

APQNews

(Issue 30)

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2024

APQN Mission Statement

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

APQN Values:

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



APQNews (Issue 30, 2024)

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

2024

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Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

Editor's Message for APQNEWS (Issue 30)

Dear APQN members, colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the 30th issue of APQNews (2024)!

We are very happy to present you with the 30th issue of APQNews. There are **23** articles in **7** columns in this issue, among which the most prominent things are worth reading.

It is remarkable for APQN to hold the 2024 APQN AAC and AGM in St. Petersburg, Russia. Over 80 participants from Russia, China, Bangladesh, India, and other countries addressed the theme of "*Quality Assurance and Global Tertiary Education: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Innovation*". Meanwhile, the attendees witnessed six winners of the APQN 2024 Quality Award.

It's inspiring that QA projects and activities were successfully conducted: (1) the release of APQN 2023 Anthology in Russia; (2) the Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL) was held; (3) the Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR) was held.

It's worth mentioning that QA projects and activities were successfully conducted: (1) NIAD-QE held University Quality Assurance Forum 2024; (2) NCPA's International School for Advanced Training of QA experts 2024 in Kyrgyzstan; and (3) Three Memorandums of Understanding Signed at AAC.

As always, **we are happy to share wonderful news on the upcoming QA event:** 2025 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be co-hosted by APQN and Hong Kong Council of Accreditation for Academic and Professional Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) in Hong Kong SAR, China, **on 20-23 November 2025!** The main theme is "*Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education*". We are looking forward to meeting you all at the **2025 AAC and AGM in Hong Kong SAR, China!**

Last but not least, as chief-editor, I greatly appreciate for your contribution! At the same time I also cordially invite you to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews (Issue 31). Please stay tuned for APQNews!

Best regards

Chief Editor of the 30th Issue of APQNews: Jianxin Zhang

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New Year Greetings

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 organizations 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: Taohong Chen, Jianxin Zhang, Jagannath Patil, Onolkan Umankulova,
Timur Kanapyanov and Nar Bahadur Raika*



Key Speech

Welcome and Theme Address by APQN President

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear colleagues, Dear distinguished guests,



I am truly honored to greet you at the Annual Academic Conference of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network. It gives me great pleasure to open this important event in Saint Petersburg, one of the most beautiful cities in Russia.

It is the second time in the past 7 years that Russia is hosting the APQN Conference. The first was held in Moscow in 2017.

On behalf of the APQN Board Directors, the APQN Secretariat, and all the participants, I sincerely appreciate the commitment and valuable support of our host, the Association of Certification Russian Register, and personally the General Director, Dmitrii Vladimirtsev.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Secretariat and the Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication to organizing this conference. I heartily thank all the participants for finding time and crossing long distances to attend this important event.

Today, APQN is one of the largest associations in HE, and QA. There are 196 members from 45 countries and territories in APQN. It is the largest association after INQAAHE. QA system implies both internal and external quality assurance. Therefore, APQN brings together QAAs and HEIs.

APQN is one of the oldest organizations. It was founded in 2003. Last year it celebrated its 20th anniversary.

APQN is an open association that keeps the public aware of its activities through regular publications of APQNews, Annual Reports, Anthologies, research outcomes and many others.

APQN supports and encourages its members to capacity building. It keeps the register of QAAs that comply with standards and criteria developed by the Asia Pacific Quality Register.

APQN also keeps the Database of External Quality Assurance Results in the Asia-Pacific Region. It is a single database of HEIs and study programs accredited by QAAs registered in APQR. APQN keeps the register of universities that have undergone international recognition for the APQN Quality Label.

We at APQN, are extensively involved in research work and international projects and actively cooperate with other networks and international organizations.

Dear Colleagues,

Our conference is dedicated to fostering dialogue, sharing knowledge and promoting best practices in quality assurance and global tertiary education.

With this theme address, I would like to emphasize that:

- The global challenges/ we are currently facing/ are affecting all the countries. The sphere of HE is not an exception.
- Drastic changes in the HE are always reflected in QA.
- The potential quality assurance strategies that we, APQN members, should use in our work are fundamental to reducing risks and improving our processes and procedures.

A couple of years ago, at our annual conferences, we extensively discussed the digitalization of education caused by the pandemic crisis. The HEIs did their best to maintain the high quality of their work, and the accreditation agencies did their best to develop new formats of external review procedures to ensure this quality. The post-COVID period brought students and teachers back to the classrooms. As a result of the shock transformation of HE, digitalization processes have accelerated greatly. Hybrid and online learning formats are increasingly introduced into the educational process along with traditional in-person instruction. In addition to traditional qualifications, micro-credentials have recently grown in popularity among adult learners.

Driven by all the changes, accreditation agencies are also introducing digitalization and hybrid procedures into their day-to-day practice.

The acronym VUCA, which stands for volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity describes the nature of the world we live in today. It emerged in the early 2000s to denote a rapidly changing and unpredictable environment, making it impossible to prepare for the future. Especially now we are witnessing not only continuous and profound changes in politics, economics, and finance, but more importantly, drastic changes taking place in teaching methods, learning models, and student bodies. The abundance of data and the multifaceted nature of events result in different interpretations of the same phenomenon and a misperception of the situation. Each of these variables impacts higher education.

Global challenges of the modern-day confront everyone involved in HE, including changing the structure of qualifications and the labor market, global warming, climate change, and rapid advancement in artificial intelligence technology.

McKinsey Global Institute, which studies global economic trends, predicts that:

- by 2030, 375 million employees might need to change careers and pick up new skills.
- Everyone, from students to employers, will face competence deficiencies.
- The nature of competencies as such, as well as their orientation, organization, methods of mastery, form, content, and choice of where to study, will all change.

According to the study 2023 EDUCAUSE Horizon Report - Teaching and Learning Edition, the following main micro-trends in HE can be identified:

Social trends are driven by the growing demand for flexible and convenient forms of education, micro credentials and the expansion of inclusion in education.

Technological trends. It is obvious that artificial intelligence is becoming more mainstream. With the help of digital tools, more and more people nowadays can produce digital content. The boundaries between online and on-site education have merged.

Cost-related trends. Improving the accessibility of HEIs rather than HE itself. With the decrease in state funding, HEIs are expected to accomplish more and remain sustainable at the same time.

Environmental trends. Climate change is increasingly affecting all aspects of our lives. It means that environmental issues should be integrated into academic programme content and HEIs' activities.

Most of these serious global problems cannot be attributed to a certain geographical location. The efforts of one country are not enough. It is only through collaboration that these problems can be solved. International cooperation is vital for the development of higher education.

The international academic community currently remains committed to fundamental values such as academic integrity, institutional autonomy, student and faculty involvement in management, and mutual responsibility between the state, society and HE.

With this regard, three main characteristics of HE of the future can be identified:

Inclusivity: regardless of physical, social, or economic background, a person's citizenship, or prior education, anyone who can and wants to study should have access to HE. Deviation from normality should not be regarded as a problem of a person, but rather as a problem of the educational environment.

Innovation: it includes green and digital transformation, new learning formats, consideration of Sustainable Development Goals, and Artificial Intelligence in HE and Higher Education in the era of artificial intelligence.

Interconnection. The interconnected higher education system will serve society, support sustainable development, and promote cooperation, collaboration, and

exchange, meanwhile information technology will break geographical and resource constraints.

If we don't follow these principles, we may face even more serious challenges in the near future:

Classical education can rapidly lose relevance, mainly due to lightning-fast skill decay and out-dating of knowledge. Modern HE requires new formats, content, and speed of acquisition. The most likely model of a HEI is a Competence center for personnel advancement within the institution itself.

