Best/Model Internal Quality Assurance Award in 2015 and again in 2017. MPI will continue to fulfill its commitment to excellence in teaching, academic development and research, and to create a conducive learning environment for its students



Professor Jianxin Zhang, President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network, congratulated the success of this conference on behalf of the Board members and 204 members from 40 countries and territories of the Asia-Pacific region. Professor Zhang said MPI again was awarded the 'APQN's Best Model of Internal QA Award' in 2017, which made MPI the most outstanding example among over 100 APQN institutional members. APQN has been organizing the conference jointly with MPI for three consecutive years, which can help to promote high quality of teaching and learning in higher education and deliver many by-products related to 'teaching' and 'learning'. Professor Zhang welcomed the participants to have a stimulating exchange of experience and theoretical discussions and ideas around the theme of 'quality assurance of teaching and learning' on this conference platform of 'global vision' and 'localized action'.



III. Keynote Speeches

- The first keynote speech by Professor José Sarsfield Cabral (Member of the Board, A3ES) was on how higher education institutions (HEIs) may ease the transition of first-year university students by embracing the quality management principle of an evidence-based approach making. This can be achieved by collecting, analyzing and reporting data on students' admission and progress.
- The second keynote speech was delivered by Professor Jianxin Zhang (President of APQN). Professor Zhang discussed how programme evaluation promotes teaching-learning quality in her detailed analysis of the programme evaluation of Yunnan higher vocational colleges. She highlighted the four key notes for the internal QA processes of HEIs, namely achievement of student learning outcomes, teaching-learning meets social needs, 'five degrees' through the whole process and highlight development-orientated teaching and learning.
- In the keynote speech by Ms. Dorte Kristoffersen (Executive Director of HKCAAVQ), the audience was provided with an overview of the higher education environment and its impact on quality assurance. With the use of quality management in the Hong Kong context, she stressed that the increased expectations from the public and increased institutional competition calls for a high degree of responsiveness from both HEIs and QA bodies. Particularly, she proposed that a right fit is preferred over the one-size fits all accreditation approach.
- The final keynote speech delivered by Professor Luís Filipe Menezes (Vice-Rector of the University of Coimbra) focused on the Pedagogical Quality Management Process at the University of Coimbra. The QM process of the university covers all of its courses and includes a comprehensive set of procedures executed at the faculty, course and curricular unit levels. It has contributed immensely to the promotion of a quality culture at the university and has led to improvement actions.



This workshop was hosted by Professor Robin Snell, Director, Office of Service-Learning, Lingnan University, Hong Kong. Service-learning (S-L) plays a crucial role in student experience at the Lingnan University. Professor Snell gave a detailed account of how S-L facilitates student learning through combining academic study with meaningful service in the community. He also explained

several criteria against which the quality of service-learning (S-L) can be assessed.

IV. Parallel Sessions

Apart from these keynote speeches and T&L workshop, the two-day conference also comprised presentations of more than 20 papers by academic and experts from various countries and regions.

These parallel sessions explored the role of HE accreditation bodies, best practices in implementing QA models in HEIs, student affairs and curriculum design to enhance student engagement and academic achievements, and the role of technology in enhancing teaching and learning, among various other themes.



V. Participant Feedback

Participants of this conference have had an enthusiastic exchange of ideas and found the two-day sharing of insights and experience to be very beneficial. They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the QA practices in Asia and indeed around the world, meeting and interacting with practitioners and scholars who have a shared interest in enhancing teaching and learning at their own institutions.



(Written by MPI)

Release of “APQN Procedure Manual (Version 3)”

In October 31, 2017, APQN released “APQN Procedure Manual (version 3)” to the public in the website (<http://www.apqn.org/about-apqn/apqn-brochures>).

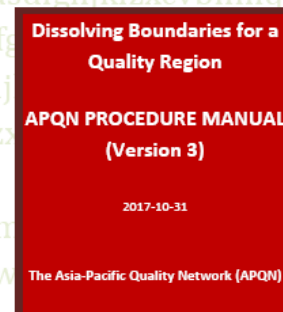
Since its inception in 2003, APQN has released 2 versions of the Manual: (1) Version with 8 chapters was released in 2007; (2) Version 2 with only 1 chapter on Finance was released in 2011, supplementary to Version 1. In the past decade, APQN got financial support from World Bank and UNESCO, but since 2012, the found was ceased, and APQN stepped into a self-sustaining era. Naturally many procedures are of no use. In 2016, at the first Board meeting of the fifth Board in 2016 in Fiji the Board considered that it’s high time for APQN to revise the Manual.

The Board approved that Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang as the group leader to revise APQN Procedure Manual with the financial support of “the Self-fundraising Project: APQN’s Sustainable Development” donated by EMBA Zhang Jianping, CEO of Guiyang, Kunming and Chongqing Branch of Shenzheng International Logistics Co. Ltd., China.

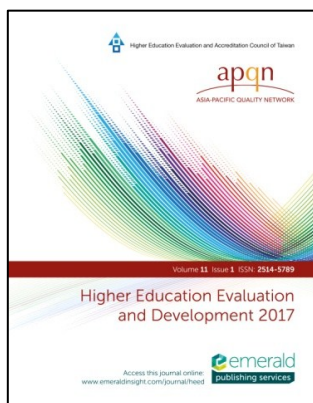
Based on APQN Procedures Manual (version 1) in 2007 and Finance Manual (Version 2) in 2011, referencing INQAAHE General Procedures Manual (version 17) in 2013, the APQN Procedure Manual (Version 3) is revised and updated by Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang (chapter 1-12) with the help of Ms. Xinna Zhang, Angela Hou Yung-chi (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 of the sustainable development of APQN.

