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ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

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Dec. 30, 2018

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

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Angela Yung Chi Houi   Pingping Liu   Jagannath Patil
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Issue 18

APQN 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.

APQN Values:

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

2019 APQN New Year Greeting

December 24, 2018

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

On the occasion of New Year, we, APQN Board Directors, are extending our festival greetings and best wishes to 222 members from 41 coutries/territories and your families, extending our sincere appreciation and deep respect to those who care and support the development of APQN! We'd like to thank you for your continual support of our goal of "*Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region*".

Bells Ringing, New Year is cause for celebration, for reliving and for reflection. In the passing year, many things are worth mentioning:

One of the most important things is the 2018 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Nagpur, India on March 22-25. 131 participants from 21 countries/territories had over 20 sessions to discuss the main theme of "*Capacity Building for Next- Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education*". At the gathering time, we enjoyed Quality Award Ceremony, Indian Cultural Show and Excursion Tour to Sevagram Ashram where Mahatma Gandhiji settled down....

One of the most memorable things is to make "Brochure of APQN 15-year Anniversary (2003-2018)". Since its inception in 2003, APQN has been continuously fighting for its ultimate goal of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region". To mark the important milestone, APQN united the founding fathers, pioneers and active members at the special occasion.

One of the most remarkable things is to have the third "Global Summit" co-held by APQN and BAN-PT in Bali, Indonesia, as well as the MPI-APQN tenth International Conference on "Innovation and Developments in Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance" held at Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) in Macao, China.

One of the most crucial things is to have the new host of APQN Secretariat - the Higher Education Evaluation Center (HEEC) of the Ministry of Education, China. As we all know, the first host of APQN Secretariat is the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) in Australia and the second host is Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) in China. APQN owes a lot for their effort and dedication for APQN sustainable development.

At the same time, APQN published "APQNews (Issue 17)" and "APQNews (Issue 18)" with a total of 72 articles and numerous memorable photos. At 2018 AAC, "2017 AAC Proceeding of New Horizons: Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region" was published by APQN and NCPA in Russia…

Dear all, the past 15 years has been a long road of challenges on which APQN achieves the vision of "being a self-sustaining Network". The next 15 years is a new path of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region", a non-profit QA organization that restlessly enhancing HE quality in the Asia-Pacific Region. Let us not be afraid to dream big and to pursue great goals. We can make it happen.

Finally, on the New Year's Day, we sincerely wish all members "Happy New Year", 12 months of happiness and good health, 52 weeks of love and prosperity, 365 days of non-stopping fun. See you in 2019 APQN Annual Conference in Colombo in Sri Lanka on March 28-31, 2019!

Sincerely yours:

APQN Board Directors: Jianxin Zhang Angela Yung Chi Houi Liu Pingping Jagannath Patil
Manuel Corpus Galina Motova Malini Nair-Prasad Deepthi C. Bandara Zhou Aijun

Editor Message for the 18th Issue of APQNews

Dear APQN members, dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 18th issue of APQNews（2018）!

There are 8 columns in 28 articles in this new issue with 2019 APQN New Year Greeting.

The current issue provides detailed information on APQN activities, projects and sustainable development, as well as the QA developments from the QAAs and HEIs from the Asia-Pacific Region. It is encouraging to see the efforts invested both by external QAAs and internal HEIs to improve their respective systems, with the aim to enhance credibility and relevance of provisions (e.g. APQR). It also highlights the enhancement activities carried out by our members (e.g. NIAD-QE Forum 2018, II Central Asian International Forum, Virtual Education Ecuador Kandahar University, Quality Assurance Council of UGC, Sri Lanka).

As always, we are happy to share valuable information on upcoming QA events. Among the major ones, 2019 AAC and AGM to be hosted by University Grants Commission (UGC) in Colombo in Sri Lanka on March 28-31, 2019, is attracting. You are warmly welcomed to share your QA experiences!

Last but not the least, I cordially invite all of you to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews (Issue 19). Please kindly e-mail them to Chief Editor and APQN Administrator at: 948661302@qq.com & apqnsecretariat@163.com.

Please stay tuned for APQNews!

Best regards,

Jianxin Zhang
Editor of the 18th Issue

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Introduction of the Brochure of APQN 15th Anniversary

Founded in 2003, the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 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! 15 years has 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 15-Year 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.

The Following is the cover, the contents and the back of the Brochure:

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ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

APQN 15-Year Anniversary

(2003-2018)

APQN 15th Anniversary

Compiled and Edited: Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang

Editorial Committee: Jianxin Zhang Angela Yung Chi Houi Pingping Liu Jagannath Patil Manuel Corpus Galina Motova Malini Nair-Prasad Deepthi C. Bandara Zhou Aijun

December 31, 2018

Dear APQN, Happy 15th Anniversary!

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*".

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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 haven 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 reflect 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 the 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 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!

KEY SPEECH

Opening Speech at APQN Global Summit in 2018

Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0 - Issues and Challenges

Distinguished Prof. Ainun Na'im, Secretary General of Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (MoRTHE), Prof. Dr. Intan Ahmad, Director General of Education & Student Affair of MoRTHE, Prof. T. Basaruddin, Director of BAN-PT, Executive Board and President of ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN), Members of Accreditation Council, Distinguished guests, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), I warmly welcome you to Bali Island – "Paradise Island" in this planet! Welcome you to APQN 3rd Global Summit.

APQN Global Summit (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 two APGS: the 1st APGS is "*Sharing Values and Fostering Trust beyond Borders*" jointly pioneered and organized with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in India; the 2nd APGS is "*Regional Cooperation and Harmonization: ASEAN Countries and East Asia in Quality Assurance of Higher Education*" jointly organized with the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) in Chinese Taiwan. The 3rd APGS is today's great event - "*Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0 - Issues and Challenges*" jointly organized with the National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (NAAHE), Indonesia and the AQAN.

As you all know from the beautiful Global Summit flyer, APGS has 5 objectives: (1) To contribute to the establishment of national, regional and international alignment in QA of higher education to dissolve boundaries for a quality region; (2) To facilitate national, regional and international student and academic mobility and exchange; (3) To strengthen QA capacity building, share global information resources for next generation quality assurance in age of technology and finally promote quality culture; (4) To endeavor in fostering mutual trust, confidence and understanding of higher education systems in the whole world, especially in the Asia-Pacific Region; (5) To promote "Bengaluru Statement 2016 on Next-Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education: A Shared Vision and Commitment for Fostering Partnership beyond Borders". Among which, the most key and crucial one

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is to "to dissolve boundaries for a quality region", which has been APQN's final goal since APQN's inception in 2003. Today we are gathering here to make one step forward for the excellent quality of higher education.

Though APGS is only 3-years old, but we can see it has caused much influence on quality assurance in higher education. The most evidence 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". It was the culmination of the first APGS, and can be counted as the major landmark in the international history of higher education quality assurance.

As to the theme of the 3rd APGS- *Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0 - Issues and Challenges*, I'd like share my point of views in two parts with you, based on APQN's 15-year-old experiences.

Part I: 5 Crucial Issues of Quality Assurance in Higher Education 4.0

In Higher Education 3.0, we can say it is the "quantity era", focusing on mass education, the gross enrolment rate(GER) and quantity. Today in Higher Education 4.0, we enter the "quality era" foucusing on excellent education, good teaching & learning, eventually focusing on quality culture. As Higher Education 4.0 in the Asia-Pacific region, transforms from an elite to a mass system—expanding opportunity to new types of students, delivering content in new ways, and matching the pace of rapidly changing labor markets with new programs—some crucial issues appeared no matter we like them or not.

1. New Providers of Higher Education 4.0. As we enter the new millennium, with rapid advances in technology and widespread idea of the life-long learning, new and innovative education and career training models have emerged outside of traditional universities. For example, the none-degrees developed by massive open online courses (MOOCs) providers, have seen tremendous growth in recent years: as of 2017, an estimated 81 million students worldwide have enrolled in at least one of more than 9,400 available MOOCs. Because many of these programs fall outside of the traditional education system, then who guarantee the quality of these new models?

2. The Government-dominated QA Models. Most HE systems in the Asia-Pacific region are administrated and sponsored by the governments. For example, higher education evaluation center (HEEC) of Chinese Ministry of Education is sponsored by the MoE and functions under the direct leadership of the MoE. In most of the case, HE quality assurance and evaluation are organized by central or provincial governments and educational administrative departments. This makes the evaluation a "government- dominated QA model", and might make the HEIs weak and passive.

3. Conflicting Roles and Responsibilities for reviewers. The direct result of "Government-dominated QA Model" leads to conflicting roles and responsibilities

for reviewers. The inherent tensions in the current roles and responsibilities of reviewers that may limit the effectiveness of their efforts to oversee quality in higher education. The financial aid in present-day conceptions of evaluation is in conflict with the self-regulation and quality improvement functions. The "business model" of evaluation has created potential financial conflicts of interest because reviewers' main sources of revenue are dues and fees from the very HEIs they oversee.

