

2018 APQN Academic Conference Held in India

The 2018 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and AGM were held from March 22-25, 2018 in Nagpur, India. The Conference was hosted by Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Science College and Dhanwate National College, Nagpur. The Main Theme of the Conference "*Capacity Building for Next- Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education*" covered a wide range of important issues which were distributed under 4 sub-themes: (1)Internal Quality Assurance of Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs); (2)Quality Assurance of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs); (3)Institutional and Professional Accreditation; (4)International, Regional and National Quality Assurance.

The conference was attended by 131 participants from 21 countries or territories who represented QAAs, HEIs and educational authorities of different countries.

Day One

On the previous day of the conference i.e. Thursday, March 22, 2018 a Registration counter was set for 2018 AAC at Entrance Lobby by Local Organizer. Later on, during noon session at 16:00 pm the Finance Committee Meeting was convened "*2017 Finance Report and 2018 Budget*" in DAFFODIL. The session was Chaired by Prof. Angela Hou Yung-Chi, APQN Vice-President; Executive Director of Higher education evaluation & accreditation council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei.

It was followed by the 1st Board Meeting "*2017 Report and Preparation of 2018 AAC & AGM*" at the same venue. The participants were all APQN Board Members & representatives from the local host and 2019 host. The session was chaired by Prof. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President, Chief Expert of Yunnan



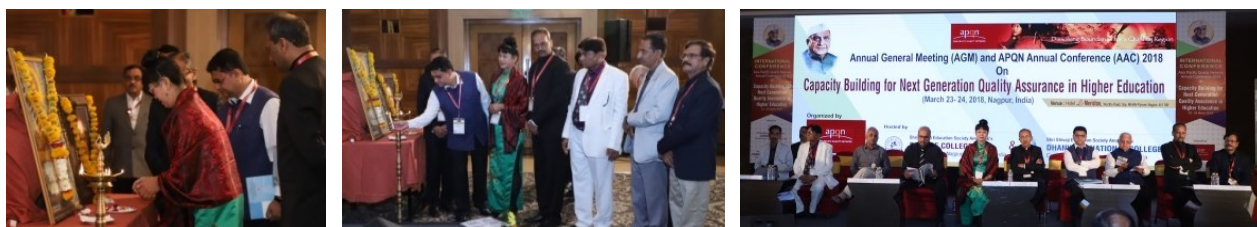
Higher Evaluation Center (YHEEC), China. After initial introduction the pre preparation action plan was discussed, i.e. arrangement of various sessions, dining arrangement, musical award ceremony, corresponding certificates, mementoes, printing of booklet of participants, "*2017 APQN Annual Report*", "*APQN Procedures Manual*", special certificates, 2018 AAC program and AGM agenda, souvenir etc. The work was appreciated by Hon'ble APQN President and other respectable board members.

Later on, APQR Council Meeting was called to order "*APQR Report in 2017 and Plan for 2018*". It was attended by the Members of APQR Council and Chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQR Chairperson, and former APQN President, advisor of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India. Various issues were discussed and concluded with a happy note.

Day Two

At the official opening ceremony of the Conference, i.e. March 23, 2018, at Jubilee the delegates were welcomed by Hon'ble Principal Dr. D K Burghate, SSES Amravati's Science College and Hon'ble Principal Dr. B B Taywade, SSES Amravati's Dhanwate National College, Nagpur.

The event began with lighting traditional lamp to mark auspicious beginning of the event by all Hon'ble guests, President of Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati, Honorable Shri Harshvardhan P Deshmukh, Chief Guest - Hon'ble Prof. Jianxin Zhang, President, Asia Pacific Quality Network, Guest of Honor - Hon'ble Dr. Jagannath Patil, Immediate Past President, Asia Pacific Quality Network and Advisor, NAAC, India - Hon'ble Dr. Pankaj Chande, Ex-VC Kavikulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Ramtek, Dr. Sid Nair, TEC Director, Mauritius, Key note Speaker and Executive Members of Shri Shivaji Education Society Shri Dilip Ingole, Shri Hemant Kalmegh, Shri Sheshrao S Khade and Dr. V G Thakare.