(Written by the Self-fundraising Project)



HEED Published Two Volumes of Eight Academic Papers



Higher Education Evaluation and Development (HEED) is a quality English journal founded by Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) and has been jointly published with Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) since 2014, thus becoming APQN membership journal.

Just this year, the journal has collaborated with Emerald Publishing Group, a publishing company in the United Kingdom which manages a portfolio of nearly 300 journals, more than 2,500 books and over 1,500 teaching cases. Through Emerald, HEED is published as an open access e-journal and featured a platform that allows authors to submit and go through the review process entirely online.

HEED Website: <http://www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/about/index.htm>

Journal Download: <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/heed/11/1>

HEED welcomes quality papers from subjects of: 1) Higher education and development; 2) Quality assurance and evaluation in higher education; 3) Research development of higher education and its practices; and 4) Other topics related higher education and development. Please share your discovery with us!

Paper Submission: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/heed>

HEED's new issues Volumes 11 No. 1 and 2 are published in September and December 2017 and each contain four insightful chapters:

Volumes 11 No. 1:

1. Institutional research as a bridge: Aligning institutional internal data needs and external information requirements a strategic view; Author: Chester D. Haskell (pp. 2 - 11)
2. A comparative study of student mobility programs in SEAMEO-RIHED, UMAP, and Campus Asia: Regulation, challenges, and impacts on higher education regionalization; Authors: Angela Yung Chi Hou, Christopher Hill, Karen Hui-Jung Chen, Sandy Tsai, Vivian Chen (pp. 12 - 24)
3. The development of Malaysian universities: Exploring characteristics emerging from interaction between Western academic models and traditional and local cultures; Authors: Molly Lee, Morshidi Sirat, Chang Da Wan (pp. 25 - 37)
4. Development of the college-attendance value scale for second-year students in

Taiwan; Authors: Ming-chia Lin, Eric S. Lin (pp. 38 - 54)

Volumes 11 No. 2:

1. Who guarantees the quality of the quality assurance agencies? The exploration of the establishment and growth of the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR) ; Authors: Jianxin Zhang, Jagannath Patil (pp. 58 - 67)
2. ASEAN's flagship universities and regional integration initiatives; Author: Morshidi Sirat (pp. 68 - 80)
3. Cross-border quality assurance: case study of Hong Kong and Macao; Author: Robert Fearnside, Kathy Chung (pp. 81 - 94)
4. Understanding regionalisation in Philippine higher education; Authors: Joclarisse Espiritu Albia, Sheng-Ju Chan (pp. 95 - 110)

APQR Review of Russian Register

APQR and APQN are pleased to inform that Certification Association "Russian Register" (RR) based in St. Petersburg, Russia, has been approved for inclusion on APQR.



Certification Association "Russian Register" (Russian Register or RR) expressed its interest to the Asia-Pacific Quality Register Council (APQRC) to be considered for inclusion on the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR).

Russian Register submitted a Self Evaluation Report (SER) and supporting documents to APQRC.

A review Panel of three experts, Prof. Patricia Pol (Chair) from France, Dr. Farida Nurmanbetova (Member) from Republic of Kazakhstan and Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang (Member & Facilitator) from China, visited Russian Register from May 28-30 2017 and conducted interviews with RR's staff, with external assessors and evaluators, with representatives from the Committee on Education, with the representatives from higher education institutions and with a range of other stakeholders.

Based on its review of documents, interviews, and validation of statements in the Self-Evaluation Report (SER), the Panel recommended to APQRC that Russian Register be accepted onto the Register.

Subsequently APQRC has considered the review panel reports and decided to include Russian Register on APQR with validity period for five years.

APQR Chairperson Dr. Jagannath Patil, who facilitated the review process has urged APQN members to consider joining APQR for which many members have already shown interest. Details of procedure for inclusion on APQR are available on website (i.e. www.apqr.co).

(Written by Jagannath Patil, APQR Chairperson)



Results of the Participations Feedback of 2017 AAC in Moscow

The 2017 APQN Annual Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) were held from May 25th – 28th, 2017 in Moscow, Russia. The conference was attended by 114 participants from 27 countries and territories of Asia-Pacific Region who represented accrediting bodies, educational institutions, educational authorities and other stakeholders in the sphere of higher education and quality assurance. The conference included presentations of keynote speakers as well as parallel and panel sessions.

The questionnaire of participants was carried out after the conference and included questions concerning its content and organization. The conference evaluation process was designed to assess the following aspects: 1) The registration process; 2) The conference content; 3) The booklets of participants; 4) The arrangements of different meetings; 5) The speakers of 4 keynote speeches and 4 panel discussions; 6) The presenters of 7 parallel sessions; 7) The venues; 8) The facilities; 9) The logistics; 10) Overall conference experience. Besides the participants were also asked to comment on some strengths of the conference, challenges faced during the conference and also to give general comments and recommendations about 2017 AAC and AGM.

A special internet-resource which allows analyzing and integrating the results of the survey was created. Thirty-seven participants (32%) from 16 countries took part in the questionnaire. The highest participation was from the accreditation bodies (59%) (Figure 1).

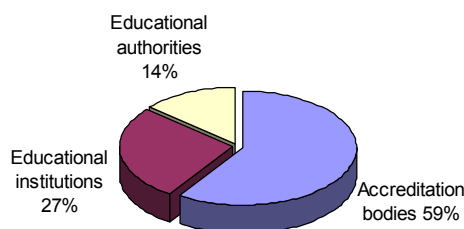


Figure 1. Distribution of participants

The most-cited reasons for attending the conference were “meeting new colleagues”, “opportunity for international cooperation” as well as “exchange of experience and best practices in higher education and quality assurance”. The results of the evaluations appear to indicate that all these aspirations were attained by the majority of participants.