4. The Imperfect Legal Policies and Laws. Although some regulations and requirements on quality evaluation have been made in most of the countries, but most of them are the old regulations which do not change with the rapid development of education, and fewer have no special laws and policies concerning the new QA system. The current quality review processes are too broad in scope and too focused on input criteria, such as facilities, faculty qualifications, while not focused enough on critical outcomes like student learning outcomes (SLOs), completion, and job placement.

5. Public Accountability and Transparency. Though quality assurance system in higher education is increasingly called on to shift its central focus from quality improvement to public accountability, particularly given mounting costs of massive public and private investments. However, the QA system originally was not created to directly serve the public interest, and therefore may not be sufficiently transparent or helpful to students and other stakeholders who seek practical information about academic quality. In the article published last month, one of "seven questions you should ask before enrolment": Is the university accredited and internationally recognized? (Farhana Chowdhury, [United Arab Emirates on July 25, 2018). This shows the public interest in QA at higher education 4.0.

Part II: APQN 5 Initiatives of Quality Assurance in Higher Education 4.0

Considering today's fast-evolving higher education context, quality assurance must synchronize with these changes. APQN has tried to keep up with the tide change. APQN has gone through 4 important development stages: (1) the initial development from the beginning of early 21th Century to 2004; (2) basic-construction development from 2005 to 2012; (3) self-sustainable development from 2012 to 2016; and (4) sustainable development from 2016 to present date. From the perspective of APQN as a case study, let's look at APQN 5 initiatives in Quality Assurance in Higher Education 4.0, particularly stressing on capacity building.

1. Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR) to the EQAAs. As "the gate keepers of quality", based on the good experience from the European Association of Quality Assurance (EQAR), in 2013 APQN endorsed the proposal of the establishment of APQR as part of its decennial agenda. APQR is an international, non-governmental, regulatory and constrained activity to the external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs). Among the 7 purposes of *APQR* two highlights the international characteristics: to supply the basis for cross-border operation of EQAAs and reference to global stakeholders on trustworthy EQAAs in the Asia-Pacific region.

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Till today, APQN has accepted 3 EQAAs onto APQR.

2. APQN Quality Label (APQL) on Accreditation of Internationalization to the HEIs. In order to support, develop, improve and enhance international excellence in the HEIs and programs in this region, APQN Quality Label (APQL) initiative was launched in 2014. APQL as regional/international accreditation of internationalization targets to the eligible HEIs or programs, which consists of 5 criteria, 12 indicators and 34 review points: (1) International mission and policy; (2) Organization and administration; (3) International mobility; (4) Student support; and (5) Student learning outcomes (SLO). APQL is expected to accredit qualified HEIs and programs in this region. Symbiosis International (Deemed University) in India will be the first to be accepted on to APQL. Those who are interested in Quality Label, please contact us.

3. APQN Quality Label (APQL) on Accreditation of the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) to the HEIs. Although the SLOs are the most direct evidences to HE quality and should be an indispensable element and the starting point of education evaluation. However in most countries evaluations have not regarded students as the most important target in their evaluation systems. In order to promote the excellent quality of the SLOs, this year APQN launched "APQL on regional/international accreditation of the SLOs", which consists of 3 criteria and 20 indicators: (1)domain-specific skills; (2) general skills; and (3) core competencies. At least 5 questions should be answered to show the SLOs are excellent: 1) what knowledge will the students learn? 2) what learning experiences/professional skills have the students acquired? 3) what are the students able to do? 4) What distinguishes the students from others in other programs? and 5) what lifelong-learning ability have the students achieved?

4. Development of QA Capacity-building Tools. In order to develop capacity-building of the EQAAs and the HEIs and relative stakeholders on quality assurance, APQN has organized 15 APQN academic conferences(AACs) , 3 global summits, 7 on-line forums and many workshops on QA. Based on the submitted and shared papers, APQN Proceedings Publication Series for AACs: (1) 2012 AAC: *External Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific: What has changed over a Decade*? (2) 2013-2014 AAC: *Higher Education Quality Assurance in a Changing World: Envisioning the Future of Asia Pacific*; (3) 2015 AAC: Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance of Higher Education; (4) 2016 AAC: Sustainable Development of Quality Assurance in Higher Education; (5) 2017 AAC: New Horizons: Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region. By the way, you are invited to attend 2019 AAC themed Quality Assurance in the Asai-Pacifi Region: Insight into the Future. Meanwhile, APQN has published a series of QA capacity-building tools: (1)*"Toolkit of Assessing Quality in Higher Education: Information Package for Reviewers"*; (2)Translated book *"Cross-Border Higher Education: Road towards Capacity Building";(3) "Assessing Quality in Higher Education "*; (4)*"the Revision of Higher Education Quality Assurance Principles for the Asia Pacific Region (Chiba Principles)"; (5)* Academic journal *Higher Education Evaluation & Development*

(HEED) jointly published by HEEACT & APQN printed by Emerald Publishing in UK.

5. APQN Quality Informatton Portal(APQIP). In order to reach the goal of "*public accountability and transparency*", APQN launched the initiative of the APQIP in 2012. APQIP is a timely response to the pressing demand for more transparency and better information provision regarding the national education systems in the Asia- Pacific region, which designs to benefit the members of APQN, as well as wider public, such as students, employers, public authorities and researchers. It has 3 objectives: (1) to provide access to quality, reliable and up-to-date information about higher education systems; (2) to facilitate cooperation and exchange of information among the EQAAs and the HEIs; (3) to set-up and provide access to the quality assurance expert database. It consists of regional, national and institutional levels as well as useful links are the main menus of APQIP.

Dear all, as we all know, for the last 20 years, the EQAAs have been considered the reliable authorities for assuring quality in the HEIs in a by-gone era. However at the era of Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0, the above assumption has been gradually shattered down with the new issues that we ever or never have faced before. Today we gather here to discuss this crucial issue, what we can do is to bravely rise to the challenges of the enhanced responsibilities, to help establish the flexibility of the QA system, to help the HEIs to set their own mission-driven goals and measures responsive to the diversity of HE 4.0, and to dissolve boundaries for a quality region. In conclusion, I'd like quote one sentence by Chantal Peticlair, Canadian wheelchair athlete who won five gold medals, "*If I have a strong commitment to my goals and dreams, if I wake up every day with a passion to do my job, everything is possible.*"

I wish the 3rd Global Summit a great success. I wish you to have a very pleasant and memorable experience in this "Paradise Island"! Thank you very much!

APQN fifth President: Jianxin Zhang on August 28, 2018 in Bali, Indonesia

Opening Speech at the 10th International Conference in MPI

Respected President of Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI), Professor Im Sio Kei, Prof. Alberto Amaral, President of Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES), Portugal; Mr. Ian Kimber, Director of Universities, Quality Enhancement and Standards from QAA in UK, Prof. Sheelagh Matear, Executive Director of Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities (AQA), Mr Albert Chow（周庆帮）, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) , dear colleagues and friends, dear teachers and students, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning!

On this sunny day, in this beautiful "Sea Garden"-Macao, the 10th International Conference on "Innovation and Developments in Teaching & Learning Quality Assurance" is held as scheduled by MPI in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN). On behalf of all APQN Board and 222 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)

Today, we must warmly congratulate MPI to host the 10th International Conference! When I talk of "10", a Chinses set phrase (成语)"十全十美"-being perfect in everything, naturally escapes my lips. Though I cannot say that MPI is "100% perfection", （as we all know, in the world there are no perfect people nor perfect things.）but I can say, since MPI's founding in 1991, after 27-year development and adhering to its motto of "knowledge, expertise and global vision"，the philosophy of "small but beautiful, small but refined, nurturing high-caliber graduates", MPI has emerged as an important base for nurturing talents in Chinese and Portuguese, as well as in technological innovations.