The too rapid out-dating of knowledge and skills makes HE more fragmented and less fundamental. This means that traditional programs will be replaced with short-term ones. With the development of digitalization, we obviously expect a shift from mass education to personalized education. digitalization of a person will help choose the optimal educational and professional path.

Dear Colleagues,

Given the significant role that QA plays in HE, we ought to adhere to the following values in our work: to identify and share best practices, to foster communication and the exchange of ideas, to be an equal and credible partner for universities, and to show by actions that we represent responsible, unbiased, independent, and quality-focused organizations.

The following work strategies can be proposed:

Strategy 1. Innovation. Innovative technologies for assessing the quality of education are able to stimulate and launch innovations in teaching and learning. We should involve academic experts with experience in innovation and involve innovative enterprises and organizations in the evaluation procedures.

Strategy 2. Countering interference in the autonomy of a HEI. After 20+ years of quality evaluation procedures, there is no need to control everything and everyone or to measure everyone with the same standard. We should pay special attention to learning outcomes, transparency, publicity, and reliability of external reviews.

Strategy 3. A variety of approaches. There is a growing need to respect the autonomy and diversity of universities, taking into account the mission, the specifics of the university, and the environment. We suggest using a flexible "soft" methodology of quality evaluation that is tailored to ever-changing student needs and the technological landscape and call it "smart external review". The procedure should be supported by digital platforms and big data to analyze information and reduce bureaucratic burden; implement digitalization in quality assurance to make it "digital quality assurance".

Strategy 4. Trust and honesty. We should ensure trust in HEIs and external review outcomes. Commitment to academic integrity in the age of artificial intelligence is the most important principle of our work. Education is a social

phenomenon, therefore, artificial intelligence, no matter how advanced, cannot replace a teacher. A teacher can only be replaced by an AI-proficient teacher. This is equally true for the external review. Many agencies are actively implementing digital technologies in their work to review documents, obtain stakeholder feedback, and collect and analyze information about HEIs and their programs.

However, only an expert who is competent in digitalization and artificial intelligence is capable of carrying out an external review of the educational environment and the educational process.

Nowadays, accreditation agencies should prioritize human decision-making, develop ethical norms and values for AI applications and protection of personal information against unauthorized access, alteration, disclosure, misuse, or destruction, preserve academic integrity, and guarantee the quality of learning outcomes.

Dear Colleagues,

I am happy to welcome you to our two-day research journey for experience and opinion sharing in an effort to increase awareness regarding the global problems and the ways to address them.

I wish you all to have productive communication, to build long-lasting collaboration, and to initiate the emergence of new ideas and fruitful projects that will positively change our future.

I was inspired by the wisdom of an old Chinese proverb that states: *“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”* For the best future of our education and the best future of the system of education, it is our responsibility to take action now. Let us make it happen!

Galina Motova

President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Open Speech by Deputy Chairperson of FCCSEC



Dear organizers and participants of the annual conference dedicated to the development of the higher education quality assurance system in the Asia-Pacific Region, dear colleagues!

On behalf of the Federation Council Committee on Science, Education and Culture and myself personally, I am honored to welcome you to an important event aimed at developing modern technologies for independent quality assurance, designing educational programs, and using the results of accreditation monitoring in education quality management.

The Asia-Pacific Region is the largest region in terms of area and population. This beautiful territory is characterized by a great diversity of cultures, arts, traditions, languages, beliefs, religions and ethnic groups.

By the middle of the second half of the 20th (twentieth) century, the world community had witnessed an unprecedented economic boom experienced by many East Asian countries. This very fact resulted in placing the world center of scientific and technological activity into the Asia-Pacific Region, and today the APR countries not only lead in most economic indicators, but also act as a generator of global growth.

President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin has repeatedly underlined the importance of providing quality education, which has a significant impact on the development of human potential, cognitive and social activity, as well as creative abilities.

In our modern world, a country that lags in education is doomed to lag behind in everything else. That is why the issues of quality and accessibility of education have become ingrained in the list of the most important policy priorities of the APR countries.

Dear colleagues, the rapidly changing world is a new challenge for the whole education system; however, those working at the higher education level have a special mission to educate, train, support and shape a true personality.

I wish the conference participants of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network, with over 250 (two hundred and fifty) members from 45 (forty-five) countries, to continue to be the largest and most influential international organization promoting quality assurance in higher education.

Ludmila Skakovskaya

Deputy chairperson of the Federation Council Committee on Science, Education and Culture, Russia

Speech by President of All-Russian Quality Organization QA



What is quality? It is in quality, as the prominent Russian philosopher Ivan Ilyin wrote, that Russia's salvation lies. We must reflect on this more often, considering it as the key component for the successful development of our national economy. It concerns each and every one of us.

To expand and strengthen the public movement for quality, the Russian Organization for Quality (ROQ) was founded in February 2001. As the acting Chairman of the State Standardization Committee, I was one of the initiators of its formation and further development. But first, an enormous amount of preparatory work had to be done — we needed to create regional offices based on local standardization and metrology centers, ensuring the organization would truly have a nationwide scope.

The mission of ROQ was to unite citizens and public organizations, entrepreneurs and industrial workers, representatives of key government bodies, and the scientific and technical sectors. At the founding meeting in November 2001 (you see, it was quite a while ago), we adopted a Declaration outlining the fundamental principle of ROQ's activity: "The Russian Organization for Quality proceeds from the premise that quality plays, and will continue to play, an increasingly decisive role in the development of the global community and in key areas of life in Russia." This is the goal towards which all members of ROQ are working together.

People often ask me whether I was interested in quality before assuming the position of Chairman of the State Standardization Committee in 1997, or if it only became a subject of my professional activity afterwards. The answer is simple: I have been working in the field of quality my entire career! I have had the privilege of personally participating in many pivotal events for the country, all related to issues of quality. These include the broad implementation of ISO 9000 standards as Russian enterprises entered the global market, the establishment of the Government of the Russian Federation Quality Award, and of course the "100 Best Products of Russia" program, created in partnership with ROQ.

People of the old school, especially Soviet defense specialists, understood well — even without reading a single book on quality — what quality means for military equipment and weaponry. Among these products are items that must function just once, but flawlessly, and to ensure the necessary quality, it is crucial to follow the technology impeccably.

Quality is the key component not only in the defense industry but in any other field of activity. It is a quality that serves as the lifeline in times of various crises. The history of the 20th century knows many examples of countries that, when faced with

economic and political challenges, solved their problems by focusing on improving quality. These problems were resolved through the combined efforts of the state and society for the benefit of national economies.

It is time for us, too, to change our approach to solving the problem of quality. The efforts of a few quality enthusiasts will not suffice; a targeted state policy is needed. Since the federal law "On Technical Regulation" declared GOST standards non-mandatory on June 1, 2010, the industry has yet to receive an adequate replacement for the old regulatory documents. As a result, the quality of both manufactured and purchased products has significantly deteriorated.

And yet, standardization is a good thing, and we need to know how to use it. It has a number of functions that should not be influenced by political trends: ensuring interchangeability and compatibility in technology, establishing uniform requirements for the quality and safety of products manufactured by industry. Standards play a decisive role in maintaining the competitiveness of national products on the global market, in modernizing the economy, and in its steady, innovative development. It is also essential that standards be updated regularly. In Russia, this process, it seems to me, is moving slowly.