The respectable guests were escorted on the dais. The ceremony was divided into three parts: In the Opening Address segment, a privilege speech by Dr. D W Deshkar expressed gratitude towards helping hands during the event organization amidst many hurdles and challenges, ups and downs, sorrows and ultimately happiness after seeing blissful morning adorned by thoughtful beauties of the world.

Dr. D K Burghate, Principal of SSESASC delivered introductory remarks. In his speech appreciation, trust by APQN to host such a prestigious event and joy of welcoming the respectable delegates was overflowing. It was followed by floral welcome which includes Shawl, Shrifal (Coconut) and memento (Spinning Wheel), of all the guests. The president of the function Honorable Shri Harshvardhan P Deshmukh was welcomed by Principal Dr. D K Burghate. The chief guest of the function Hon'ble Prof. Jianxin Zhang was welcomed by convener of the function Dr. D W Deshkar. Principal Dr. B. B. Taywade welcomed Honorable Dr. Jagannath Patil. Officiating Principal Dr. P S Changole welcomed Honorable Dr. Pankaj Chande and Dr. R. D. Bhelkar welcomed Dr. Sid Nair. There was an opening Speech by Sid Nair, who categorically threw light on higher education. There were welcome remarks by Dr. Jagannath Patil.



In second segment, *“Welcome Remarks and Theme Address”*. The Conference was officially pronounced open by the Honorable Prof. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President. She addressed the gathering with her mesmerizing words. In the beginning she acknowledged all the guests and delegates. Later on disseminated information about the theme and conference followed by working of APQN in relation to capacity building. She emphasized the importance of this Conference for capacity building and quality assurance in higher education; identified current issues, key challenges, APQN practices and indicated the way forward through information sharing, capacity building, co-operation and networking.

“APQN Procedure Manual” was released by Prof. Jianxin Zhang followed by release of the publication of *“APQN 2017 Proceedings”* by Dr. Galina Motova lastly release of 2 Volumes of HEED in 2017 by Prof. Angela Hou Yung-Chi.



In the last segment there were Presidential remarks by the Chair: Former Minister Shri Harshavardhan Deshmukh, President, Shri Shivaji Education Society, India. In his speech he narrated growth of the institution and thanked APQN for giving opportunity to host such a prestigious once in a life time conference here in this city. He acknowledged everyone who contributed in elevating this Institution as one of the leaders in imparting education to masses. He further said *“It’s my honor to mention the quote of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh On the occasion of Silver Jubilee of Shri Shivaji Education Society in the presence of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Ex. Vice President of India, ensures the mission and vision of education system.”*



“Let other Universities devote their moneys and energies to the production of only supermen. Let my university and Lokvidyapeeth strive to make useful patriotic men and women out of ignorance, filth, poverty and misery in the heavy darkness of rural India”.

A formal vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Mrs. Pratibha D. Burghate. The whole morning segment of inauguration ceremony was navigated smoothly by Dr. Mrs. Punita Tiwari. Before closing morning segment, a group photo session was organized.



In the following session after tea break a Keynote Speech was delivered by Prof. Sid Nair, Executive Director of Tertiary Education Commission, Mauritius at Jubilee, on the topic *“Capacity Building: The Changing Landscape of Higher Education – A Need to Change?”*. The session was chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQR Chairperson and former APQN President, advisor of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India. His speech aimed at: (1) Challenges facing higher education to equip graduates of the 21st Century and beyond; (2) Impending changes on the quality assurance front to meet those challenges and; (3) Capacity building challenges facing QA for effectively driving the new HE system.

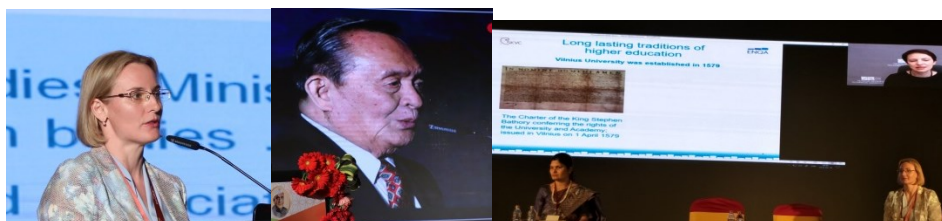


In the Plenary Session 1 on *“Capacity Building of National Quality Assurance Agencies”* there were two speeches: (1) *“China's University Disciplines Evaluation in the Context of “World-class Universities & World-class Disciplines”* by Huang Baoyin, Director-General of China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC), China; (2) *“An Insight into the Conduct of Successful Program Reviews – the Sri Lankan Experience”* by Prof. Dr. Deepthi C. Bandara, Director of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka. The session was chaired by Mohan de Silva, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), Senior Professor of University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka.