The theme of the Conference "New Horizons: Dissolving boundaries for a Quality Region" covered a wide range of important issues which were distributed under 4 sub-themes: Excellence in Quality Assurance, New Assessment Methodologies in Higher Education, Internal Quality Assurance in HEIs and Quality Assurance of Cross-border Education.

Overall participants (73%) were very satisfied with the content and programme of the conference and noted interesting themes, discussions during the sessions and the diversity of issues shared (Figure 2).

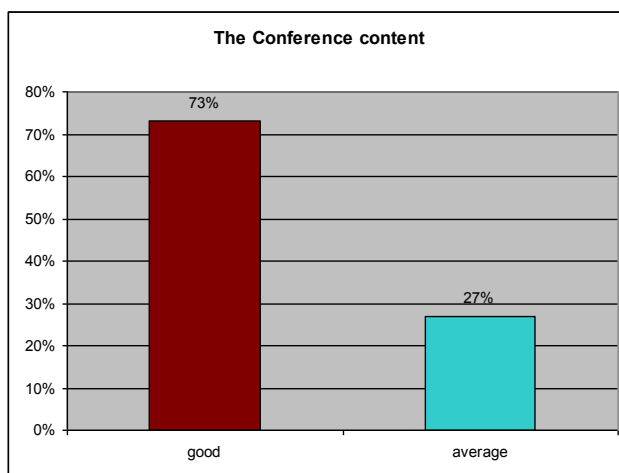


Figure 2. Satisfaction of participants with the Conference content

Many positive comments were expressed about the keynote speakers, the topics they presented and representative body of participants in the parallel and panel sessions (Figure 3). They noted that the discussions during the sessions were very informative and were based on the researches. At the same time some drawbacks were also pointed out, e.g. "the quality of the conference papers varies a lot", "the quality of presentations varies greatly, particularly in the panel discussions session" and "there is need in variety of speakers".

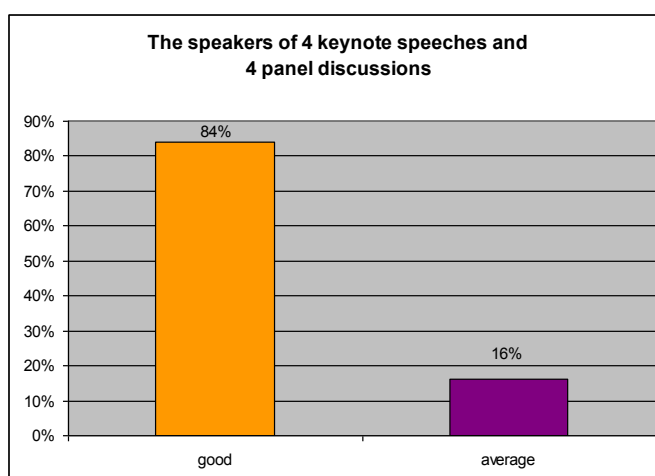


Figure 3. Satisfaction of participants with the speakers and panel discussions

The Conference was hosted by the National Centre for Public Accreditation and was held in the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation, one of the biggest federal institutions of higher education in Russia.

All participants enjoyed the venues of the conference as they were very clean and comfortable. Some of the participants who stayed at RANEPa hotel noted that the hotel was very close to the venues and it was very convenient to attend the conference.

However, there was a large majority of participants staying in other hotels. They faced some difficulties because there was no transportation between the hotel and the venue. That is why one of the recommendations was to hold in the future such a conference in a hotel in order to lessen the bother of transportation.

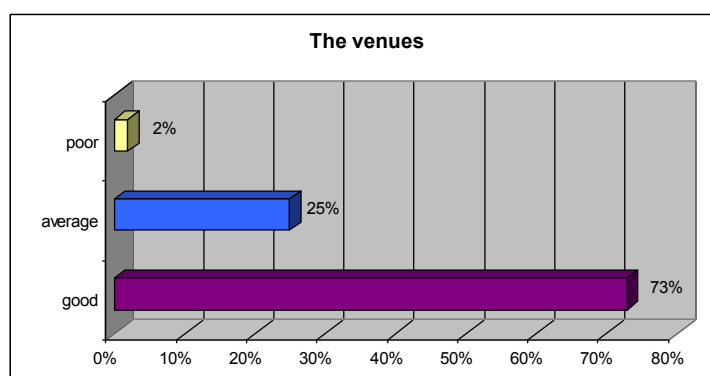


Figure 4. Satisfaction of participants with the Conference venues

The largest number of criticisms seemed to be related to the language barrier, small number of volunteers, poor time keeping, quality of the speakers and papers and absence of Halal food.

In addition, many recommendations for consideration by future conference planning committees were proposed by the participants:

1. AAC has too many plenary sessions with several speakers. AGM could have been improved if only the President and the Secretary presented reports. It should not be a showcase of individual achievements but of organizational outputs.

2. There should be fewer speakers so that there can be more time for question and answer. Also, instead of many plenary sessions, we can have parallel sessions. Then, we can select the presentations we are more interested in.