To solve all the accumulated problems in the field of quality, the state's interest is needed. It is important to formulate national goals in the field of quality that inspire, elevate, motivate, and drive people to action. This is serious work that requires integration into the very fabric of life. We need to include the fundamentals of quality science in the education and upbringing of the younger generation, and actively engage in public outreach so that the ideas of quality become part of each individual's worldview.

Thus, the movement for quality is, above all, a new philosophy, a profound transformation of our thinking and moral foundations, our work style, and our management style. This is precisely the mission of the Russian Organization for Quality.

*Prof. Genady Voronin,
President of All-Russian Quality Organization QA,
National Partner of Asian Networks for Quality*

Open Speech by General Director of Russian Register

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, and Colleagues,



Welcome to the APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024 here in beautiful city of Saint Petersburg, Russia.

I'm Prof. Arkady Vladimirtsev, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee and General Director of the Certification Association "Russian Register." It is a great honor for me to welcome you here. We are excited and proud to host this important event and to welcome so many distinguished guests and experts from around

the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

The theme of this year's conference, "Quality Assurance and Global Tertiary Education: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Innovation," shows our collective commitment to addressing the issues in higher education. We face many challenges, from maintaining international standards in cross-border education to integrating new digital tools in quality assurance. By working together and sharing our knowledge, we can address these challenges and make real progress.

Over the next few days, we will focus on several important topics, including: (1) Quality Assurance for Cross-Border Higher Education: Understanding international standards, challenges, and solutions; (2) Embracing Digitalization in Quality Assurance: Looking at new innovations and future trends; (3) Improving Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Institutions: Ensuring excellence at all stages of education; and (4) Enhancing Internal Quality Assurance for QA Agencies: Exploring new ideas and governance.

Our program is designed to develop engaging discussions, provide great networking opportunities, and inspire new ideas. We are honored to have leading experts and speakers who will share their insights on these critical topics.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) for their support in organizing this conference. I also want to thank our team at the Russian Register for their hard work and dedication.

As we start this conference, let's take this chance to learn from each other, challenge our ideas, and work together to shape the future of quality assurance in higher education. Your participation is key to making this event a success.

Once again, welcome to Saint Petersburg. I hope our discussions are productive, our connections are valuable, and our work here makes a real difference in higher education. Thank you.

Arkady Vladimirtsev

General Director of the Certification Association "Russian Register", Russia

Closing Speech by by General Director of Russian Register

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, and Esteemed Colleagues,

As we come to the close of the APQN Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting 2024 here in the beautiful city of Saint Petersburg, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your presence, your insights, and your participation. Following the remarks by Mr. Timur Kanapyanov, a respected member of our Board of Directors, I want to emphasize the importance of our collective work and dedication to advancing the field of quality assurance in education.

At this moment, I would like to acknowledge our organization, the Russian Register, not only as a leader in certification but also as an innovative company engaged in cutting-edge developments in artificial intelligence. The competitive landscape of this field reflects both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, underscoring its significance for humanity and the role it plays in shaping the future of education.

To our international guests, who have traveled far to be here despite the complexities of our current times, your commitment does not go unnoticed. I am profoundly grateful to those of you who undertook the long journey to join us here in Russia, in Saint Petersburg. The fact that you were willing to overcome the challenges of long-haul travel to be part of this conference is a testament to the strength of our partnerships and our shared commitment to quality education.

We also regret the absence of those who could not join us on this occasion. Their presence was missed, but we look forward to their participation in future gatherings.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this event, from the organizers to the speakers, to each attendee. Let us carry forward the insights we have gained, the connections we have made, and the inspiration we have found, as we work together to elevate the standards of quality assurance in education around the world.

Thank you once again, and I wish you safe travels back home. Until we meet again, may we continue to collaborate and innovate for the future of education.

Thank you.

*Arkady Vladimirtsev
General Director of the Certification Association "Russian Register", Russia*

Closing Remarks by the Chair of the AAC Committee

Dear colleagues, esteemed guests, and friends,



As we come to the end of this wonderful event, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation for everyone who has contributed to the success of the APQN Academic Conference 2024. Over the past few days, we have experienced a wide variety of discussions and exchanges, all focused on our main topic, “Quality Assurance and Global Tertiary Education: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Innovation.” Your active participation and engagement have truly made it an exceptional gathering.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our keynote speakers, plenary session presenters, panelists, and moderators. You have shared with us not only your expertise and research results, but also your vision for the future of education quality assurance in general and the way forward for the APQN community in particular.

Your contributions have been invaluable in shaping our deeper understanding and reminding us of the core values of quality assurance. Some of the speeches, in my opinion, inspired us, particularly the APQN Board Members, to move forward. This year’s conference, I believe, has been a showcase of thought leadership and innovation.

From the insightful welcome address by APQN President Professor Galina Motova, concluding her presentation with the wonderful call to action through the Chinese proverb: “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.” Continuing with trans-formative and thought-provoking strategies discussed by Dr. Wesley Teter, Dr. Aleksei Kurlov, Jiang He, and Professor Nadia Badrawi, who addressed us via video presentation. From these keynote speeches, we have gained new perspectives on how to address some of the most pressing issues in our field.

Equally compelling were the plenary sessions, where we explored a range of topics, from research on APQN's 20-year history to enhancing joint accreditation and developing new APQN quality labels. Notable papers from the second plenary session, such as case studies from the St. Petersburg State University of Economics and great examples from Indian and Indonesian quality assurance agencies, have provided us with concrete examples of effective internal and external quality assurance practices.

One of the most enjoyable moments of the conference was undoubtedly yesterday's Gala Dinner. We all enjoyed it immensely, and it highlighted the spirit of collaboration and friendship that has permeated every single event. It was clear that we are united by a shared commitment to advancing the quality of higher education in our region. This collective effort, and this willingness to learn from and support one another, is a true strength of the APQN community.

As we move forward, I encourage each of us to continue the work we have started here. Let us take the insights gained, the connections made, and the commitments forged to drive positive change in our home institutions and countries.

In closing, I would like once again to thank the APQN Board Directors, the APQN Secretariat and our local hosts from the Russian Register for their tireless efforts in organizing this event. I also want to acknowledge the contributions of those who could not be with us, but whose support we have felt deeply. Thank you all for your dedication, insights, and unwavering commitment to excellence in education.

Let us carry the momentum forward, united in our shared mission to ensure that quality education remains a cornerstone of our APQN family.

As we look to the future, I would like to end with a quote from Mark Twain, which resonates with the proverb shared earlier by Professor Motova: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

The best time to act may have been 20 years ago, but the second best time is now. Let us continue to explore, dream, and discover together as we sail forward into the future.

Dear colleagues, dear friends, I wish you safe travels home, and I look forward to seeing you in Hong Kong next year.

Thank you!

Dr. Timur Kanapyanov,

APQN Board Director and Chair of the Chair of the Conference Committee,

IAAR Deputy General Director, Kazakhstan

QA Conference

2024 APQN AAC and AGM Held in St. Petersburg, Russia

2024 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held from September 26th to September 29th in the picturesque city of St. Petersburg, Russia. This year's theme, *"Quality Assurance and Global Tertiary Education: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Innovation,"* resonated strongly with the current trends and challenges in higher education, drawing a diverse and engaged audience from various regions. This report chronicles the proceedings of the conference, highlighting key discussions, speakers, and networking opportunities that emerged over the course of the event.