Today, we must warmly congratulate MPI to host the 10th International Conference! In the past 4 consecutive years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018), I saw with my own eyes that MPI's international conference stands out for "the 5-same": the same theme ("Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning") in the same month (November) in the same city (Macao) organized by the same host (MPI) and co-hosted by the same organization (APQN). In the past 4 years, over 100 participants/paper presenters from all over the world like, UK, Portugal, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Sri-Lanka, India, Japan, Mauritius, Philippines, Vietnam,

Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao. This is a real platform of "Thinking Globally and Acting Locally" proposed by UNESCO. This is the unique, only one among the tens of thousands of higher education institutions (HEIs) in 50 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region. MPI's International conference is also unique, the only one among 222 APQN members from 40 countries and territories. MPI is really a good example and good pioneer! That is why in 2015, MPI got "APQN's Best Internal QA Award"; in 2017 MPI again carried back home the trophy of "APQN's Best Model of Internal QA Award". It is based on this background that the 3rd Board meeting held in Bali in 2018 discussed about the possibility that MPI might become the first APQN Asia-Pacific quality label on accreditation on student learning outcomes (SLOs)

Since the theme of the 10th international conference is "Innovation and Developments in Teaching & Learning Quality Assurance", I'd like say to talk briefly about the most important key issue, namely " SLO: Student Learning Outcome ", from the perspective of "Innovation and Development". A university is not a magic box where a group of qualified graduates can spontaneously come out after a 4-year study. "What experience did students learn during the 4 years of university learning? What kind of learning achievements have they obtained? Have the expected goals of the programs been achieved? How can we evaluate a qualified university graduate?" Based on the theoretical and practical experiences of international organizations in assessing students' learning outcome (SLO) such as the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG), APQN has launched the initiative of "the Asia-Pacific Quality Label: Student Learning Outcome" (APQL-SLO) to assess the SLO during their four-year study period. APQL-SLO includes three criteria: domain-specific skills; domain-general skills; core competencies, consisting of 28 indicators, such as the expected objectives of the programme, learning process of the programme, life-long learning ability and others, which aims to describe students' "value-added" in their learning process, experience and outcomes. Five characteristics of APQL-SLO are embodied: (1) the result-based assessment of both actual and expected goals of the programme; (2) the process-based assessment of students' learning experiences; (3) the product-based assessment of the SLO; (4) the satisfaction-based assessment of the students themselves to the SLO; (5) the development-based assessment of students' career planning and lifelong learning ability. This morning, I will share with you "Exploration on Asia-Pacific Quality Label on Student Learning Outcome (APQL-SLO)".

Ladies and gentlemen, in this platform of "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally", focusing on the theme that MPI has focused on for many years, 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 "Excellent quality in Teaching and Learning "; hope the 10th International Conference a great success! Thank you!

APQN President: Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang on November 21, 2018

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MPI President's Speech at MPI-APQN International Conference

Professor Jianxin Zhang, President of Asia-Pacific Quality Network, Professor Alberto Amaral, President of the Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education, Portugal, Mr Albert Chow, Executive Director of Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications, Professor Sheelagh Matear, Executive Director of the Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities, Mr Ian Kimber, Director of Universities, Quality Enhancement and Standards, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, UK, Honorable guests, dear colleagues and students, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

Welcome to Macao! It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the tenth Higher Education International Conference on Innovation and Developments in Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance. First of all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to our co-organizer, the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), and our dear friend Professor Zhang, President of APQN. We have been working hand in hand in gathering experts and peers alike to share their latest best practices in teaching and learning at their respective institutions, territories and countries. Thank you so much for your unwavering support!

Also, we are deeply honored by the presence of many representatives of the quality assurance bodies with which MPI has closely collaborated in recent programme review exercises. We look forward to hearing your sharing of knowledge and experiences in the forthcoming keynote sessions. Being a higher education institution, in addition to research and studies, Macao Polytechnic Institute strives to provide quality teaching and learning on the tertiary level. In doing so, we spend a lot of efforts in educating and preparing our students to become professionals in their specialized fields. As soon as they graduate from MPI, they are ready and qualified to make contributions to the community, the region, the country and to the world. Also, MPI has been striding purposely in quality assurance and academic reviews in Macao higher education since 2006. MPI's endeavor was recognized and honored by APQN's Best/Model Internal Quality Assurance Award in 2015 and again last year. In the evaluation report of the 2016 Chinese Universities Rankings published by the Chinese Universities Alumni Association (CUAA), MPI continues to rank among 4-star universities in China, and this ranking as one of the high quality universities in China suggest recognition of

our teaching quality. MPI will stay resolute in our commitment to excel in teaching, academic development and research, and to create a conducive learning environment for our students.

It has been ten years for this annual international conference to serve as a platform for experts, local and afar, to discuss emerging and evolving notions of teaching and learning quality assurance. I am very happy to see many familiar and new faces today. I believe this conference will add to the momentum that keeps us moving forward for a brighter future of higher education.

Finally, I wish you all a successful conference and an enjoyable stay in Macao. Thank you!

Professor Im Sio Kei   (严肇基教授),
President of Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI)

THE BOARD & GENERAL COUNCIL

APQN 3rd Board Meeting Held in Bali of Indonesia

In the afternoon of August 27, 2018, APQN Board held the third Board Meeting just before APQN-PAN-PT 2019 Global Summit at Anwaya Hotel, Bali, Indonesia. It was chaired by APQN President, Jianxin Zhang as well as the bidding chair, Dr. Jagannath Patil. Attendees included Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang (President), Prof. Angela Yung Chi Houi (Vice-President), Dr. Jagannath Patil (Immediate Past President), Prof. Galina Motova, Dr. Manuel Corpus and Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara.

The meeting discussed over 10 items, among which, the most crucial things are as follows: (1) Report of 2019 AAC by Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara; (2) Review of APQN Activities and Projects implemented since the second Board meeting in Nagpur, India and also review 2018-2019 APQN Calendar and Composition of APQN Committees and Working Groups; (3) Discussion of "Call for Nominations for Board Directors 2019-2020" and Identify the Independent Council and two other vote counters except the Secretariat; (4) the possibility to add one category of APQN membership: individual; (5) the independence of APQR in 2020; and (6) the APQL Council will be established based on the progress of APQL.

At 17:00-18:00, the meeting of Bidding Presentation to Host 2019-2022 APQN Secretariat was held. Since the HEEC could not come to Bali in a short notice, the meeting is held by both face-to-face and skype. After the 41-minute skype presentation, Q&A, Board discussed on the biddings based on "four bidding principles", the final decision was made: APQN Secretariat (2019-2022) goes to HEEC, who shall take on the task by 15 September 2018 to allow for an overlap with the current Secretariat. The outgoing and incoming Secretariat will work side by side for 5 months in order to keep the stability and sustainability. The formal hand-over will be taken place at AGM on March 30, 2019, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The third Board meeting is timely and a great success. It is expected that the third Board Meeting can be annually held at the end of each year.

The Process of the Bidding of 2020 APQN Secretariat

According to "APQN Constitutions", on April 12, 2018, APQN Board released "Call for Expression of Interest (EoI) to Host 2019-2022 APQN Secretariat". The deadline ended on July 30, 2018.

The Four Bidding Principles are: (1) base on "APQN Constitution"; (2) avoid conflicts of interest; (3) open competition and bid evaluation; (4) cost-effective and timely. The 6 stage of bidding procurement is as follows: (1) Planning & Decision; (2) Creation of a Tender; (3) Publication; (4) Evaluation; (5)Decision; and (6) Contracting.

The Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (hereinafter referred to as "HEEC"), Beijing, China, submitted the EoI on June 6, 2018. The process of the careful review by APQN Board includes the followings 6 phases:

Bidding for Hosting
APQN Secretariat
2019-2022

Higher Education Evaluation Center, the Ministry of Education, China

Beijing, China
August 27, 2018

S/N	PHASE	PROCESS &TIME SCHEDULE
1	PHASE I –Planning &Decision	- In January, 2018, APQN Calendar made the plan - March 23, the 2nd Board Meeting decided to "Call for EoI to Host 2019-2022 APQN Secretariat" in Nagpur, India
2	PHASE II – Creation of a Tender	Since March 23 to April 12 by the Board
3	PHASE III – Publication	- The Secretariat distributed "Call for EoI to Host 2019-2022 APQN Secretariat" to all members. - The publication period is 3 months (since April 16 to July 30, 2018.)
4	PHASE IV – Evaluation	- The Secretariat distributed the bidding documents was among the Board Directors on July 31 - The Board held an on-line discussion since July 31 to August 26 - The Executive Committee held a special meeting to review the qualified biddings on August 2 - Bidding Presentation on July 27 in Bali, Indonesia
5	PHASE V - Decision	- Board's decision in Bali, Indonesia
6	PHASE VI - Contracting	Terms of References (ToR) on the Bidding to Host 2019-2022 APQN Secretariat will be signed on March 30, 2019.

Based on the procedures mentioned above, the final decision made by APQN Board is that HEEC will be APQN Secretariat. HEEC shall take on the task by 15 September 2018 to allow for an overlap with the current Secretariat. The outgoing and incoming Secretariat will work side by side for 5 months in order to keep the stability and sustainability. The formal hand-over will be taken place at Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 30, 2019, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Preparatory Meeting of Outgoing and Incoming Secretariats

At APQN 3rd Board Meeting held at 16:30-19:10 on August 27, 2018, in conjunction with APQN Global Summit at Anwaya Hotel, Bali, Indonesia, the bidding presentation to host 2019-2022 APQN Secretariat from the Higher Education Evaluation Center(HEEC) of Chinese Ministry of Education chaired by the bidding chair, Dr. Jagannath Patil. After HEEC's bidding presentation, according to Article 43 of "APQN Constitution", the final decision was made by all members with voting rights as follows:

"APQN Secretariat (2019-2022) goes to HEEC…HEEC shall take on the task by 15 September 2018 to allow for an overlap with the current Secretariat. The outgoing and incoming Secretariat will work side by side for 5 months in order to keep the stability and sustainability." The decision is effective from September 27, 2018.