3. It will be better to have the conference and residential venues at the same place.

4. To announce the host of the next year's AAC.

5. To have a 2-day conference, not one-half day.

6. Every presenter should take their responsibility in presentation with full preparation and no absence.

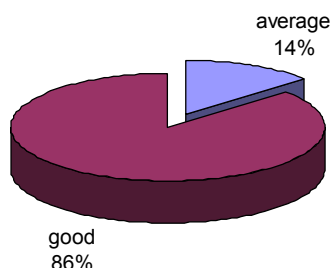


Figure 5. Overall impression of the Conference

On the whole, the large majority of the participants (86%) was satisfied with the Conference and had positive impressions and unforgettable experience.

“The Conference was perfectly organized and very important for the exchange of experience and best practices in education quality assurance as well as for communications with international partners and experts. During the Conference interesting themes in education quality assurance were discussed. The members of the Organizing Committee worked professionally and helped to solve any problems kindly and effectively”, said one of the participants.

(Daria Koltsova and Galina Motova)



INQAAHE-APQN Project Agreement of Quality Assurance Signed

On September 21, 2017, INQAAHE-APQN “Partnership Project Agreement of Quality Assurance: Internal and External Quality Assurance Landscape” was signed in Taipei. Dr. Marti Casadesus Fa (President of the Quality Assessment Commission in Catalan University) is on behalf of INQAAHE while Prof. Dr.



Jianxin Zhang (APQN President) was on behalf of APQN. Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi (APQN Vice-President), Dr. Jagannath Patil (APQN immediate Past President) witnessed the signing ceremony. It was held at the same venue of “*Global Summit on Regional Cooperation and Harmonization: ASEAN Countries and East Asia in Quality Assurance of Higher Education*” organized by the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) in Taiwan and co-organized by APQN.

As part of INQAAHE strategic priorities, INQAAHE is undertaking scoping studies in different parts of the world to better understand the landscape for external and internal quality assurance of higher education to be better positioned to contribute to the enhancement of quality assurance in a diversity of HE systems. So INQAAHE invited APQN to conduct the study collaboratively in the Asia-Pacific Region. The objectives are: 1) to conduct an in-depth study on the HE landscape and state of affairs of internal and external quality assurance in different regions all over the world; 2) to better understand the trends, challenges and needs peculiar to each region; 3) to produce a synthesis report on each of the identified regions and worldwide, in general; and 4) to produce recommendations on future investments. APQN team made up of Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, Ms. Malini Nair and Ms. Guo Qun will try their best to do the survey and submit the report.

The agreement is one of the evidences to show that the non-government and none-profit networks of quality assurance has been closely related in order to reach the goal of “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region” as well as the mission “to enhance the quality of higher education through strengthening the work of quality assurance organizations and extending the cooperation between them”.

Staff Capacity Building with Japanese Higher Education

As part of my graduate program in Japan and staff capacity building for developing countries organized by JICA, I had the opportunity to join Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) & National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) for a brief internship. The international office at



NIAD-QE includes evaluation activities such as institutional thematic assessment, certified evaluation and accreditation (CEA), national university corporation evaluation together with degree awarding activities and are highly involved in research. The concept of national university corporation evaluation is also mandatory, and performance based evaluation of national universities corporations assesses the attainment of their medium-term objectives and plans, their annual plans for education, research and management.

Apart from CEA, NIAD-QE provides 3 thematic assessments on distinctive features of institution based on research activities, community engagement and internationalization of HE. A presentation was made on the activities that support QA in Japanese Universities and Colleges together with international cooperation. NIAD-QE has an in-depth process of degree awarding that takes place at different level and without use of national qualifications framework. HEIs, however has freedom to design their own curriculum and programs but it promotes lifelong learning at HE level by providing opportunities to earn degree for learners who are not university students.

NIAD-QE also has basic policy on international cooperation activities where they are highly involved in activities to study best practices internationally allowing further collaboration of academic and non-academic staff including planning and implementation of international cooperation activities which other countries can take advantage off. NIAD-QE also highlighted the importance of its role in staff exchange programs and provided detailed information on CAMPUS ASIA project and its processes of monitoring. This program has allowed the organization to grow internationally reflecting the best practices and enhancing international collaboration within the agency while promoting IQA at the HEI level.

Apart from the China-Japan-Korea youth exchange program organized by MEXT, further knowledge and skills on roles and functions of MEXT including the divisions and their respective functions were presented before me including the ways MEXT

uses its systems to enhance the international competition and management of national universities. ASP net & ESD, session also amazed me, the ongoing projects to promote ESD and its trend of how it came into existence from over a decade. The knowledge and information on UNESCO associated schools and ESD model schools in Japan including elementary and secondary schools can set great examples and models to developing countries. However, as much as MEXT would like to see HE sector be involved in these projects, the ministry doesn't influence HE on this decision. It is of course satisfying to see that some HE has taken initiative to incorporate ESD into their curriculum design especially universities that graduates teachers.

(Written by Ms. Malini Nair, APQN Board Member)

2017 MQA Staff Exchange at HEEACT

From Left to right: Ms. Mei-Hua Chen, Ms. Cindy Chen, Ms. Ms. Nurain Abdul Rahman, Ms. Norasikin Yahya, Ms. Farah Nazreen Zainal Aziz, Mr. Mohd Irzzat Reza Bin Muhd Nur, and Ms. Chia-Yi, Lin

Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) and Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) just went through a series of training for the 2017 Staff Exchange on November 26—30 in Taipei, Taiwan!