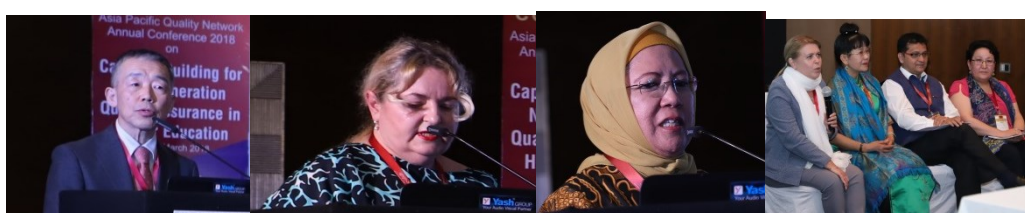


In the second Plenary Session 2 on *“International, Regional and National Quality Assurance”* was chaired by Dr. Manuel Corpus (APQN Board member, Founding President of AACCUP). There were again two speeches: (1) *“The Development of Institutional and Professional Accreditation in Russia”*

by Dr. Oxana Matveeva, Deputy Head of the Accreditation Office of the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia; (2) *“Capability-Building Best Practices, and What Else Went Wrong”* by Dr. Manuel T. Corpus, APQN Board Member & Founding President and Executive Director of AACUP; Dr. Maria, Glenda O. De Lara, AACUP Board Member, Graduate Faculty of Phil Normal University, Philippines. A video clip of *“Challenges for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area”* by Ms. Nora Skaburskienė, Vice-President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC) in Vilnius, Lithuania was aired.



In yet another Parallel Sessions 1-2, Session 1 on Sub-them 1-2 *“Capacity Building of QAAs & HEIs”* three speakers deliberated the thoughts in their respective interests: (1) *“Competence-Based Learning Outcome: More Effective Quality Assurance and More International Harmonization of Higher Education”* by Toru Takenaka, Director of the Research Department, the National Institution of Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Japan; (2) *“Agency for Science and Higher Education Internal QA System”* by Vesna Dodiković Jurković, Jasmina Havranek, Emita Blagdan, Croatia; (3) *“Indonesia Accreditation for Higher Education In Health (IAHEH): Support the Inter-professional Clinical Practice”* by Dr. Dewilrawaty, secretary of Indonesia Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health (IAAHEH), Indonesia. The session was chaired by Noor Ahmad Darwish, program director for Higher Education Development Program in the Ministry of Higher Education, Afghanistan.



At the same time Session 2 on Workshop of APQN Quality Register (APQR) was organized at SENATE. The session was chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil.

In Parallel Sessions 3-4, Session 3 on Sub-them 3 *“Capacity Building in Institutional & Professional Accreditation”* three speakers shared their views on topic of their interest: (1) *“Institutional Accreditation Mechanism and Future Challenges”* by Dr. Chun-chi Chih, Chinese Taipei, (2) *“World-Class Universities and Subjects Evaluation: Methods and Results -Based on*



the evaluation practice of Research Centre for China Science Evaluation” by Prof. Qiu Junping, Dr. Jing Tian, Hangzhou Dianzi University, China; (3) *“Educational Effectiveness; Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) Accomplishing its Goals”* by Ms. Malini Nair, Fiji. The session was chaired by Ms. Malini Nair (APQN Board Member).

In the evening APQN Quality Award Ceremony was held at Jubilee. It was a colorful musical evening. Various performances showcasing the inherited culture were presented. At the ceremony, APQN President Prof. Jianxin Zhang announced nominators in 4 categories and granted awards to the winning agencies and persons.

“APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA” was granted to: (1) Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (HEEC), China; (2) National institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher education (NIAD-QE), Japan; (3) Korean Council for University Education (KCUE), Korea; (4) National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia.

