

**Dear APQN members,**

**Dear Colleagues,**

**Dear Friends,**

As the New Year draws near, we find ourselves filled with enthusiasm, working diligently to complete our current projects and planning for the upcoming 2025.

Let us look back and remember all the positive moments that we lived through. The past year was productive, impactful, and dynamic for the APQN. This year will be remembered for its dedication and significant advancements, reinforcing our optimism for what lies ahead.

In the past year, six new institutional members from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and the Philippines joined our APQN family. By now, we have 196 members from 45 countries and territories. Two quality assurance agencies have undergone external review with the Asia-Pacific Quality Register and have reconfirmed their status as compliant with the standards and criteria for recognition and Chiba Principles for the upcoming five-year term. The Database of External Quality Assurance Results in the Asia-Pacific Region (DAQAR) now includes 5,167 programs, making them more accessible to all users, irrespective of their location or background.

APQN's Annual Academic Conference, entitled "Quality Assurance and Global Tertiary Education: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Innovation," took place in Saint Petersburg. It gathered more than 60 representatives from quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions across various countries in the Region, serving as a platform for engaging discussions, extensive experience sharing, and the exchange of best practices among APQN members.

Numerous publications that documented the APQN's activities, in-person meetings and webinars, email discussions, and responding to countless enquiries clearly showcase the efforts of the Network. Without the

team of enthusiasts, loyal stakeholders, and committed members, none of this would be possible.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Secretariat and the Board of Directors, as well as to each APQN member for your efforts and dedication, for doing the very best to make it happen, to meet deadlines, and to deliver the quality work! Behind the name of APQN are the people with the right capacity to prevail over all difficulties and challenges.

In the new year to follow, we will continue to adhere to our mission statement to “*enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance organisations and extending cooperation between them*”. We will explore innovative technologies and facilitate innovation in teaching and learning. We will continue to foster trust in quality assurance procedures and accreditors. We will serve as a reference point for higher education institutions. We will explore a range of methods to identify those that respect the autonomy and diversity of our higher education institutions. We will continue to conduct research and engage in international projects that will benefit both APQN and its members. We will keep fostering cooperation and collaboration among our members and continue cooperative efforts across the globe.

Our goal for the new year is both inspiring and simple. We will bring together QAAs and HEIs, promote and support our members, share and disseminate best practices to enhance higher education in the region.

In the upcoming year of 2025, I wish robust development and stability for APQN. We will put in every effort to make its most ambitious projects come true. I extend my warmest wishes for a happy new year to every member of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network. I hope that 2025 will be a wonderful year for us all. I encourage everyone to believe in yourself no matter the odds and love what you do!

May the New Year bring you happiness, peace, and prosperity to your homes!

I am extending heartfelt wishes for a joyous 2025 to you and APQN!

APQN President: Galina Motova

APQN Board Directors: Jianxin Zhang, Jagannath Patil, Onolkan Umankulova, Timur Kanapyanov and Nar Bahadur Raika,