Since the signing of the MoA in 2012, this was the first time the two agencies came together to share and present what they do best, safeguarding and assuring the quality of higher education back home. A series of knowledgeable events was prepared:



On the first day (November 27 Monday)—four delegates from MQA, Ms. Norasikin Yahya, Ms. Farah Nazreen Zainal Aziz, Ms. Nurain Abdul Rahman, and Mr. Mohd Irzzat Reza Bin Muhd Nur, went on a campus tour at Fu Jen Catholic University (FJU), one of the most prestigious private universities in New Taipei City. Prof. Dr. Ah-Yi Lee (國際教育長李阿乙教授), currently the Dean of International Education, gave a brief yet precise introduction to the academic operations and students' life on

campus. The delegates were then directed to one of the classes of Prof. Angela Hou, where they had a chance to introduce the diverse learning environment in Malaysia and interact vibrantly with the students.

On the second day, the delegates were brought to Chinese Culture University (CCU) to observe the on-site visit process of institutional accreditation. They were greeted cordially by the university President Prof. Dr. Tien-Rien Lee (李天任) and other staff members, and sat through the panel session where reviewers asked questions based on their observations and the related staff responded with their experiences. The delegates also paid a visit to the Ministry of Education and met with Deputy Minister Dr. Leehter Yao (姚立德), whom they shared the qualifications framework and implementation in Malaysia.

On the third day, the delegates were brought to Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA) for a scenic campus tour, which included a tour at Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts (KdMOFA) and Center of Art and Technology. Both places hold contemporary art works that allowed the audiences to think outside-the-box and interact with innovative, smart technology. Besides visiting campuses and learning the academic environment in Taiwan, HEEACT also hosted presentations and discussions that allowed two agencies to share accreditation works and connect each other's differences. Two agencies worked professionally and cordially to overcome the obvious language barrier, and to a great success!



THE COOPERATION

APQN Participated in UNESCO Regional Conference on QA

On 15-16 June, 2017, UNESCO held “Regional Conference on Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Asia-Pacific” along with UNESCO International Centre for Higher Education Innovation

(UNESCO-ICHEI) in Shenzhen, China. 110 participants from over 30 countries and territories shared their ideas and materials both in the Conference and 21 Walk Gallery as well as the highly intensive discussion using an “Ishikawa diagram”. Mr. Gwang-Jo Kim, Director of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education in Thailand, Mr. Li Ming, Director of UNESCO-ICHEI in Shenzhen in China, Ms. Wu Yihuan, Deputy Mayor of Shenzhen in China and Mr. Du Yue, Secretary-General of National Commission of China for UNESCO gave open remarks. Over 10 presenters gave speeches focusing on the theme.



APQN President, Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang attended the conference and made a presentation of “Aligning Institutional, National and Regional Strategies to Strengthen Quality Assurance: Efforts from Asia-Pacific Quality Network and CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG)” in the afternoon of May 15, on behalf of APQN and an advisor of CIQG Advisory Council. The presentation is made up of 3 parts: 1)Problems of Quality Education; 2)APQN Effort for Quality Education; and 3)Capacity Building to Strengthen Quality Assurance in Institutional, National & Regional Levels.

It was a privilege to be part of such a dynamic and professional group of stakeholders. Both APQN and CIQG supplied material to share in Walk Gallery: 1) APQN Brochure; 2) 2012 APQN Proceeding: External Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific; 3) 2013-2014 APQN Proceeding: Higher Education Quality Assurance in a Changing World; 4) 2015 APQN Proceeding: Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance of Higher Education; 5) CHEA International Quality Group International Quality



Principles(both English and Chinese); 6)Advisory Statement for Effective International Practice- Combatting Corruption and Enhancing Integrity: A Contemporary Challenge for the Quality and Credibility of Higher Education (both English and Chinese); and 7) CIQG Membership Application Form.

With the contribution of the inputs on the heading and main points of from the participants, “Shenzhen Statement: How to Build Regional and Local Capacity for Living Quality Culture in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (draft)” came into being. UNESCO, as the lead agency of the Education 2030 agenda will, with its partners, support efforts in the Asia-Pacific to develop and implement regional and sub-regional capacity building efforts to build a foundation for future regional harmonization of quality assurance in higher education and lifelong learning in the region. APQN expressed the hope to be always ready to take part in the Long March of “Build Regional and Local Capacity” and would like to distribute “Shenzheng Statement” to more persons in Asia-Pacific, or follow-ups such as a seminar or workshop can be arranged in 2018 APQN Annual Conference if needed.



NIAD-QE Holds University Quality Assurance Forum 2017

On August 7, NIAD-QE held the University Quality Assurance Forum 2017 “Faculty and Staff: Creating Universities for Students” at Hitotsubashi Hall in Tokyo, Japan, with the support of the Asia-Pacific Quality



Network (APQN), the Japan Network of Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Agencies (JNCEAA), and relevant institutions in Japan. Over 300 people, mainly persons involved in higher education, participated in the forum.

Participants learned about a variety of practices from the experiences of experts in academe and quality assurance in the US, the UK, Australia, and Japan at this year's forum. They also deepened the discussions on how to improve the quality of faculty and staff, how the two should share roles, and how we can create student-oriented universities.

The program consisted of two parts. The first part started with an opening address by Hideki Fukuda, President of NIAD-QE. Masato Takeichi, Dean of the Research Department at NIAD-QE, made an introduction presentation, followed by keynote speeches by Anthony McClaran, CEO of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) in Australia, and Richard Saller, Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences and Professor of European Studies at Stanford University in the US. Mr. McClaran introduced his experiences through the organizational reforms of universities carried out due to a policy of financial retrenchment implemented by the UK government since the 1980s as well as quality assurance initiatives in the UK and Australia. He also emphasized the importance of a student-centered approach to reform of the higher education sector. Dr. Saller provided references and issues regarding university governance and role sharing between faculty and staff at Stanford University, considering the differences in the types of universities in the US. He pointed out the importance of mutual trust within a university's organization.