Day 1: Pre-Conference Preparations

The conference kicked off with a series of pre-conference events on September 26, setting the stage for an engaging series of discussions. Registration for attendees began promptly at 1:00 PM in the Conference Hall Turgenev, managed by the local organizer, the Russian Register Certification Association. Attendees were greeted warmly, receiving their conference materials and schedules, which laid the groundwork for what would be the enlightening three days.

As the afternoon progressed, key committees gathered for important meetings. The Finance Committee convened from 4:00 PM to 4:30 PM to review the 2024

Finance Report and engage in budget planning for 2025. Under the chairmanship of Prof. Galina Motova, Chair of the Finance Committee, members discussed financial strategies essential for sustaining APQN’s activities and growth.



Simultaneously, the 1st Board Meeting of 2024 commenced, focusing on the review of the 2023 Annual Report and preparations for the upcoming AAC and AGM. Chaired by Dr. Timur Kanapyanov, the meeting fostered critical discussions

among the Board Directors of the 7th Board, alongside local organizers and special guests.

Following these discussions, the APQR Council convened to address the APQR Report for 2024 and formulate plans for 2025. Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQR Chairperson, led this council meeting, fostering a collaborative atmosphere. The APQL Council met subsequently, chaired by Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang, to deliberate on upcoming initiatives and opportunities for collaboration.

The day’s events finished in a sense of anticipation and solidarity, as participants looked forward to the formal opening of the conference.

Day 2: Opening Ceremony and Keynote Addresses

1. Open Session

September 27 marked the official start of the APQN 2024 Conference. The day began with a busy registration period for attendees, followed by the much-anticipated opening ceremony in the grand Conference Hall “Tolstoy.” At 9:00 AM, a vibrant atmosphere enveloped the hall as participants gathered to hear the opening remarks.

The ceremony began with a welcome address by Prof. Galina Motova, the President of APQN. In her address, she emphasized the significance of quality assurance in higher education and the vital role of international collaboration in overcoming challenges. She welcomed participants to embrace the theme of the conference and actively engage in the discussions.



Arkady Vladimirtsev, General Director of the Certification Association "Russian Register", followed with a warm welcome, outlining the importance of the event for fostering relationships and sharing knowledge among QA professionals. He expressed

his pride in hosting 2024 AAC and AGM in Saint Petersburg, Russia. He emphasized the conference theme, *"Quality Assurance and Global Tertiary Education: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Innovation"* as a reflection of the collective commitment to addressing the complex challenges in higher education today. He encouraged participants to engage in discussions, challenge ideas and work together to shape the future of quality assurance in higher education, ensuring the event's success through their active participation.



This was complemented by a recorded welcome speech from Dr. Genady Voronin, President of the All-Russian Quality Organization, who shared valuable insights on the evolving landscape of quality assurance in education. He emphasized the crucial role of quality in driving national development, citing the Russian philosopher Ivan Ilyin, who

believed that Russia's salvation lies in its commitment to quality. He underscored that quality assurance is not just essential in education but in all areas of national life, including the defense industry, and is critical in addressing crises.



Dr. Ludmila Skakovskaya, a representative of the Russian Federal Government Bodies, spoke about the government's commitment to enhancing educational standards and quality. On behalf of the Federation Council Committee on Science, Education and Culture, she emphasized the importance of developing modern technologies for independent quality assurance, designing educational programs, and utilizing accreditation monitoring results for effective education management. She highlighted the Asia-Pacific Region's diversity in cultures, traditions, and languages, as well as its significant role as a hub of global economic growth, particularly after the unprecedented boom in East Asia during the latter half of the 20th century. Wishing APQN continued success, she expressed her hopes that it would maintain its status as the largest and most influential organization promoting quality assurance in higher education.

2. Releasing of 2023 Anthology

The opening ceremony concluded with the release of the Anthology of 2023 AAC Selected Papers by AIUB and APQN Board members, showcasing the collective efforts and research contributions of participants.

Dr. Timur Kanapyanov (APQN Board Director, Chair of the Conference Organizing

Committee) chaired the ceremony. Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang (APQN Immediate Past President) and Prof./Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed (Chair of Bangladesh Accreditation Council) announced the official release.

The published Anthology consists of 32 accepted papers from APQN Academic Conference 2023, held at Dhaka, Bangladesh. The published papers in the Anthology adhered to the sub-themes: (1) Quality of Trans-formative learning (TL) and Informativeness teaching (TT); (2) Blended Education from the perspective of 4th Industrial Revolution and the COVID Pandemic; (3) Digital Quality Assurance and Journey to Quality Enhancement; (4) University-Industry Linkage in the background of internationalization; and (5) The 20th anniversary of APQN.



3. Key Note Speeches

The first keynote address titled "*QA for Cross-Border Higher Education: International Standards, Challenges, and Solutions*" was delivered by Dr. Wesley Teter, Senior Consultant for the Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development at UNESCO, Bangkok. His insights on the necessity of international standards in quality assurance sparked an engaging dialogue among participants.



Dr. Aleksei Kurlov, Head of the Educational programs Department at Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography, delivered the second keynote address, "*Transforming Engineering Education: Modern Strategies for Quality Assurance and Emerging Trends.*" He highlighted innovative strategies for enhancing quality assurance in engineering education, capturing the interest of many participants.

4. Plenary Sessions

The afternoon session continued with a series of plenary sessions, offering an opportunity to delve deeper into the conference’s theme of quality assurance. The first plenary session, held in Conference Hall "Tolstoy," centered on the topic of "*QA for Cross-Border Higher Education: International Standards, Challenges, and Solutions.*" Moderated by Dr. Onolkan Umankulova, President of the Agency for Quality Assurance in the Field of Education “EdNet” from Kyrgyz Republic and an APQN Board Director, the session brought together esteemed speakers who shared their perspectives on navigating the complexities of quality assurance in a globalized

educational landscape.



The session opened with Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang from Yunnan University, China, who presented the research paper entitled *“Striving for Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region: Qualitative Research on APQN 20th Anniversary Celebration”*. Adopting qualitative research method, this paper describes the 20th AC, tries to interpret the value of this celebration,

to explore APQN's achievements and contributions in the field of global education quality assurance. It can be said that this celebration is an opportunity "to review the past, to observe the present and to look for the future", which has demonstrated APQN's achievements and spiritual legacies in the past 20 years. At the same time, it also demonstrates the value and significance in building platforms, standard setting and eternal pursuit.

Following this, Dr. Oksana Tanikova from the National Center for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia, explored the concept of joint accreditation as a tool for enhancing quality assurance policies. Dr. Tanikova explained how collaborative accreditation efforts can raise the standards of higher education institutions (HEIs) across borders, thereby contributing to a more harmonized and effective quality assurance framework.



Next, the session highlighted a presentation by Dr. Olga Safonkina from Ogarev Mordovia State University, Russia, who discussed the development of a new APQN Quality Label. The research, which was a collaborative effort between Aleksandra Zvezdova, Olga Safonkina, Arkady Vladimirtsev, and Evgeniya Korneva from the Certification Association “Russian Register,” explored how innovative activities within HEIs serve as the foundation for this new quality label. Dr. Safonkina outlined how the APQL is intended to raise educational standards and ensure a higher level of excellence across the APQN region.

Finally, Dr. Anatoly Safonov, Director of the ROQ Center for Expert Programs and Chief Manager of the Excellence Model Department at the All-Russian Quality Organization (ROQ), presented the *“Lens Approaches Based on the Model EFQM 2020 to Assess QA”*. His talk emphasized how this model can be applied to assess and improve quality assurance systems in higher education, offering a structured approach to excellence.