“APQN Award of Staff Capacity Building” was granted to: Higher education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei.

“Successful Hosting APQN Academic Conference” was granted to Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Science College and b) Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Dhanwate National College, Nagpur, India.

“The Certificates of Acceptance onto APQR” was granted to Certification Association "Russian Register" (RR) and National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia.



Day Three

On the morning of March 24, 2018 a Plenary Session 3 on "*Management Capacity between Program Accreditation and Institutional Audit*". The Panel Speakers were: (1) Prof. Syun Tutiya, Research Department, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Japan on '*The Obvious Answer to the Question, Which Comes "First", Programs or Institutions?*'; (2) Ms. AsikinYahya, Norasikinbinti Yahya Director Malaysia Quality Assurance Training Centre (MQATC), MQA, Malaysia on "*Role of Program Accreditation in QA at institutional level*"; (3) Dr. S.SiSugiyono, Board Member, BAN-PT, Indonesia on "*How does BAN PT manage institutional and program accreditation in an effective way?*"

The Chair and Commentator was Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi APQN Vice-President; Executive Director of Higher education evaluation & accreditation council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei.



In Plenary Session 4 the discussion topic was "*Emerging issues in Indian higher education and accreditation*". The Panel Speakers were: (1) Dr. Jagannath Patil, former APQN President, Advisor of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India and Prof. V S Chatpalli, Adviser, NAAC, "*India on Paradigm Shift in Indian Higher Education Accreditation*"; (2) Dr. D W Deshkar and Dr. D K Burghate, Principal of SSES Amt's Science College, Congress Nagar, India entitled "*Higher Education in India: Issues and Concerns*". The indicators for discussion were: value for money, value to society, knowledge transfer, mobility between university and industry, quality of graduates, employability of graduates and other. Enhancing international competitiveness, visibility and credibility of HE enhancing quality of HE and relevance for the country's development based on innovations. These goals can be met through systemic cooperation between universities and enterprises, up-to-date curricula based on learning outcomes, up-to-date quality assurance tools based on Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the Higher Education Area, up-to-date competences of the teaching staff, innovative learning environment, and competitive sector systems for independent accreditation of curricula. The Chair and Commentator was Prof. B A Chopade, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. BAM University, Aurangabad, India.



In Parallel Sessions 5-6, Session 5 is *“International Capacity Building”* with Sub-them 4: *“Capacity Building in International, Regional & National QA”*. The deliberations were: (1) *“Transparency and Social Responsibility of Higher Education Institutions in Terms of Quality Assurance Information: Taiwan’s Experience”* by Ping-Chuan Hsu, Chinese Taipei; (2) *“Quality Assurance of Higher Education Institutions in South Korea”* by Dr. OH, Ye-Jin, South Korea; (3) *“Capacity Building of Peer Reviewers”* by Mr. Sam C. K. HO, Hong Kong, China; (4) *“Independent Assessment of Qualifications as an Element of the National System for External Education Quality Assurance”* by Dr. Vera Silaeva (Azaryeva), Dr. Aleksandra Zvezdova, Dr. Arkady Vladimirtsev, Dr. Irina Dolgikh, Russia. The session was chaired by Chun-Chi Chih, Associate Research Fellow Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei.



The Session 6 is Workshop 3 on *“APQN Quality Label (APQL)”* convened in SENATE, chaired by Prof. Jianxin Zhang (APQN President, APQL Project leader) & Dr. Jagannath Patil and Dr. Galina Motova. The purpose of APQL is to establish the criterion of internationalization of higher education and to promote the international mobility in higher education. Over 20 participants are very interested in APQL and asked many questions on it. The Symbiosis International University (SIU), Pune, Maharashtra, India expressed the interest in acceptance onto APQL.



In Plenary Session 5, the focus was on *“Capacity Building of Information and Transnational Education”*. The Panel Speakers were: (1) Li Yan & Sun Ying, Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (HEECMoE), China on *“The Utilization of Information Technology in Higher Education Quality Assurance in China”*; (2) Dr. Fabrizio Trifiro, International Manager, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), United Kingdom on *“The Quality Assurance of Transnational Education: a UK Perspective”*; (3) Prof. Angela Yung Chi Hou, Executive Director of HEEACT, Chinese Taipei on *“Quality Assurance Agencies and Professional Accreditors in Asian Nations and their Roles on Qualification Recognition and Student Mobility”*. The Chair and Commentator was Dr. Galina Motova, APQN Board Member, Deputy Director of National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia.