Syun Tutiya, Professor of the NIAD-QE's Research Department, moderated the panel discussion in the second part of the program. Three Japanese experts, Chizuko Kohri, Executive Director (Research) and Vice-President at Hirosaki University, Seishi Ono, Director and Member of the Board at Musashi Academy of the Nezu Foundation and Jun Oba, Associate Professor and Deputy Director of Research Institute for Higher Education at Hiroshima University, joined as panelists alongside the two keynote speakers from overseas. The Japanese panelists each gave a presentation, based on their own experience and knowledge, on the current situation and issues to achieve cooperation between faculty and staff in university governance. Then, a lively discussion among all the panelists followed, based on questions from the participants. The topics focused on how universities can make efforts for the advancement of the professional abilities of staff and should reflect opinions of their students. Finally, Kazuo Okamoto, Vice-President of NIAD-QE, gave the closing remarks, bringing the forum to a successful end.

On August 8, NIAD-QE held a study seminar with Mr. McClaran and Dr. Saller to deepen understanding of overseas practices with respect to issues including the roles of faculty in university governance and quality assurance. Materials from the forum and the study seminar are available at the following website: http://www.niad.ac.jp/english/news/1314051_1818.html



Anthony McClaran giving a keynote speech



Syun Tutiya moderating the panel discussion

THE MEMBER NEWS

The 4th 3-day Workshop for Program Evaluators of NAEAC

Fourth three-days training workshop was organized by the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) for its program evaluators (PEs) in collaboration with Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Higher Education Commission, Islamabad from September 28-30, 2017 at Hotel Margala, Islamabad. Resource person for the training workshop was Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, a very senior quality assurance professional with considerable international experience of institutional and program review, presently President of Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN).



Program Evaluators representation was based on institutional and provincial quota. Thirty (30) participants for the workshop were identified and nominated for the training workshop including meritorious professors, deans, directors, and a few associates. Fifty percent participants were from Punjab and the rest from Sindh, Khuber-Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and AJK. This is the fourth training workshop in the series, earlier three such workshops were conducted in 2011, 2012 and 2015 with total number of 90 program evaluators/experts. The main objectives of the fourth training workshop were: to improve the relevant skills of PEs in undertaking external evaluation and accreditation process of degree programs and to understand participatory SWOT analysis and NAEAC best practices of external peer review process.

The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Prof. Dr. Arshad Ali, Executive Director, HEC whereas the concluding session was presided by Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, HEC. Resource Person prepared the course contents of the training workshop thoroughly and in a meticulous manner. She appreciated the interest and commitment of the participants in the workshop deliberations. Participants of the workshop highly valued the training material and its delivery by the resource person. They expressed their full satisfaction on the teaching-learning process and desired that such workshops may be regularly organized for orientation and updating the knowledge and skills of the P.Es.

Chairman, HEC in his concluding remarks appreciated and acknowledged the hard

work of the resource person. He congratulated the NAEAC for conducting the training workshop successfully and provided the opportunity to the program evaluators from different institutions of Pakistan. He was of the view that this workshop will enable program evaluators to learn the quality assurance mechanism involved in the external review process of agriculture degree programs.



(Written by Raja Mehtab Yasin, Deputy Director, Admin & Finance)

HEEC-NCPA Joint Programme Accreditation in Jinan University in China

On December 4-7 an external review of two study programmes (Journalism and Advertising) of Jinan University was conducted by the Higher Education Evaluation Center (HEEC) of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA) in Russia.

It was a wonderful opportunity for HEEC and NCPA to get to know each other's experience and in practice to learn about specific features and evaluation methods used in the respective countries. This collaborative work contributes to mutual trust in the quality of education of the two countries, to the decisions, made by the two agencies and to further strengthening of mutually beneficial relations. This close friendship has begun since the first official meeting in Moscow in April of 2015. And already in September of 2015 in Beijing a bilateral Agreement on Cooperation was signed.

Joint international accreditation of two educational programmes of the Jinan University – is one of the stages of this fruitful cooperation. Joint accreditation is interesting for higher education institutions (HEIs), which deliver joint degree programmes. Also, for HEIs with a large number of foreign students or institutions invested in increasing student mobility. Joint accreditation may provide trust and recognition of the quality of education. It

The international activities of the accreditation agencies have been developing for

over two decades within the frame of international networks and associations (INQAAHE, APQN). As a rule, such activities involve active exchange of experience and ideas which the agencies' employees acquire during conferences, workshops and forums, organized by the networks and also through the analysis of information published in open sources (websites, journals, documents). Valuable experience can be gained during exchange visits to other. However, only joint work on programme accreditation gives the partner agencies real understanding of problems, immersion in a creative atmosphere and getting new ideas and opportunities for development.

A lot of extensive preliminary work was done to make this accreditation successful. As the first step it was necessary to conclude a bilateral agreement and give a detailed account of all procedural issues. The next step involved agreement and coordination of standards. It was necessary to study the content and teaching and learning methods in the country and what is especially important - to explore the methods of quality evaluation and assessment of learning outcomes. This important work is highly significant because another evaluation system is going to be applied in the national education environment. And this process should be gentle, involved and tolerant. In our case the quality evaluation is not based on the number of credits or score points but on values, traditions and goals of the educational system.

Due to fruitful cooperation, initiative and pro-active position and confidence between NCPA and HEEC this joint accreditation procedure has been effectively conducted. The main principles of this procedure were openness, friendliness and sincere desire to demonstrate the achievements of the study programmes to the international community.