On October 24, 2018, the preparatory meeting of outgoing and incoming APQN secretariats was held in at SEEI in Shanghai. Prof. Dr. Zhang Jianxin (President), Ms. Liu Pingping (current APQN Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. Zhou Aijun (incoming APQN Secretary/Treasurer), and related staff from SEEI and HEEC attended the meeting.

Ms. Liu Pingping gave a brief introduction about the main responsibilities of APQN Secretariat in accordance to SEEI's three-term work as secretariat. President Jianxin Zhang expressed gratitude to SEEI for holding the 2nd APQN secretariat and HEEC, the incoming 3rd APQN secretariat. She made a comprehensive and detailed presentation on APQN secretariat responsibilities against questions put forward by HEEC, which focused on the following four aspects of APQN: advantages, challenges, current events and projects.

Then, Mr. Zhou Aijun communicated interim period work to Ms. Liu, and future work plan to President Zhang. He promised that HEEC would work side by side with SEEI during the overlap period in order to keep the stability and sustainability of APQN, and strive for APQN goal of "dissolving boundaries for a quality region".

(Written by Wang Shuo from HEEC)

MoU Signed between AQAN and APQN

On August 29, 2018, in Bali, a Memory of Understanding (MoU) between AQAN and APQN was signed by the President of AQAN, Prof. T. Basaruddin and the President of APQN, Prof. Jianxin Zhang.

Recognizing the similarity in the mission statements and objectives of AQAN and APQN and their mutual interest in the quality of higher education and higher education institutions, it is in the interests of both organizations to formalize a MoU) and cooperation between them to establish the objectives, parameters and resources of joint activities and mutual support.

The MoU is made up of 6 articles, which aims at strengthening the work of AQAN and its member agencies, and the work of APQN and its member agencies, as well as their interrelations, with the overall goal of enhanced global understanding and practice in the field of quality assurance in higher education. This MoU is intended to facilitate cooperation between AQAN and APQN and to set the basis for common projects in key areas of mutual interest and benefit such as: (1) Database of consultants and reviewers; (2) Mutual recognition of external review of quality assurance agencies (QAAs); (3) Staff exchange ; (4) Sharing of information about quality assured higher education institutions (HEIs) in both regions; (5) Joint promotions of conferences and publications ; (6) Developing tools and common strategy towards quality assurance of Cross-Border Higher Education (CBHE).
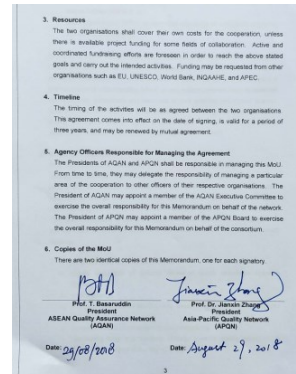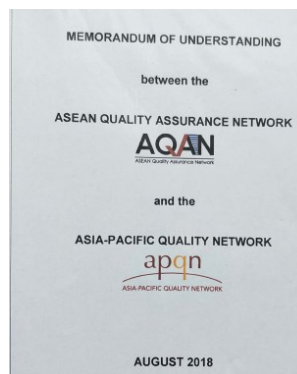
The MoU formally secures and facilitates the cooperation between AQAN and APQN which comes into effect for a period of three years since the date of signing.

THE PROJECT

MPI-APQN 10th International Conference Held in Macao

To explore the latest developments in higher education quality assurance and facilitate the enhancement of quality in higher education in Macao, Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) once again joined forces with the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) to organize the 10th Higher Education International Conference on "Innovation and Developments in Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance" on 21-22 November 2018. Over 40 experts and scholars coming from countries or regions such as the United Kingdom, Portugal, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Chinese Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao, spoke or presented at the conference, exploring factors affecting the quality of higher education and sharing the trends and development in quality assurance of teaching and learning.

The opening ceremony of the Conference, held in the morning on the first day, was officiated by Professor Jianxin Zhang, APQN President; Mr Ian Kimber, Director of Universities, Quality Enhancement and Standards of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), UK; Professor Alberto Amaral, President of the Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES), Portugal; Mr Albert Chow, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), Hong Kong; Professor Sheelagh Matear, Executive Director of the Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities (AQA), New Zealand; and Professor Im Sio Kei, MPI President.

At the opening ceremony, Professor Im Sio Kei noted that quality is MPI's topmost priority. For 10 consecutive years, MPI has insisted on organizing this international conference which serves as a platform for experts, local and abroad, to discuss emerging and evolving notions of teaching and learning quality assurance. The conferences have attracted more than 200 quality assurance experts and scholars in higher education from all over the world to publish their papers discussing the emerging trends and concepts in quality assurance. Professor Im pointed out that MPI's core value is to provide quality education. MPI will continue to fulfil its commitment to excellence in teaching, academic development and research, creating a conducive learning environment for its students and training quality professionals who are capable of contributing to the development

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

of Macao and afar.

APQN President Jianxin Zhang congratulated the successful convening of the conference. APQN has been co-hosting this international conference with MPI for the past 4 consecutive years. The events have provided a platform for discussion and brainstorming of ideas, generating valuable insights relating to teaching and learning, which ultimately contributed to the enhancement of quality in higher education. Professor Zhang praised MPI for being a leader and pioneer amongst APQN members, for which, MPI was awarded "the Best Internal Quality Assurance Award" by APQN in 2015 and in 2017. She mentioned that, during the third APQN Board meeting, the possibility for the review of the first APQN Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL)on accreditation on student learning outcomes (SLOs) to MPI was discussed. This further affirms MPI's achievements.

This year's conference featured five keynote speeches respectively given by Professor Jianxin Zhang, Mr Ian Kimber, Professor Alberto Amaral, Mr Albert Chow and Professor Sheelagh Matear. Professor Jianxin Zhang introduced APQN's initiative of the Asia-Pacific Quality Label(APQL) which aims to assess education provision in terms of student learning outcomes (SLOs). Mr Ian Kimber focused on the changing landscape in the UK with regard to higher education quality assurance and shared the latest developments and practices in assuring teaching and learning quality in the country. Professor Alberto Amaral talked about the new challenges and trends in quality-assuring higher education provision in the Portuguese context. Mr Albert Chow discussed about the differentiated accreditation approach, its benefits as well as the challenges faced and the corresponding response made by HKCAAVQ when applying it. Professor Sheelagh Matear shared the experience and quality assurance practices of New Zealand in adapting to the evolving needs and expectations of higher education.

By imparting knowledge of theory and practice, MPI has always been committed to nurturing talents capable of contributing to the development of the society. In the scope of higher education, MPI is active in fostering collaboration and exchanges between the Macao Special Administrative Region and other countries/regions. This annual international conference is an example of MPI's long-term endeavors to continuously enhance teaching and learning quality as well as to promote international exchanges and collaborations.

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

The 3rd Global Summit was held in Bali, Indonesia

The 3rd APQN Global Summit 2018 was held in Bali, Indonesia from 29 to 31 August 2018, jointly organized and hosted by BAN-PT and APQN. It is also supported and co-hosted by the ASEAN Secretariat, the European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE), German Society for International Cooperation, Ltd (GIZ), and it is supported locally by Universitas Pendidikan Nasional, Bali. There are 155 participants from Australia, Cambodia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, and Indonesia.

The main theme of the Summit is "*Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0 – Issues and Challenges*" with the following sub-themes: (1) Defining Quality of Higher Education in the Industrial 4.0 Era; (2)the ASEAN Countries Response to Higher Education (HE) 4.0; (3) Impact of HE 4.0 on External Quality Assurance Principles and Regional Framework; (4) Quality Issues in Vocational Education in the Industrial 4.0 Era; (5) How to Instill Quality Culture in Higher Education; (6) Quality Assurance for Online and Trans-border Higher Education. The 17 Speakers are prominent international experts on Quality Assurance in higher education. They shared their expertise and experience in series of panel discussions.

Prof. Dr. Ainun Na'im
The Secretary General of Ministry of Reasearch, Technology and Higher Education, Republic of Indonesia

Prof. Dr. Intan Ahmad
Director General of Education and Student Affairs-Indonesian Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education

Prof. T. Basaruddin
President, ASEAN Quality Assurance Network; Executive Board Director, BAN-PT

Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang
President of Asia Pacific Quality Network

Prof. Angela Hou
Vice President of Asia Pacific Quality Network

Fiona Crozier
Head of International, The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) United Kingdom, European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE)

Dr. Pepen Arifin
Head of ITB Assurance Unit, Institute Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia

Ingo Imhoff
Programme Director, Regional Cooperation in TVET, GIZ

Britta Van Erckelens
Deputy Programme Director and Senior Technical Advisor & Programme Reform of TVET in Viet Nam.