Plenary Session 2 of the conference, titled *“QA in Higher Education Institutions: Fostering Excellence in Teaching and Learning in All Stages of Life,”* chaired by Dr. Timur Kanapyanov, IAAR Deputy General Director, Kazakhstan. **Dr. Ruchi** from NAAC, India, discussed the *“Promotion of Quality in Teaching and Learning”* using case studies of accredited colleges. A team of Indonesian academics

from ACE presented on "Effects of Input, Management, and Process on Student Outcomes" highlighting accreditation in Indonesia. And "Online Courses Quality Assurance Based on International Standards: SPbSEU Experience" by Dr. Yulia Kiseleva, Prof. Veronika Shubayeva, Daniil Antoshechkin from St. Petersburg State University of Economics, Russia.



The session wrapped up with a brief Q&A segment, where participants engaged with the speakers to further explore the challenges and solutions in cross-border quality assurance. The plenary sessions provided valuable insights into how international standards can be adapted and applied to ensure the quality of education across different regions, contributing to the overall theme of the conference.



5. APQN Quality Award Ceremony

The APQN Quality Award Ceremony was a central event of the conference, honoring remarkable contributions to quality assurance in higher education. The ceremony celebrated individuals and institutions that had set exemplary standards in advancing educational quality throughout the APQN region.



The event was hosted by Dr. Olga Safonkina and Prof./Dr. Galina Motova. As masters of ceremony, they led the audience through the evening with insightful commentary, emphasizing the significance of commitment to quality in education. They highlighted how the continuous pursuit of excellence is crucial for institutional success and global recognition, underscoring the importance of innovation and collaboration across borders.

During the APQN Quality Award Ceremony, several prestigious awards were presented, recognizing the outstanding contributions of individuals and institutions

in the field of quality assurance in higher education.

(1) **APQN Quality Champions Award:** This accolade was awarded to **Arkady Vladimirtsev**, the General Director of the Certification Association "Russian Register," for his exemplary leadership and dedication to promoting quality standards in education.



(2) **APQN's Best/Model Internal QA Award:** The award was presented to **American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB)**, with **Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed** accepting the award on behalf of the university. This recognition highlights AIUB's commitment to implementing effective internal quality assurance processes.

(3) **APQN's Best/Model Internal QA Award: Macao Polytechnic University** was also honored with this award, which was accepted by **Dr. Christina Ng**, Senior Registrar of the Development of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ). This accolade acknowledges the university's exemplary practices in internal quality assurance.

(4) **Honorary Life Fellow of APQN: Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang** was recognized as an Honorary Life Fellow. Her contributions as an ex-officio Board Director and Immediate Past President of APQN, as well as her advisory role with CHEA/CIQG and her position as Secretary General of the Yunnan Association of Higher Education, exemplify her dedication to quality in higher education.

(5) **Honorary Life Fellow of APQN: Dr. Jagannath Patil** was also honored with the title of Honorary Life Fellow. The award was accepted on his behalf by **Dr. Vishnu Mahesh** from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), reflecting Dr. Patil's significant contributions to the field.

(6) **Honorary Board Director of APQN: Liu Pingping** was appointed as an Honorary Board Director, with the award received on his behalf by **Chen Taohong**, Vice President of the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, highlighting the collaborative efforts in advancing quality assurance.

(7) **APQN's Successful Host: Arkady Vladimirtsev** was acknowledged once again, this time for his role as a successful host of the event, further solidifying his commitment to enhancing quality in education.

These awards not only celebrate the accomplishments of the recipients but also inspire continued dedication to quality assurance in higher education institutions across the Asia-Pacific region.

The first day concluded with an extended networking period, where participants engaged in discussions, exchanged ideas, and established connections that would serve them well beyond the conference. The day concluded with a Gala Dinner with APQN Award Ceremony, which not only celebrated the achievements of individuals in the field but also provided an elegant setting for continued networking.

Day 3: In-Depth Discussions and Parallel Sessions

The momentum built on Day 2 carried into Day 3, on September 28, as the conference resumed with parallel sessions dedicated to specific themes. The morning began promptly at 9:00 AM with three simultaneous parallel sessions that allowed participants to choose discussions that aligned with their interests and expertise.

Parallel Session 1: QA for Cross-Border Higher Education

In the Conference Hall "Chekhov," the first parallel session on Quality Assurance (QA) for Cross-Border Higher Education commenced, under the expert moderation of Dr. Onolkan Umankulova, President of the Agency for Quality Assurance in the Field of Education "EdNet" from the Kyrgyz Republic. This session gathered distinguished



speakers who shared their research and insights, shedding light on the challenges and best practices essential for ensuring quality in international education settings.

The session began with Ms. Anna Ishutkina, representing the National Center for Public Accreditation (NCPA) from Russia. Her presentation, titled "*How Accreditation Impacts Qualification Recognition*" emphasized the pivotal role of accreditation in facilitating the recognition of qualifications across borders. She outlined how accreditation frameworks are necessary to enhance the credibility of qualifications and to support educational mobility, ensuring that students and professionals can transition seamlessly between different educational systems.

Following Ms. Ishutkina, Ms. Marina Kurdiymova, also from the NCPA, delved into the theme of academic integrity in her presentation, "*Understanding Academic Integrity: Stakeholders' Perspective*." She highlighted the various stakeholders involved in education and discussed their perspectives on maintaining ethical standards. She underscored the importance of fostering a culture of integrity in academic settings, positing that such a foundation is critical for upholding the overall quality of cross-border higher education.

Next, Dr. Ilya Rusakov from the Center for Expert Programs of the All-Russian Quality Organization introduced his insights on "*The EFQM Model as a Tool for Innovative Development of MPEI*" He articulated how the EFQM (European Foundation for Quality Management) model serves as a strategic framework for driving innovation within higher education institutions. Dr. Rusakov's emphasis on innovative practices illuminated pathways for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of educational offerings, thus addressing the needs of students and employers alike.

The session then transitioned to Prof. Dalkhat Ediev of the North-Caucasian State Academy, who explored the intersection of demographic trends and educational quality in his presentation, "*World Population Trends and Quality Higher Education*." Prof. Ediev discussed the significant implications of global population changes, urging institutions to adapt their strategies to effectively respond to the changing educational landscape. His insights reinforced the need for higher education institutions to remain agile and responsive to demographic shifts to maintain relevance and quality.

Rounding off the session, Dr. Yulia Bogomolova from the Institute of International Economic Relations shared her insights on "*The Role of Information Technology in the Internal Quality Assessment System of Universities*". She illustrated how the integration of information technology has transformed internal quality assessment processes. Dr. Bogomolova emphasized that leveraging technology not only streamlines evaluations but also improves data-driven decision-making, contributing to improved educational outcomes.

The session provided a platform for exchanging ideas and experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of the evolving landscape of quality assurance in cross-border higher education. The collective wisdom of the speakers illustrated the path forward, underscoring the critical importance of strong QA frameworks to develop educational quality and encourage international collaboration.

Parallel Session 2: Embracing Digitalization for Quality Assurance

Held in the Conference Hall "Dostoevsky," Parallel Session 2 explored the theme of "*Embracing Digitalization for Quality Assurance*" with a particular focus on internal quality assurance processes of QAAs. Moderated by Dr. Oksana Tanikova, the Deputy Head of the Accreditation Department at the National Center for Public Accreditation (NCPA) in Russia, the session fostered an dialogue on the important role of technology in promoting quality assurance practices.