(Written by Galina Motova from NCPA)

New Higher Education Regime Law in Macao will be effective in 2018

The Higher Education Regime Law (Law No. 10/2017) was approved by the Legislative Assembly. The law was published in the Official Gazette of Macao Administrative Region on 7 August, 2017 and will come into force one year after its publication. The new law is in response to requests from the higher education sector, as well as to pave way for further development in higher education in Macao. The Credit System and the Higher Education Quality Assurance System are introduced in the new law. In the future, higher education institutions (HEIs) will be able to offer various types of programs, such as associate diploma programs, and programs with double degrees, and double majors.

The new legislation on quality assurance in higher education is expected to take effect in August 2018. This legislation regulates all HEIs in Macao, as well as the programs that they offer, and all non-local programs. The goal of introducing quality assurance is to promote continuous enhancement in higher education.

Under the Quality Assurance framework, evaluation is conducted at the institutional level, and program level. At the Institutional Level, there are Institutional Accreditation and Institutional Quality Audit. At the Program Level, there are Program Accreditation and Program Review.

Under the Higher Education Quality Assurance System, all HEIs and their programs have to undergo mandatory Institutional Quality Audits and Program Reviews periodically. Through these evaluation exercises, HEIs will be able to identify their good practices, as well as to receive constructive recommendations for improvement. HEIs that have passed Institutional Accreditation can apply for Self-accrediting Status for a set period of time. For HEIs that have not yet attained Self-accrediting Status, before launching any new programs, these programs have to pass Program Accreditation first.

In consideration of the recognition of the evaluation results, Macao Government is not going to set up its own quality assurance agency at the moment, quality assurance evaluation exercises will be executed by external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs) that meet Macao Government's requirements.

In the future, Macao Government strives to strengthen collaboration with international and regional EQAAs, so as to gather support and foster development of the Quality Assurance System.

For details about the Quality Assurance System and the relevant quality assurance guidelines, please visit our webpage at <https://www.gaes.gov.mo/eng/institutions/qualityassurance-en>.

(Helena from Tertiary Education Services Office in Macao)

Pilot Study of Higher Education Academic Qualifications between Taiwan and New Zealand

HEEACT and New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) are now developing a pilot study for the cross-border research project, comparing and contrasting the higher education academic qualifications between two countries. This project would be a quick study for preparing the next step to find an easy and quick way for the mutual recognition toward higher education qualification.

Supported by the Ministry of Education Taiwan (MOE), the first and second working group meeting was held on October 30 and December 11, with the presence of the working team MOE, HEEACT, NZQA, and *New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office* in Taipei (NZCIO). The team worked out the purpose and the background of this project and mapped out a timeline that includes schedule of document/data collection and analysis, report writing, working group meetings and exchange programs (March and April 2018).

HEEACT is positive that with the huge support by the MOE and the kind cooperation with NZQA and NZCIO, the two nations will be able to reach a common ground in higher education quality assurance, and ultimately, qualifications recognition.

COMING EVENT

The Theme of 2018 AAC

APQN Annual Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the main annual event for discussing and advancing quality assurance in higher education throughout the Asia-Pacific Region. The Board of APQN is delighted to announce that the next AAC and AGM will be held in Nagpur, India on March 22- 25, 2018. Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Science College jointly with Dhanwate National College (hereinafter referred to as "SSESASC and DNC") in India will host this great event.

The theme of 2018 APQN Annual Conference (AAC) is "Capacity Building for Next-Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education". Four sub-themes are as follows:

- 1) Internal Quality Assurance of Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs)
- 2) Quality Assurance of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- 3) Institutional and Professional Accreditation
- 4) International, Regional and National Quality Assurance

You are invited to present a paper on a topic of your choice related to one of the topics above. Ideas for topics can be drawn from the list of theme and sub-themes, or can be of your own choice. Please register in the following webpage:

<http://www.apqn.org/events/present-events>

It will be highly appreciated if you could earlier submit your paper (in Word Version) to both the APQN Secretariat and the local organizer at: apqnsecretariat@163.com and drdkburghate@gmail.com at the same time by 31 January, 2018.

The following dates should be remember:

Time	Key event
October 10, 2017	Call for Conference Papers released
November 1, 2017	Online Registration opened
December 15, 2017	Call for Nominations for 2018 APQN Awards Call for 2018 Applications for Sponsorship
31 January, 2018	Deadline for submission of conference papers Deadline for early discount payment Deadline for Nominations for 2018 APQN Awards Deadline for 2018 Applications for Sponsorship
February 25, 2018	Deadline for notification of conference papers
March 10, 2018	Online registration and payment deadline closes
March 22, 2018	1 st Board meeting and registration is in the afternoon in Nagpur, India
March 23- 24, 2018	2018 APQN Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting in Nagpur, India
March 25, 2018	Half-day city tour in the morning in Nagpur, India

Host Country: India

India is possibly the most diverse nation in the world. In area, it is the seventh largest country in the world. Within its geographical confines, stretching from the Great Himalayas in the north to the tropical peninsular south, there is a dizzying variety of languages, cultures, ethnic groups, beliefs and lifestyles.

India, officially known as Republic of India (In Hindi Known as Bharat or Hindustan), is a country in southern Asia. It is bounded on the north by Afghanistan, China, Nepal,



and Bhutan; on the east by Bangladesh, Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), and the Bay of Bengal; on the south by the Palk Strait, Gulf of Mannar (which separates it from Sri Lanka) and the Indian Ocean; and on the west by the Arabian Sea and Pakistan.

Much of India's fascination lies in the fact that it is both a young nation and an ancient country rolled into one, where the past and the present constantly collide. The Indo-Aryans evolved a very distinctive culture that continues to be part of India's living tradition. The hymns of Rig Veda composed by them, are still recited in temples as well as in houses in the 21st century.