The Conference Closing was chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil. first of all, APQN President announced the next host of 2019 AAC - University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka, on March



28-31, 2019. Then the Presentation by the Host, Mohan de Silva, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), Senior Professor of University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka. At last APQN-UCG Agreement is signed.

Later on, a bilateral agreement between the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA) was signed at the Conference of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network in Nagpur, India.



Jagannath Patil, Advisor of NAAC and Galina Motova, Deputy Director of NCPA signed it. The main purposes of this agreement are development of partnership relations in assessment and accreditation between the two countries, information and experts exchange, as well as carrying out joint projects and procedures in higher education.

Later on, a bilateral agreement between the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Education and Healthcare (ECAQA), Kazakhstan was signed. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser of NAAC and Prof. Saule Sarsenbayeva, Director General of ECAQA signed it. The main purposes of this agreement are development of partnership relations in assessment and accreditation between the two countries, information and experts exchange, as well as carrying out joint projects and procedures in higher education.

Dr. D K Burghate summarized the results of the conference and expressed gratitude to all those who assisted in holding the 2018 APQN conference, attended this remarkable event and contributed to it by making presentations and submitting research papers. Many participants took the floor and thanked APQN Board and Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Science College and Dhanwate National College, Nagpur for their hard work and enthusiasm, organizing and holding the conference at a high level.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) was attended by APQN members only. The



agenda was: (1) Welcome to new members in 2017 by awarding APQN Member Certificate & their short introductions by APQN Secretariat; (2) Report from APQN President by Prof. Jianxin Zhang; (3) Report from APQN Vice-President by Prof. Angela Hou Yung-Chi; (4) Report from APQN Secretary/Treasurer by Prof. Dr. Li Yaogang; (5) Report on APQR by Dr. Jagannath Patil; (6) Feedback on the Sustainable Development of APQN from the Participants. The session Chair was Prof. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President.

The 2nd Board Meeting focused on “*APQN Strategic Plan and Agenda for 2018-2019*” was called to order at Jubilee. It was well attended by all APQN Board Members and Special guest(s) from the host of 2019 AAC. The Chair was Prof. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President.

Day Four

A visit to Sevagram, Wardha for 35 odd participants was organized on March 25, 2018. When Gandhi started his padayatra (foot march) in 1930 from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi for the Salt Satyagraha, he had decided not to return to Sabarmati till independence for India was attained. Independence was not attained at that time and Gandhi was imprisoned for more than two years. On his release he spent some time travelling. He decided to make a village in Central India his headquarters. He came to Wardha in 1934, at the invitation of Jamnalalji Bajaj. In April 1936, Gandhiji established his residence in the village Shegaon which he renamed as Sevagram, which means 'village of service'. Gandhiji was 67 years old when he came to Sevagram. From then on, Sevagram has become an inspiring place. Many decisions on important national matters and movements were taken at Sevagram. It became the central place for a number of institutions for the nation building activities devised by Gandhiji to suit the inherent strength of this country. Shegaon is a small village 8 km from Wardha town in Maharashtra and 75 km from Nagpur. In spite of many practical difficulties, Gandhiji decided to settle here. Though he did not have any intentions of keeping anybody with him except Kasturba, pressure of work necessitated more colleagues with him till Sevagram Ashram became a full-fledged institution. There were no facilities at Sevagram, not even a post or telegraph office.

The letters used to be brought from Wardha. There was another village in this region named Shegaon, made famous by the residence of Saint Gajanan Maharaj. So, Gandhiji's letters used to get misdirected. Therefore it was decided in 1940 to rename this village as SEVAGRAM or “the village of service”.





All the events: plenary meetings, keynotes, panel discussions, parallel sessions, workshop, APQN Quality Award Ceremony – made a great and lasting impression on the conference participants and inspired them to extend collaboration for capacity building and quality assurance in Higher Education.

(Written by D W Deshkar, Jianxin Zhng, etc.)