Luong Thu Hien
Vietnam Vocational Education Training Accreditation Agency (VETA)

Dr. Zainal Arief
Director of Electronics Engineering Polytechnic Institute of Surabaya, Indonesia

Paula Ranne
Deputy Director, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA); European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nantana Gajaseni,
ASEAN University Network – Quality Assurance (AUN-QA)

Dr. Jagannath Patil
National Assessment and Accreditation Council – NAAC

Dr. Mark Frederiks
European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education

Dr. Maria Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista
Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of the Philippines System

Prof. Ir. Dr. Shahrir Abdullah
Director of Centre for Quality Assurance Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Dra. Ariadne Laksmidevi
Deputy Head of Quality Assurance Management, Human Resources, Facility & Infrastructure and Finance

In the opening speech, APQN President, Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang underlined about the issuance of Bengaluru Statement on Next Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education: a Shared Vision and Commitment for Fostering Partnership Beyond Borders in the first APQN Global Summit held in Bengaluru, India, 2016, as the significant evidence of the APQN Global Summits. Prof. T. Basaruddin, the Executive Board Director of BAN-PT and also the President of AQAN emphasized the importance of the main theme of the 3rd APQN Global Summit 2018. Both of them conveyed their appreciation for the support of AQAN, SHARE and GIZ as collaborative co-hosts of this Global Summit. Last but not least, they also thank the Universitas Pendidikan Nasional, Denpasar – Bali, the local support of this event.
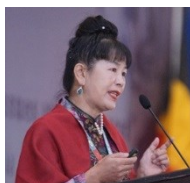
The Global Summit was then officially opened by Prof. Dr. Ainun Na'im, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education, Republic of Indonesia.

Day One: August 28, 2018

The Summit was started with a keynote speech by Prof. Dr. Intan Ahmad, Director General of Education and Student Affairs, Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education, Republic of Indonesia with the topic: *"Defining Quality of Higher Education in Industrial 4.0"*.

The 1st plenary session was chaired by Prof. Angela Hou discussing *"Impact of HE 4.0 on External Quality Assurance Principles and Regional Framework"* with four speakers. Ms. Paula Ranne (Deputy Director of ENQA) presenting "Quality Assurance of Higher Education in the European Higher Education Area - The impact of HE 4.0". Dr. Mark Frederiks from European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education highlighted the role of NVAO (Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatie organisatie), the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders. Maria Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista, Vice President for Academic Affairs of University of the Philippines System, presented the impact of HE 4.0 on external QA principles and regional framework by elaborating Industry 4.0 and its Implication to Higher Education and ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025. Dr. Pepen Arifin, emphasized the relevant knowledge and skills in Industry 4.0, and the strategy of QA in higher education to respond to Education 4.0.

The theme of the 2nd plenary session is *"Quality Issues on Vocational Education in Industrial 4.0"*. It was opened by Prof. T. Basaruddin and chaired by Dr. Dadang Kurnia, the Advisor of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH who also a speaker to substitute Mr. Ingo Imhoff the Programme Director of Regional Cooperation in TVET, GIZ. Dr. Dadang Kurnia presented "RECOTVET: The Regional Cooperation Programme for Technical and Vocational Education and Training in ASEAN". Ms. Britta Van Erckelens, the Programme Director and Senior Technical Advisor & Programme Reform of TVET in Viet Nam talked about "Quality Assurance and Industry 4.0 – the Case of Viet Nam". Ms. Luong Thu Hien from Vietnam Vocational Training Education Accreditation Agency (VETA), DVET Vietnam, presented "Piloted Criteria of High Quality TVET Institutes & Quality Instruments" Dr. Zainal Arief, the Director of the Electronics Engineering Polytechnic Institute of Surabaya, Indonesia, discussed about the Indonesian Vocational Higher Education and emphasizing the Polytechnics and Industry Cooperation and issues and challenges in IR 4.0 era.

The theme of the 3rd plenary session is *"How to Instill Quality Culture in Higher Education"*, chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil, the Adviser of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India. Four speakers contributed their presentations.

Ms. Fiona Crozier, Head of International, The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) United Kingdom, European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nantana Gajaseni, ASEAN University Network – Quality Assurance (AUN-QA), Dra. Ariadne Laksmidevi Juwono, Deputy Head of Quality Assurance Management, Human Resources, Facility & Infrastructure and Finance, Universitas Indonesia. Her presentation is "Quality Assurance at Universitas Indonesia to Address Higher Education 4.0". Prof. Ir. Dr. Shahrir Abdullah, Director of Centre for Quality Assurance Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. His presentation was "How to Instill Quality Culture in Higher Education?: A Malaysian Case".

In the evening, all delegates were invited to the Welcome Dinner and they were entertained with traditional Balinese dances performed by the UNDIKNAS, Denpasar.

Day Two: August 29, 2018

The 4th plenary session was conducted on the second day of the Global Summit and was chaired by Giek Sugiyono, the member of the Executive Board of BAN-PT. The theme is "*Quality Assurance for Online and Trans-border Higher Education*". There were two speakers in the plenary session.

Dr. Jagannath Patil, the adviser of NAAC, presented "External Quality Assurance of Cross-border and Online Education: Taking Forward Next-Generation Quality Assurance Agenda". Prof.Angela Yung Chi Houi presented "Quality Assurance of Transnational Higher Education". After the 4th plenary session, a short session of Lesson Learned from APQN and INQAAHE was presented by Prof. Angela Yung Chi Houi, chaired by Dr. Agus Setiabudi.

The Closing Ceremony

Before the Closing Ceremony, a Memory of Understanding (MoU) between AQAN and APQN was signed by the President of AQAN, Prof. T. Basaruddin and the President of APQN, Prof. Jianxin Zhang. The MoU formally secures and facilitates the cooperation

between AQAN and APQN which comes into effect for a period of three years since the date of signing.

The Global Summit was officially closed by two closing speeches delivered by Prof. T Basaruddin and Dr. Jianxin Zhang. Certificates of attendance to the Global Summit 2018 were then awarded to all participants.

（Written by BAN-PT）

APQR Site Visit to IAAHEH/LAM-PTKes in Indonesia

The Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health (IAAHEH/ LAM-PTKes) which in Bahasa Indonesia is called LAM-PTKes, is an independent body that started to operate in March 2015 and has a mission to achieve a global standard of quality for higher education in health. Refer to the above, it is necessary to attain recognition from an international body. The Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) is selected and invited by LAM-PTKes to be a recognition body through a committee of APQR (Asia Pacific Quality Register). LAM-PTKes believes that by joining the APQN will give a good impact for health education in Indonesia.

A site visit of Reviewers from APQR in LAM-PTKes had been conducted on September 18-20, 2018. The Review Panelists of APQR were Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, Mrs. Rachel L George, and Dr. Rr. Titi Savitri Prihatiningsih. In the first day, the review panel holds a preparatory meeting followed with a welcome dinner and discussion on the review process was continued.

Figure 1. The Review Panel Meeting with the QAA Staff

In the second day, the review panel visited the LAM-PTKes office and an explanation of the review process that would be conducted was given. Then, a presentation on QAA Website and SIMAk (Accreditation Management Information System) were done. SIMAk is an online accreditation system of LAM-PTKes that has been used in accreditation process in LAM-PTKes.

Further, the review panel interviewed facilitators, assessors, validators, and accreditation council of LAM-PTKes. The review panel also observed documents and facilities of LAM-PTKes. In the afternoon, they met with the Head of Sub-Directorate Quality Strengthening Ministry Research, Technology, and Higher Education, and representatives of WHO Indonesia Dr. Salma Burton and Dr. Tini Setiawan, M.Kes. This meeting discussed on Internal Quality Assurance System and how to strengthen the existing position to become more out of the box.

In the third day, the review panel visited Cluster of Health Studies at Universitas Indonesia (public institution). In this meeting, Dr. Diantha presented on the implementation of Inter-professional Education Module followed with discussion

and observed facilities such as laboratories.

Figure 2. Visit to Public and Private University

Then, the APQN/R review panel visited Faculty of Nursing Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta (private institution) that has four study program in health. The Dean Faculty of Medicine and Health, and Dean Faculty of Nursing presented an Experience of Accreditation run by LAM-PTKes. A discussion followed with discussion and then observed the facilities in Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta.

The last agenda was wrap-up meetings. The review panel presented a draft of preliminary report during the site visit in LAM-PTKes. Opinion and feedback were provided to improve the quality of LAM-PTKes. As the visit completed, the review panel team disclosed their perspective on how important the position of LAM-PTKes as a change agent in quality and suggested few things for LAM-PTKes to improve its performance in attaining the quality of higher education in Health.