The session featured a series of thought-provoking presentations from a diverse group of speakers, each contributing unique insights into the intersection of digitalization and quality assurance. Natalia Ivanova, representing IPR MEDIA Group in Russia, initiated the discussion with her recorded presentation titled "*Digitalization to Improve Quality: Innovations and Prospects*." She explored various innovative practices that have emerged from the digital transformation of educational institutions, highlighting the promising prospects for improving quality through technological advancements.

Dr. Yudha Nurhantari from Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, presented on "*The Challenges to Improve On-time Graduation as Internal Audit Findings*". His insights shed light on the obstacles faced in ensuring timely graduation and the critical role of internal audits in identifying areas for improvement.

Next, a collaborative presentation by Dr. Raghu Ram Achar, Dr. Supreeth M, Dr. Prashant M Vishwanath, and Dr. Madhusudhan N Purohit from JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research in India took center stage. Their topic, "*Quality Quest Alongside Data Management in Higher Education Institutes with Digital Frontier*" emphasized the significance of effective data management in increasing quality assurance in higher education institutions.

Kulebakina Yulia from LETI University in Russia contributed to the session with her presentation on "*The System of Internal Quality Assurance Agency for the Assessment of the Quality of Tertiary and Vocational Education from the Point of View of the Student Community*". Yulia's insights underscored the importance of student perspectives in evaluating the quality of educational programs.

Dr. Petropavlovskaya Victoria from Tver State Technical University, Russia, followed with her presentation titled "*To the Quality of Education Through the Formation of a Complex System for Evaluating the Activities of the University*". She articulated the necessity of establishing a comprehensive evaluation system to enhance educational quality.

The session concluded with another insightful presentation Dr. Maria Turovskaya from Russian Register, who addressed the "*Training of Highly Qualified Staff in Quality Management for the Purpose of Digitization*". Their focus on staff training highlighted the need for skilled professionals to navigate the complexities of quality management in the digital age.

Throughout the session, the participants actively took part in discussions, sharing insights and experiences related to the challenges and opportunities posed by digitalization in quality assurance. The collaborative atmosphere fostered a rich exchange of ideas, emphasizing the collective commitment to developing internal quality assurance processes within educational institutions.

In summary, Parallel Session 2 served as a vital platform for exploring the dynamic interplay between digitalization and quality assurance, equipping participants with innovative strategies and practical insights to improve educational standards.

Parallel Session 3: Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions

Parallel Session 3, held in the Conference Hall "Tolstoy," focused on the theme of "*Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions: Fostering Excellence in Teaching and Learning in All Stages of Life*." The session was chaired by Dr. Olga Safonkina, Associate Vice Rector for International Cooperation at Ogarev National Research State University and a member of the International Accreditation Board (IAB) in Russian Register, Russia. Under her guidance, the session became a platform for

sharing best practices aimed at cultivating a culture of excellence in education.

A series of presentations were delivered by a respected lineup of speakers, each contributing valuable insights into the multifaceted aspects of quality assurance in higher education.



Dr. Nayer Fardows from Forman Christian College (FCCU) in Pakistan opened the session with his talk titled *"Ensuring Excellence: Quality Assurance in Higher Education for Lifelong Teaching and Learning"*. His presentation underscored the critical importance of maintaining high standards in education that cater to lifelong learning.

Following Dr. Fardows, Prof. Anastasia Atabekova from the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University) shared her insights on *"QA in Higher Education and Education in Foreign Language(s)"*. Her

discourse provided a nuanced perspective on the challenges and opportunities in ensuring quality in education delivered in foreign languages.

The discussion then turned to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in India, represented by Dr. Vishnu Mahesh K R and Dr. Ruchi Tripathi, who presented a case study titled *"Promotion of Quality in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Institutions: Case Study of Randomly Selected Colleges Accredited by NAAC Parameters"*. Their findings highlighted effective strategies for enhancing educational quality within accredited institutions.

Shifting the focus back to the Russian context, Evgenii Puchkov, Szymon Jankiewicz, and Nadezhda Knyaginina from HSE University examined *"Internal and External Quality Assurance in Russian Higher Education Institutions: Breaking the Chains of State Control?"* Their presentation critically assessed the balance between state oversight and institutional autonomy in quality assurance.

Kristina Tishkina from ITMO University followed with an engaging presentation on *"The Peer-Review Approach in the Internal Quality Assurance System: The ITMO University Case"*. Her insights emphasized the value of peer review in fostering a

culture of continuous improvement within educational institutions.

The session also featured Dr. Anatoly Lysyakov and Dr. Olga Safonkina discussing the *"Establishment and Development of the Russian-Chinese Institute: A Case Study in Collaborative Higher Education"*. Their collaboration demonstrated the benefits of international partnerships in enhancing educational quality.

Lastly, Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed from the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) concluded the session with his presentation titled *"Quality Assurance and Teaching Learning in Higher Education"*. His insights illuminated the integral connection between quality assurance practices and effective teaching and learning methodologies.

After this stimulating series of discussions, attendees enjoyed a well-deserved morning tea break, where conversations continued over refreshments, fostering networking and collaboration among participants. In summary, Parallel Session 3 successfully highlighted the vital importance of quality assurance in higher education, encouraging ongoing discussions on fostering excellence in teaching and learning throughout all stages of life.

4. Keynote Speeches

The conference then transitioned to the keynote speeches, commencing with the third keynote address titled *"Practice and Prospect the Construction of the 'Five-in-One' Higher Education Quality Assurance System with Chinese Characteristics"* delivered by Jiang He, Deputy Director of the Education Quality Evaluation Agency of the Ministry of



of

Education (EQEA) in China. He stressed that higher education evaluation is a vital measure to ensure the quality of talent training. Over 40 years since the beginning of China's reform and opening-up, a "Five-in-One" higher education quality assurance system has been developed to suit the nation context, effectively unleashing the full potential of higher education. Embarking on a new journey, China will accelerate the establishment of a world-class higher education quality assurance system with Chinese characteristics, providing Chinese solutions to global educational governance. This address provided innovative insights into quality assurance approaches in higher education, further enriching the conference's exploration of quality assurance practices.

The final keynote address, titled *"Opportunities and Risks of Using Artificial Intelligence in Quality Assurance"*, was presented by Prof. Nadia Badrawi as a pre-recorded speech. She highlighted the potential of AI technologies to transform quality assurance practices while cautioning against the risks associated with their implementation. Her insights sparked meaningful discussions among attendees,



prompting reflections on how to use AI effectively.

5. Closing Session

Chaired by Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang, the closing session allowed attendees to reflect on their experiences and discuss future directions for quality assurance in higher education. The closing session consists of 4 items .

First of all, the announcement of the Next Host of 2025 AAC and Presentation by the Local Host. APQN President, Prof./Dr. Galina Motova to announce the Next Host of 2025 AAC and AGM is HKCAAVQ (Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications), China. Dr. Christina from HKCAAVQ presented PPT and video to welcome all the participants to attend it. Hong Kong is a place where Eastern and Western cultures blend together, known as the "Pearl of the Orient", "Food Paradise", and "Shopping Paradise".



Secondly, three Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) were signed: (1) the MoU between APQN and HKCAAVQ to host 2025 AAC and AGM; (2) the MoU between Russian Register and APQN; (3) the Service Agreement for the Publication of

APQN Anthology (2024 AAC).