(Source : <http://www.resorts-india.com/>)

The Host City: Nagpur

Nagpur is center place of India. Zero Mile Stone is a Great Trigonometrical Survey built in 1907. It was erected by the British to use this point to measure all the distances. being a major trade center of oranges cultivated in the region. It is also known Orange City. It is the winter capital, a sprawling metropolis, and the largest city of the Indian state of Maharashtra after Mumbai and Pune. Nagpur is the 13th largest Indian city in terms of population. It has been proposed as one of the Smart Cities in Maharashtra.

Nagpur is the seat of the annual winter session of the Maharashtra state assembly. It is a major commercial and political center of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. In addition, the city derives political importance from being the headquarters for the Hindu nationalist organization RSS and an important location for the Dalit Buddhist movement. Nagpur is also known for Deekshabhoomi, the largest hollow stupa among all the Buddhist stupas in the world.

According to a survey by ABP News-Ipsos, Nagpur has been identified as the best city in India topping in livability, greenery, public transport, and health care indices. The city has been adjudged the 20th cleanest city in India and the top mover in the western zone as per Swachh Sarvekshan 2016.



The Host: Shri Shivaji Education Society Science College, Nagpur

Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati's Science College, Congress Nagar, Nagpur which was established in 1967 is a beautiful key-stone of this education tree, to impart moral and liberal education to the educationally backward community of Vidarbha region.

The college is a premier institution of higher learning in central India which is affiliated to Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University.

Around 1500 students are enrolled in the college. The college offers 02 UG, 05 PG, 01 MCA and 07 Ph. D. Programmes. Besides, one UGC Sponsored Post Graduate Diploma in Nanotechnology, 03 UGC sponsored Add-On courses, and 6 CoC certificate courses and several enrichment programmes are also offered through various schemes to suit the vision of the college. These programs reflect the Institution's commitment to the promotion of human and cultural values, knowledge of one's heritage, social responsibility, secular life, modern methods of scientific inquiry, self-development, management skill and importance of value based education.

The Host: Dhanwate National College, Nagpur

Dhanwate National College (DNC) was founded by a faction of public-spirited citizens who recognised the need for huge prospects for University Education. It was started at Wardha in 1935 as Wasudeo Arts College and later shifted to Nagpur in 1942 renamed as National College. Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati, took over the management of this college in 1949. In the year 1951, Late Shrimant Dadasaheb Dhanwate donated generously to the society after which it was once again renamed as Dhanwate National College.

-  Dhanwate National College has been Accredited with CGPA of 3.25 on four point scale at 'A' Grade by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council), Bangalore.
-  The College has been bestowed upon the status of "College with Potential for Excellence" by UGC (University Grants Commission), New Delhi.
-  Recognised Centre for Higher Learning & Research for Ph.D. Degree in Arts, Commerce and Social Sciences by RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur
-  Institutional Member of APQN, Shanghai, China

Dhanwate National College is also proud to be working out solutions towards constructively bridge the gap between the academic and industry competency of students. The Institute is also the only accredited center of Indian Institute of Banking and Finance in Vidarbha region.

HKCAAVQ Professional Training Workshop in Quality Assurance

“Where internal QA meets external QA”

12-16 March 2018 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) is the only statutory body tasked with the responsibility for quality assurance of both the education and training sectors in Hong Kong. Under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) which was launched in 2008, HKCAAVQ is responsible for developing the standards and mechanism to safeguard the credibility of academic and vocational qualifications on the Hong Kong Qualifications Register (HKQR). In addition to providing accreditation services, it is also a statutory function of HKCAAVQ to provide training as a means to strengthen capacity in quality assurance of institutions and reviewers.

With the commitment to advancing the practice of quality assurance (QA), HKCAAVQ is offering a 5-day workshop to provide a systematic integration of the ‘know-how’ and ‘know-why’ of quality assurance, within the context of outcome-based education and qualifications frameworks. We expect to see a mix of local and international participants for stimulating exchange of ideas and perspectives.

To find out more about the workshop or for registration, please visit:



https://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/en/services/training/professional_training_workshop or use the QR code. For questions regarding the workshop, please email to training@hkcaavq.edu.hk or call at (852) 3658 0147.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

- APQN new website is available at:
<http://www.apqn.org/>
- APQN Brochure (New version) is available at
<http://www.apqn.org/about-apqn/apqn-brochures>
- APQN Procedures Manual(version3, 2017) is available at:
http://www.apqn.org/images/PROCEDURES_MANUALversion3.pdf
- APQNews (Issue 15, 2017) is available at:
http://www.apqn.org/images/news/APQNews-Issue_15.pdf
- APQN 2018 New Year Greeting is available at:
http://www.apqn.org/images/news/APQN_2018_New_Year_Greeting.pdf
- The Report of 2017 APQN AAC in Moscow is available at:
http://www.apqn.org/images/news/Report_APQN_2017_conference.pdf
- APQN Strategic Plan (2016-2019) is available at:
<http://www.apqn.org/media/library/constitution/APQN%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf>
- Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR) is available at:
<http://www.apqr.co/>
- Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL) is available at:
<http://www.apqn.org/apqr-ql/quality-label>



Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQNews (Issue 16, 2017)

Welcome Your Contribution for the APQNews

Does your organization have any news that you would like to share with the region?
Are there any upcoming quality events that you would like to release in APQNews?
APQN welcomes all contributions for the next issue of APQNews (ISS.17)! Please
kindly email them to Mr. Zhang Lingfei, APQN Administrator at:
apqnsecretariat@163.com.