(Written by Usman Chatib Warsa, Chairman of IAAHEH/LAM-PTKes)

HEED's New Issue Published for Free Access

HEED's new issue Volumes 12 No. 1 is now published on line and contains three insightful articles from Japan, Taiwan Vietnam and Ghana: 1. *Restructuring quality assurance frameworks: a comparative study between NIAD-QE in Japan and HEEACT in Taiwan* by Ayaka Noda, Angela Yung Chi Hou, Susumu Shibui and Hua-Chi Chou. 2.*Internationalisation at home for tourism training programmes: case studies from Vietnam* written by Cam Thi Hong Khuong and Ly Thi Tran, 3.*Indicators of service quality and satisfaction among graduating students of a higher education institution (HEI) in Ghana* written by Precious Agbeko D. Mattah, Albert Justice Kwarteng and Justice Mensah. All APQN member scan freely access to the three papers at https://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/heed/12/1.

Since 2017, HEED 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 welcomes quality papers from varying subjects, including H*igher education and development*; *Quality assurance and evaluation in higher education*; *Research development of higher education and its practices*; *other topics related higher education and development.*

HEED encourages all APQN members and higher education scholars to submit your manuscripts (https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/heed) and share your discovery with the whole world !

(Written by Angela Yung Chi Hou and Grace Lu)

The 7th APQN Online Discussion Forum

The 7th APQN online discussion forum was held during August 2018 focusing on the topic *"Capacity Building of Quality Assurance Agencies and Universities: Professionalism and Effectiveness".* The online discussion forum *was* held over a three-week period of time from 5th August to 21st August. The forummainly focuses on QA professionalism and effectiveness from both QA agency and university's perspectives. Altogether, 16 quality assurance experts and staffs from 5 different quality assurance agencies of 5 different countries participated in the discussion. After three-week discussion, a total of 69 messages, 5 discussion threads and 10 main posts were shared and made between the participants. Professional information on capacity building and its relation with quality assurance agencies and experiences of the staff capacity building were exchanged among the participants during the asynchronous discussion.

The forum focused on three themes: Staff capacity building of QA agencies, Reviewer professionalism enhancement, and University staff QA manageable skills. Three experts of the field of higher education and quality assurance were invited to be the facilitators of discussion under each theme, including Professor Jianxin Zhang (President of Asia Pacific Quality Network) Professor Angela Yung Chi Hou (Executive Director of Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan), and Professor Deepthi C. Bandara (Senior Professor at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka).

Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi (Elected) — CHINESE TAIPEI

Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang (Elected) — CHINA

Prof.Deepthi C. Bandara (Co-opted) — Sri Lanka
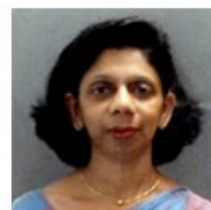
Overall, 2 QA agencies and 3 universities participated in the online discussion process. The two QA agencies include the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) and National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE). The 3 universities include the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), Fiji National University (FNU) and Indus University from Pakistan. Here are the brief introductions of each university.

Overall, this is a successful online forum which helped participants from all over the world to jointly discuss issues on staff capacity building, professionalism of quality assurance and finally the university internal quality assurance

mechanism. The group then shared their experience on staff exchange and also shared their quality assurance experience of their countries. The result of the discussion is fruitful. For example, the final session on the topic *University staff QA manageable skills* generated deep discussions which were rich, knowledgeable and insightful. As the participant from Indus University summarized:

"*QAA will work with national and international partners, agencies and various stakeholders to broaden countrywide institutional requirements and to examine the situation of quality in comparison to international standards. The execution of quality assurance while driving towards global similarity draws out a procedure of sharing data, building capability, giving feedback, strengthening partners and developing commonly agreed sets of academic standards to be followed. The areas connected with one another give strength to accomplish the broader goals of quality assurance*".

The brainstorming process during the discussion is really beneficial and also responding to the spirit of professionalism and capacity building which is to engage professional and knowledgeable discussion that help to enhance the profession and quality of quality assurance.

To conclude, quality assurance should be organic and deeply-rooted in the context, culture, and the characters of a university/HEI, organization and even the QA agency itself. Creating a dialogue between the agencies and stakeholders as this online forum is critical and beneficial for all agencies in the long run.

(Written by Dr. I-Jung Grace Lu)

# APQN Attended Virtual Education Ecuador Encounter

On May 29 to June 1, 2018, at La Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL) in Loja, the VI Cread Andes Conference and the VI Virtual Educa Ecuador Meeting jointly organized by CALED(Caribbean Institute of Distance Higher Education Quality), CREAD(Ecuador, Distance Education Network Consortium), VIRTUAL EDUCA and UTPL, were held.

The theme is "Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation of Higher Distance and Online Education In: the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania". Over 100 participants from 6 continents attended the conference. The major Themes consist of three: 1) state of the art for certification and accreditation of institutions, programs, and courses in higher distance and online education; 2) international certification and accreditation challenges and commitments; and 3) evaluation as a vertebrate practice for the quality of distance education programs and/or courses.

On behalf of APQN, APQN President, Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, attended the conference and gave a presentation titled " Commitments & Challenges for International Quality Assurance: Case Study of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN）". Her speech was made up of 3 parts: 1) Global Challenges in Quality at the Era of HE Internationalization (HEI); 2) Commitment & Challenge of Internationalization of APQN; and 3) Internationalization Accreditation of Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL). Many delegates are very interested in APQN experiences.

During this big event, they discussed global, innovative and avant-garde universities, which contribute to social responsibility via the democratization of higher education and inclusion. If technology has broken barriers, it should also be understood that education has as well. 'Higher Education for All' is the theme that underscores the 2018 Regional Conference on Higher Education—highlighting education as a human and universal right.
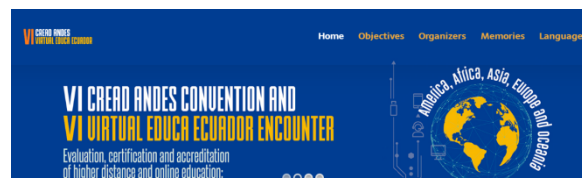
INQAAHE - APQN Partnership Project on QA Landscape Has Completed

In order to better understand the status and trends of quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region to on November 10, 2017, IQAAHE entrusts APQN to carry out the project "External Quality Assurance Landscape in the Asia-Pacific Region", which was conducted by President Jianxin Zhang and Jun Guo from Yunnan University by questionnaires and interviews to both external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs) and higher education institutions (HEIs) in Asia-pacific region.

Internal and External Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: Based on Empirical Survey of APQN and INQAAHE

Authors

Jianxin Zhang (Project leader, APQN President)

Guo Qun (Graduate in Yunnan University)

July 28, 2018

THE ASIA PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK (APQN)

The Survey, Wenjuanxin (https://www.wenjuan.in), was the tool utilized for the dissemination of questions and collection of data. On March 20, 2018, the survey completed. It took 80 days to e-mail a total of 1,341 questionnaires, but the valid samples are only 91.

After 7-month research, on May 28, 2018, Prof. Zhang submitted IQAAHE the research report "Internal and External Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region", which is made up of 4 parts: 1)Basic information of the survey; 2)Data analysis of HEIs; 3)Data analysis of EQAAs; 4)conclusions and trends. The report shows that

In the aspect of IQA (IQA), 5 main problems rose: (1) lack of initiatives; (2) policies and systems are imperfect; (3) lack of human and financial resources; (4) participation of relative stakeholders is not high; (5) the awareness of quality culture is weak. The possible improvements are: (1) enhancing initiative; (2) committing to continuously improve the quality of "people"; (3) attaching importance to capacity building; (4) strengthening cooperation with stakeholders; and (5) continuing to cultivate quality culture.

The development status of EQA (EQA) has five problems: (1) the QA system and policy is imperfect; (2) few independent third-party agencies; (3) insufficient participation of relative stakeholders; (4) low level of internationalization; (5) lack of quality accountability. The possible improvements are: (1) changing the role of the dominant government; (2) establishing a market-chosen mechanism; (3) actively responding to social accountability; (4) raising the level of internationalization; and (5) revising the principle of quality assurance in this region.

(Written by Ms. Guo Jun from Yunnan University)

THE MEMBER NEWS

NIAD-QE University Quality Assurance Forum 2018

The NIAD-QE University Quality Assurance Forum 2018 was held in Tokyo on Monday, August 6 with the theme of Universities Crossing Borders, supported by the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and the Japan Network of Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Agencies (JNCEAA) and its related organizations in Japan. The event had over 200 participants.

Three academic experts from overseas were invited to share their experience and knowledge to explore what to consider when launching overseas branch campuses, and what kind of viewpoints should be considered in terms of potential business strategies for Japanese universities. The forum gave attendees an opportunity to learn about global trends in overseas branch campuses, and both the benefits and challenges that these initiatives entail.