Then, Closing Remarks by the APQN Board Director, Chair of the Conference Programme Committee: Dr. Timur Kanapyanov . On behalf of APQN, he extend the heartfelt thanks to the keynote speakers, plenary session presenters, panelists, moderators, especially the local host. He quoted the Chinese proverb:“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. He ended with a quote from Mark Twain: “Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”



At last, by saying “we are looking forward to meeting you at 2025 APQN Academic Conference next year in Hongkong, China. We wish you a safe trip back home! Good-bye and See you in Hangkong in APQN big family again”, the chair, Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang declared “2024 APQN Academic Conference closed.

6. Follow-up

Following the closing session, attendees enjoyed an afternoon tea break, which provided one last chance for informal discussions and networking before the conclusion of the conference.

At 16:20, Annual General Meeting (AGM) participated by “APQN members only” began with the chair of the APQN President: Prof. Galina Motova. AGM included 4 items: (1) welcome to new members in 2024; (2) report from APQN President by Prof. Galina Motova; (3) report on APQN finances; and (4) report on APQR.

On September 29, the final day of the conference, the participants had the opportunity to partake in a guided city tour of St. Petersburg. This excursion allowed them to explore the rich cultural heritage and architectural splendor of the city, further enhancing their experience at the conference.

Conclusion

The APQN 2024 AAC and AGM proved to be an enriching experience for all involved. From the keynote speeches to the engaging discussions in parallel sessions, the event highlighted the role of quality assurance in navigating the challenges of contemporary higher education. The commitment of participants to advancing collaboration and innovation will undoubtedly continue to shape the future of quality assurance.

As the conference came to an end, attendees departed from St. Petersburg, equipped not just with valuable knowledge but also with a refreshed sense of purpose and connection among the international community of quality assurance professionals. The spirit of teamwork fostered at the AAC will surely continue, as participants join forces to improve the quality of education around the globe.

(Written by Dr. Olga Safonkina from Russian Register and Jianxin Zhang from APQN)

APQN 2024 Quality Award Ceremony Held in St. Petersburg

APQN 2024 Quality Awards Ceremony took place on the evening of September 27th, 2024, at the Conference Hall “Tolstoy”, situated in the enchanting city of St. Petersburg, Russia. This elegant event was part of APQN AAC and AGM, which ran from September 26th to 29th. This year’s ceremony recognized exceptional contributions to quality assurance in higher education through a combination of traditional APQN awards and special honors. Dr. Olga Safonkina (Associate to the Vice Rector for International Cooperation at Ogarev National Research State University) served as the Masters of Ceremony.



The evening began with **welcoming remark** from the distinguished Prof./Dr. Galina Motova, APQN President. She highlighted the significance of the occasion, marking the 11th anniversary of the APQN Awards, which were first introduced in 2013. She emphasized the privilege of recognizing the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations dedicated to quality assurance throughout the region.

While the guests enjoyed their starters, they were treated to two charming performances that celebrated Russia's rich cultural heritage. The first act, “**Katyusha**”, unfolded gracefully on stage, telling the touching story of a girl named Katyusha who misses her loved one during wartime. The expressive dance captured feelings of longing and nostalgia, honoring the spirit of Russian culture. After this moving performance, the mood shifted to one of joyful celebration with “**Kalinka-Malinka**” This popular Russian folk song and dance combined cheerful singing with lively choreography. The performers brought one of Russia's most famous cultural pieces to life, filling the room with energy and excitement, and making the audience feel immersed in the festivities.



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Innovation and Skills Development at UNESCO's Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for

"APQN Quality Champions Award" was awarded to **GD Arkady Vladimirtsev** (General Director of the Certification Association "Russian Register", Russia), in recognition of commitment to enhancing quality assurance in higher education. This prestigious award was presented by Dr. Wesley Teter (Senior Consultant for the Section for Educational

Education in Bangkok), along with Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang (APQN Board Director and Immediate Past President).



"APQN Best/Model Internal QA Award" was presented to the **American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB)** in recognition of its exceptional internal quality assurance practices. Accepting the award on behalf of AIUB was Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, representing the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC). The presenters of the award included Dr. Onolkan Umankulova (APQN Board Director and President of the Agency for Quality Assurance in the Field of Education "EdNet", the Kyrgyz Republic), and Pavel Stepanov, (Director for Development at the Russian Register). Their participation added significance to the occasion, highlighting the importance of quality assurance in higher education.

"APQN Best/Model Internal QA Award" was awarded to **Macao Polytechnic University** in recognition of its unwavering commitment to quality assurance in higher education. The accolade was accepted on behalf of the university by Dr. **Christina Ng** (Senior Registrar from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications). The award was presented by **Kulikov Alexander** (from the Russian Register – Baltic Inspectorate), and Dr. **Chen Taohong** (Vice President of the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute).



"**Honorary Life Fellow of APQN**" was awarded to **Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang** (APQN ex-officio Board Director, APQN fifth and sixth President, the APQL Chairman) and **Dr. Jagannath Patil** (APQN Board Director, APQN fourth President and the APQR Chairman) by **Dr. Prof. Galina Motova** (President of APQN) and **Dr. Aleksandra Zvezdova** (Deputy Chair of the Local Organizing Committee and Head of the Department for Quality Assessment of Education at

Russian Register), as well as Dr. Timur Kanapyanov (APQN Board Director) and Dr. Christina Ng (Senior Registrar at HKCAAVQ). The award to **Dr. Jagannath Patil** was accepted by **Dr. Vishnu Mahesh** from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) of India. This award is given to those who served APQN Board for more than 9/10 years (three terms) and have done remarkable contribution for APQN's sustainable development.



"Honorary Board Director of APQN" was bestowed upon **Liu Pingping** (APQN Secretary / Treasurer) in recognition of her exceptional leadership and dedication to the organization. **Dr. Chen Taohong** received the award on her behalf, with presentations made by **Prof./Dr. Muchlas Samani**



(Chairperson of the Accreditation Council for Education in Indonesia) and **Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed** (Chairman of Bangladesh Accreditation Council). This award is given to those who served APQN Board for at least 3 years (one term) and have done remarkable contribution for APQN's sustainable development.

Finally, "APQN Successful Host Award" was presented to **GD Arkady Vladimirtsev** (General Director of the Certification Association "Russian Register" in Russia), for his team exemplary contribution in hosting the APQN 2024 event. This honor was conferred by all APQN Board Directors.

As guests enjoyed their main course, they were treated to a vibrant lineup of performances designed to entertain and uplift spirits. The first act featured a lively dance number titled "I Will Go Out", which set a joyful tone for the evening. This was followed by a beautiful vocal piece, "Moscow Nights", that reminded the serene beauty of the Moscow countryside, captivating the audience with its melodic charm.



Finally, the evening culminated with "Pereplyas," a traditional Russian folk dance brimming with energy and excitement. The performance showcased the dynamic footwork and rhythmic beauty that characterize Russian dance traditions, leaving the audience enchanted.

As the event drew to a close, **President Galina Motova** took the stage to deliver the Vote of Thanks. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to all those who had contributed to the success of the evening, including the organizers, performers, and participants. Her words emphasized the importance of their contributions to the community, marking the end of a truly remarkable celebration.



Following the award ceremony, all recipients gathered for a group photo, capturing this memorable moment and celebrating their achievements in quality assurance. The evening was a grand celebration of excellence in quality assurance,

leadership, and collaboration within the education sector. It concluded with a Gala Dinner and cultural performances that showcased the rich heritage of the host nation, Russia. The evening concluded on a high note, filled with celebration, cultural richness, and camaraderie, leaving all attendees with cherished memories of the APQN 2024 Gala Dinner and Award Ceremony.