Following an opening address by Hideki Fukuda, President of NIAD-QE, and an introduction presentation by Shinichi Yamamoto, Dean of the Research Department, the experts gave keynote speeches. Professor Jason Lane from SUNY Albany gave a presentation providing an overview of trends of international branch campuses (IBCs) and practical issues related to finances, brand recognition, academic freedom, governance, and quality assurance. Professor Andrew Walker from Monash University Malaysia explained efforts his university has made by relying on high tuition revenues without government subsidies, and the difficulty of recruiting and retaining top talent in the competitive labor market. He also stressed the importance of close cooperation with the home campus, and introduced his university's success in providing a rich educational experience that grants Australian degrees. Professor Janny de Jong from University of Groningen presented on the university's unsuccessful example for an IBC. Her presentation pointed out that even if there is strong leadership, there are many challenges in launching an IBC such as consensus-building among academics and students, securing staff, and the difficulty of ensuring quality of education; as the project had been challenged by different norms and values. A panel discussion between those speakers and two Japanese experts followed the keynote speeches, and was moderated by Professor Toru Takenaka of the Research Department at NIAD-QE.

(1) Professor Jason Lane, Chair of the Department of Education Policy and Leadership at the School of Education, University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY); (2) Professor Andrew Walker, President and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Monash University Malaysia; (3) Professor Janny de Jong, Director of Studies Erasmus Mundus Master Course Euro culture, Director Center for Japan Studies, University of Groningen and (4) Professor Toru Takenaka of NIAD-QE moderating the panel discussion.

The two Japanese panelists presented examples of foreign expansions of their universities, and spoke of challenges and experiences of international and quality assurance initiatives. Professor Naoto Yoshikawa, Vice Chancellor of Tokai University and Chancellor of Hawaii Tokai International College presented on initiatives at the college, and Professor Atsunori Matsuda, Vice President of Toyohashi University of Technology presented on the initiatives regarding its Center for International Education in Penang, Malaysia. During the panel discussion, each panelist freely and actively expressed their views on universities aiming to establish IBCs, languages that should be used at IBCs, and ideal forms of governance at IBCs.   The forum was successfully concluded with closing remarks by Toshikazu Hasegawa, Vice-President of NIAD-QE.

On the following day, NIAD-QE held an open seminar. The three international speakers attended the seminar, and discussed topics regarding quality assurance, synergy of the home campus and host campus, and advice for universities establishing IBCs with the aim of deepening the understanding regarding IBCs.

Presentation materials are now available at https://www.niad.ac.jp/english/news/en2018/uqaforum2018en.html

II Central Asian International Forum on Quality Assurance in Education

The Central Asian International Forum on Quality Assurance in Education was held in Kazakhstan. The I Forum took place in 2017 in Almaty and marked the beginning of constructive cooperation between accreditation agencies and higher education institutions of the Central Asian Region.

The II Forum was held on October 16, 2018 in Astana. The Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating together with the Foundation of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy hosted the event. Discussion of current issues of education quality assurance and development prospects was on the agenda.

More than 200 people from 15 countries took part in the Forum. Deputies of the Senate and Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, vice-ministers of education of the Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan), Rectors of universities of Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Belarus, representatives of employers and students spoke at the Forum.

Karl Dittrich, President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), Christoph Grolimund, President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), Heads of accreditation agencies from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Latvia, Moldova and Russia were the key speakers.

V. Navodnov, Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), gave the presentation at plenary session on the system of independent evaluation of education quality in the Russian Federation. G. Motova, Deputy Head of NCPA, spoke on new tendencies in the systems of higher education and quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region. She told about the activities of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), projects and opportunities for cooperation in the sphere of quality assurance of education.

Participants of the Forum considered the issues of implementation of ESG 2015 in Central Asian countries, the role and influence of the Bologna Process on improving the education system, and international accreditation in the Central Asian Region.

A New Dimension – Participation of International Reviewers in EQA

The Quality Assurance Council (QAC) of the University Grants Commission in Sri Lanka created a new dimension in their External Quality Assurance mechanism when they decided to include an international reviewer to the reviewer panel of Institutional Reviews (IR). Hitherto the IRs were conducted by a panel comprising totally of local reviewers.

While all local reviewers were professors and senior professors in the State University system and had the required credentials and experience to serve in the review panel, the QAC strongly believed that the inclusion of an international reviewer would heighten the credibility and scope of the review. Since Sri Lanka being a small island nation where the academics serving as reviewers are known to each other well, this initiative was hoped to eliminate even the smallest bias in judgments. Additionally, it was hoped that the expertise and experience of the international reviewers would assist to conduct the review more objectively since they would be reviewing a system which was less known to them but one where they were yet able to practice the fundamental principles of quality assurance. Thus, in October 2018, two international reviewers successfully participated In 2 review panels of the IR of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka (WUSL) and the University of Jaffna (UoJ) with 5 and 8 local reviewers in the panels respectively for the 2 Universities. On the other hand it was also expected that the two reviewers, Prof Jianxin Zhang from China and Dr. Oksana Matveeva from Russia could share their experiences as reviewers from countries where the QA mechanism has advanced to a stage higher than in Sri Lanka.

All reviewers (local and international) used the "Manual for Institutional Review of Universities and Higher Education Institutes in Sri Lanka" and submitted an individual desk evaluation report before proceeding to the respective sites. The site evaluation was conducted under the guidance of the review panel chairman where the self-evaluation report submitted by the University on which the desk evaluation was done was validated by observing evidence provided by the University.

The review schedule also included meetings with all potential stakeholders of the University and the visiting of University facilities which enabled it to serve as a higher education provider for the State. The total site visit lasted six days.

It is the belief of the QAC that other than the sharing of expertise among local and international reviewers it would give the reviewed University the opportunity to gain valuable insight regarding QA mechanisms in other countries. Hopefully it provided this opportunity to the administrative hierarchy, academics, support staff, alumni, and industry partners and most importantly to students – the primary beneficiaries of QA reviews. It would also have provided exchange of knowledge regarding international benchmarks, qualification frameworks and codes of

practices and constructive mechanisms for the function of internal quality assurance units of Universities.

In an era where student mobility in higher education is ever increasing and recognition of qualifications and benchmarks have to go global, the QAC sincerely believe that this initiative marked an important milestone in QA of higher education in Sri Lanka and that it would also be an incentive to other nations in the Asia Pacific region who have yet not embarked on internationalizing their external review process.

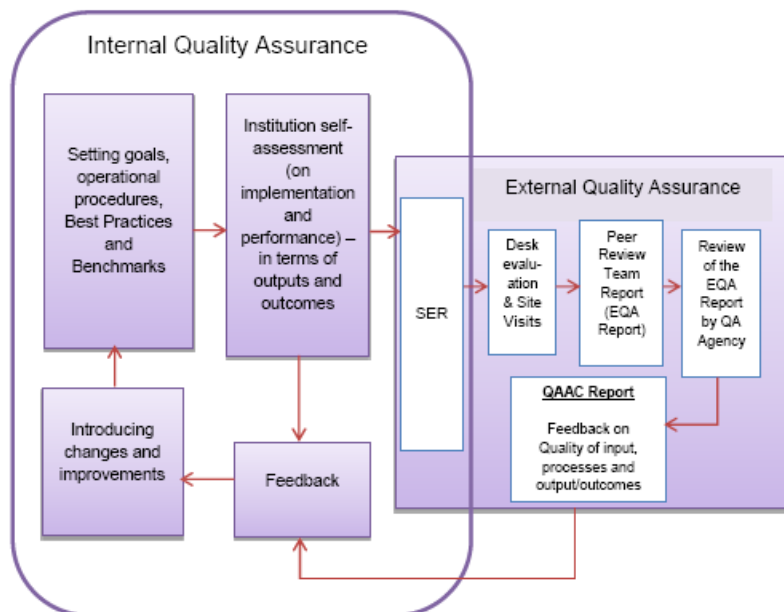(Written by Prof Deepthi Bandara, Director/Quality Assurance Council of UGC, Sri Lanka)

Figure 1   Functional link between the Internal Quality Assurance and the External Quality Assurance.

Kandahar University Accreditation Achievement Process

Kandahar University (KDRU), founded in 1990 based on the national developing policy in the education sector within the framework of the ministry of higher education(MoHE), is one of the largest public universities in the South-West region of Afghanistan. Over 10000 undergraduate and graduate students are from 34 provinces of the country. KDRU has 11 Faculties and 42 departments in the field of Medical, Engineering and others, with round 560 lecturers, administrative and service staff employed. The young and hardworking capacities have made the university popular in national and international wide.

KDRU has an agricultural research farm, teaching hospital, central laboratory, Alama Habibi Central Library, meteorological station, career center, IT center, Pacha Khan Academic Research Center and others. Pacha Khan Academic Research center is the unique center established in 2008 with focus on peace studies and nonviolence vision of Pacha Khan. The career center is first and unique center in the country established in 2011.

KDRU has quality assurance committee(QAC), Internal Quality Enhancement Unit, and national external peer reviewers selected and trained by the MoHE. Annually, the university is reviewed internally and externally. The reviewers for the internal assessment is selected from the members of QAC and perform the assessment on department's and program level. KDRU is regularly evaluated by the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Directorate (QAAD) of the MoHE, which is the only accreditation agency for higher education institutions in the country. To ensure that KDRU meets the standards and qualify for full accreditation, Internal Quality Assurance Unit carry internal evaluation against the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Directorate of MoHE. The scoring system is based on existing evidences and documentations and also the reviewing process is as follow: (1) The schedule is prepared by QAAD and is shared with universities; (2) The external peer reviewers are classified in the distributed groups by QAAD; (3) The universities are reviewed by external peer reviewers based on the criterions established by QAAD (that is 11 main criterions, which explained under 49 sub criterions); and (4) The final report with recommendations is shared by reviewers.

Moreover, KDRU is externally reviewed by Peer Reviewers through a standard framework which has 11 criteria and 49 sub-criteria. This evaluation has three stages for achieving the accreditation. KDRU has passed the two stages and gained major score amongst all universities in Afghanistan and appealed for the third stage, successfully passed the evaluation process, and achieved the academic accreditation for 5 years, in reference to the letter No. 2767/3459, issued on 12 August 2018 by Afghanistan MoHE.

(Written by Assoc. Prof. Sher Shah Rashad)

Great Success of HEEACT International Conference

Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, hosted the HEEACT International Conference 2018 on October 17-18 in Azaleas city, Taiwan. The theme was "*Quality Assurance 4.0 in Higher Education: Innovation and Transformation*". It was an honor to have all 18 renowned speakers, in which 9 were experts and professionals in charge of different QAAs in various countries. The main deliberation focused on the new role and QA trends in a changing higher education landscape. This conference not only provided all participants with an opportunity to share QA experiences and knowledge as well as explore new HE development.

During the two days, many speakers echoed the overall theme that quality assurance should be more comprehensive at both national and institutional levels to assure that the best processes and practices are implemented by the education providers for quality education. A total of 7 sessions explored the new and future roles and trends of QA systems, national and global perspectives of accreditation and qualification, formal and non-formal education contexts, and new policy formation in Taiwan.

Especially thanks to Dr. Susanna Karakhanyan, INQAAHE president and Prof. Dr. Bjorn Stensaker, Director of the Centre for Learning, Innovation, and Academic Development (LINK) and Professor at Oslo University, served as the keynote speakers. Both of them shared insights into the latest QA trends from different perspectives. Moreover, they were joined by esteemed guests and colleagues from Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia, the Netherlands, Japan, and across Taiwan in sharing QA knowledge and experiences in the exploration of higher education development.

Besides the sessions, Executive Director of HEEACT, Prof. Dr. Angela Yung-Chi Hou, warmly signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ms. Pauline Tang, CEO of THE-ICE to increase mutually beneficial cooperation between the two parties.

Last but not least, HEEACT gladly thanks all speakers and guests who attended for making the 2018 conference a great success and is already looking forward to next year's event!

(Written by Mandy Yin-Chia Shao)

COMING-UP EVENT

Welcome to APQN Academic Conference (AAC)

For 15 years, APQN has been committed to the mission of "*enhancing the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance organizations and extending the cooperation between them*". Two hundred and twenty- two (222) APQN members have taken up this mission and will contribute in full strength to accomplish this historical mission.

APQN's historic connection to the external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in this region, position it to further dissemination of QA information through APQN Academic Conference (AAC) , Annual General Meeting (AGM), seminars, workshops, staff capacity building, APQNews, documents, books, etc. We are passionate about the great cause of quality assurance and are confident in our ability to dramatically influence quality awareness, quality development and quality culture impact of those that we engage with.

I am glad that the main annual event for discussing and advancing QA in higher education throughout the Asia-Pacific Region - 2019 AAC and AGM - will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on March 28-31, 2019. Our theme focuses on "*Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: Insight into the Future*". In keeping with this theme, I enthusiastically encourage you to take some time to think about what you want to change and achieve in your EQAAs and HEIs, to transform challenges into opportunities.

As we all know, the rapidly changing landscape of higher education in both traditional and new providers is challenging the EQAAs' fundamental role, the HEIs' structure and scope, the students learning outcomes (SLOs), and the traditional, evaluation-based approaches to judging quality. The Insight into future requires us to offer innovative approaches, new technologies, new ways of defining and measuring quality, quality assurance and quality culture, providing public accountability and transparency, addressing alternative providers of higher education, and identifying a mix-match in expectations of the roles and re- sponsibilities of the EQAAs and the HEIs. Ultimately, by this way we can realize the final goal of "*Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region*".

Dear APQN members and colleagues, we are eagerly awaiting to welcome you at the 2019 AAC in Colombo, to explore the Insight into Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0 in the Asia-Pacific Region.

APQN 5th President: Jianxin Zhang on August 8, 2018 in Kunming

Brief Schedule of 2019 AAC

2019 APQN Academic Conference(AAC) will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on March 28-31, 2019. The University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka will host this great event.

The main theme of the 2019 AAC is: "Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: Insight into the Future", and the 4 sub-themes are: 1) Innovative approaches to the development of internal QA: transforming challenges into opportunities; 2) Application of new technologies in evaluation and accreditation of programs, Institutes and long distance; 3) Cultural diversity and its implications for the quality of Cross Border higher education; 4) Role of institutions and students in the enhancement of Quality Culture in higher education.

2019 AAC and AGM will be held at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). The Tentative Program is as follows:

Day, Time	Agenda	Pax	Venue
Day-1 (March 28, 2019)			
13:00-17.00	Registration		Lobby
16:00-19:30	Board meetings (Board Directors only)	10	Hybrid
09:00- 15:00	Visit to world Heritage Site – Sigiriya		Not in BMICH
Day-2 (March 29, 2019)			
08:00-09:00	Registration		Lobby
09:00-10:30	Opening Ceremony	200	Jasmine
	Tea	200	Lobby
10:30-12:30	Keynote Speech -1	200	Jasmine
	Plenary Session-1	200	Jasmine
12:30- 13:30	Lunch	200	Nugasevana
13:30-17:00	Plenary Session-	200	Jasmine
	Parallel Sessions1-2, Workshop 1	100 each	Lavender Orchid
18:00-21:00	Welcome Dinner	Not in BMICH	
	APQN Quality Award Ceremony		
Day-3 (March 30, 2019)			
09:00-12:30	Keynote Speech-2	200	Jasmine
	Plenary Sesion-3		
10:30	Tea break	200	Lobby
	Parallel Session 3-4;Workshop 2	100 each	Lavender Orchid
12:30- 13:30	Lunch	200	Nugasevana
13:30-14:30	Plenary Session-4	200	Jasmine
14:30-15:30	Closing	200	Jasmine
	Tea break	200	Lobby
15:30-16:30	Annual General Meeting (APQN members only)	100	Lavender
16:30-18:00	The 2nd Board Meeting	10	Hybrid
Day-4 (March 31, 2019)			
08:30-13:00	City tour to Colombo, Sri Lanka	Not in BMICH	

You are welcomed to join us!

Online Registration for 2019 AAC is Open

Dear all,

APQN gladly announces that the online registration for 2019 APQN Academic Conference   is now open. Please visit the official conference website to register online.

http://apqn2019srilanka.lk/payment.php

As you may well know, 2019 AAC will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from March 28 until March 31 and will be proudly hosted by University Grants Commission (UGC). If you need further assistance or have any questions related to the registration process, please do not hesitate to contact APQN Secretariat <apqnsecretariat@163.com> and/or the conference host, Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara deepthib@ugc.ac.lk.

Note: For those who want to visit SIGIRIYA (UNESCO World Heritage Site) from 05:00-17;00 on March 28, you should arrive in Colombo on March 27.

Looking forward to meeting you in 2019 AAC in Colombo, Sri Lanka!

Brief Introduction of City tour – Colombo, Sri Lanka

Colombo, Sri Lanka's bustling commercial hub, is located on the country's west coast and with a population of between 800,000 and one million (estimates vary) is by far the country's biggest city, as well as the most developed.

Visiting Date: 31st March 2019

Visiting Time: 09.00 – 13.00 hr

Visiting Activities: Museum; Nelum Pokuna Art Street; The Floating Market-Pettah; Galle Face Beach; National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka; Independence Square/Independence Memorial Hall; Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara : Wall Paintings; Temple of Sri Kailawasanathan Swami Devasthanam Kovil; All Saints' Church; Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque(Red Mosque); Old Parliament Building; Arcade Independence Square.

- Shopping Facilities covering renowned traditional items and local shopping malls
- Transport & guides will be provided
- Required maps and tourist guidebooks of Colombo city will be provided

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQNews (Issue 18, 2018)

Call for Articles for the Next Issue 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.

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! Please kindly e-mail them to Chief Editor and APQN Administrator at: 948661302@qq.com & apqnsecretariat@163.com.