(Written by Olga Safonkina from Russian Register and Jianxin Zhang from APQN Board)

2024 APQN Annual General Meeting Held in St. Petersburg

On September 28, the 2024 APQN Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in St. Petersburg, Russia from 16:20 to 17:10. It was chaired by Dr. Galina Motova, APQN President. The participants included Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang (APQN Past President), Dr. Taohong Chen, Ms. Umankulova Onolkan (APQN Board Director), Dr. Timur Kanapyanov (APQN Board Director), Mr. Shi Weimin (APQN Administrator), and representatives from APQN members.



At the commencement of the 2024 AGM, Dr. Galina extended a warm welcome to all attendees. Following this, she announced the six new members, providing a brief introduction to their respective countries/territories and membership categories. APQN continues to welcome institutions dedicated to enhancing the quality of higher education and invites those interested to apply for membership by submitting an application at <https://apqn.org/apqn-members/entry/add>.

No.	New Agency	Country	Membership
1	ESOFT Metro Campus	Sri Lanka	Institutional
2	Namal University Mianwali	Pakistan	Institutional
3	The University of Modern Sciences	Pakistan	Institutional
4	University of Okara	Pakistan	Institutional
5	International Islamic University Islamabad	Pakistan	Institutional
6	Pangasinan State University	Philippines	Institutional



After that, President Dr. Galina presented the “APQN President Report for 2024”. In her report, she began by outlining APQN's current administration and status. APQN now has 196 members from 45 countries/territories, being the largest and most influential non-profit and non-government international/regional network in the region. Dr. Galina extended her appreciation to the 7th Board of Directors for their dedicated efforts and reaffirmed APQN’s mission to enhance the quality of higher education across the Asia-Pacific region through the collaborative work of quality assurance organizations. Dr. Galina then summarized APQN’s work in 2024. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN Immediate Past President, APQN released three publications in 2023: APQNews(Issue 28), APQNews(Issue 29), and 2023 Annual Report. With the support of the board directors, all the information is accurate and accessible to APQN members. She also provided an overview of the progress made by APQR and APQL. In 2023, 10 QAAs successfully underwent the APQR external review and APQR launched Database of External Quality Assurance Results in the Asia-Pacific Region. Meanwhile, APQL developed quality criteria, a PDCI and a feasible and efficient action plan for high-quality online teaching. Furthermore, 57 manuscripts were submitted and peer-reviewed with those approved for publication to be included in the AAC Anthology 2024. To honor exceptional contributions to quality assurance and a lifetime commitment to APQN, the APQN Board introduced and approved two special awards: the Honorary Life Fellow of APQN, awarded to Dr. Jianxin Zhang and Dr. Jagannath Patil, and the Honorary Board Director of APQN, awarded to Ms. Liu Pingping. In the end, APQN’s tasks/focus in 2025 were also outlined, which include: 1) active promotion of APQN and its members; 2) support and dissemination of best practices; and 3) carrying out risk management to strengthen APQN sustainability.



Following the APQN President’s report is the APQN Secretary/Treasurer report by Dr. Taohong Chen. His report consisted of two main sections: Secretariat team and Secretariat work. Dr. Chen began by introducing the Secretariat. Since 2009, APQN's Secretariat has been managed by the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) and is composed of four members: the Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Le Fang and Mr. Weimin Shi as administrators, and Ms. Cunyao Fan as the accountant. The routine work of the Secretariat spanned five areas: APQN members, board matters, events and projects, external publicity and financial affairs. In 2023, the Secretariat processed new membership applications, provided administrative and logistical support to the Board and its special committees, and contributed to various events and publications, including calls for papers, calls for host, and preparation for APQNews. It also maintained the APQN website and handled other communications. In the report, the Financial Statement was presented in an open and transparent way. In 2023, APQNs

financial situation remained balanced and stable. All the final data and statements have been audited by the professional institutions. In closing the report, Dr. Taohong Chen conveyed his sincere gratitude to all the participants and reaffirmed the Secretariat's commitment to maintaining high efficiency and quality in its future work.



Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQR Co-Chair, presented the APQR Annual Report, summarizing the accomplishments of 2023 and putting forward the work plan for 2024. To date, APQR has registered/renewed 2 QAAs to undergo the process of inclusion on APQR. They are Agency for the Assessment of the Quality of Tertiary and Vocational Education Certification Association Russian Register (RR), Russia and Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health (IAAHEH), Indonesia. Since its establishment in 2015, over 10 QAAs from around the world have been recognized and approved for inclusion in APQR. Currently, the APQR recognition for the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC), which has a validity period of five years, has expired. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, APQR introduced virtual site visits in 2020, and based on this experience, will continue to employ a blended mode (desk review + online/virtual site visit) for upcoming reviews, with approval from the APQR Council. This allows flexibility for QAAs unable to undergo on-site reviews. APQR also accepts the reviews conducted by distinguished QA organizations/networks that have collaboration with APQN. The cost would be the same as given on APQR website, except for travel & other expenses which may not occur if an on-site visit does not take place. APQR Plan of action for 2024 focuses on the following four issues: 1) Complete Renewal process for 2 QAAs which submitted EoI; 2) Follow up and encourage other QAAs due for renewal; 3) Review and update APQR process documents; 4) Reach out to APQN members to join APQR.

The representatives of APQN members unanimously approved the three reports referenced above. Additionally, AGM participants engaged in discussions regarding the attraction of new members, mutual recognition of applicants, and the denial of new entries. A consensus was reached that an official schedule and standardized process need to be refined and further developed. Enhancing the system's openness and transparency will be a key priority in APQN's future efforts.

At the conclusion of the 2024 AGM, President Dr. Galina delivered closing remarks, expressing gratitude to APQN members for their continued cooperation and support. She urged everyone to unite behind the board in working together to shape a promising future. The 2024 AGM was a highly successful conference, marking a significant step forward in APQN's ongoing development.

(Written by Weimin Shi from APQN Secretariat)

Report on the Satisfaction Survey of APQN 2024 AAC

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) successfully hosted its 2024 Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Saint Petersburg, Russia, from September 26 to 29, 2024. The event attracted numerous educators, researchers, and policymakers from around the world. Under the main theme entitled "Quality Assurance and Global Higher Education: Meeting Challenges, Embracing Innovation," the conference covered **4 sub-themes**: (1) Quality Assurance for Cross-border Higher Education: International Standards, Challenges, and Solutions; (2) Embracing Digitalization for Quality Assurance: Innovations and Future Trends; (3) Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions(HEIs): Fostering Excellence in Teaching and Learning in all Stages of Life; (4) Enhancing Internal Quality Assurance in Quality Assurance Agencies(QAAs): Innovations and Governance.

To evaluate the effectiveness and satisfaction of AAC, a comprehensive survey was conducted among the attendees. It focused on effectiveness, challenges, and opportunities for enhancement. Here is a detailed report based on the feedback collected.

I. Overview of the Survey

The APQN AAC is an annual highlight event aimed at discussing and advancing quality assurance in higher education across the Asia-Pacific region. The event was attended by a diverse range of participants, including members and observers from APQN, higher education institutions (HEIs), quality assurance agencies (QAAs), and other relevant organizations. The survey got a total of 145 views, with 32 participants initiating the process. Impressively, all 32 individuals who started the survey completed it, resulting in a completion rate of 100%. Notably, there were no dropouts after the commencement of the survey. The participants took an average of 19 minutes to complete the survey, reflecting a committed engagement with the questions posed. (see table 1)

Table 1: Basic information of the Survey

Viewed	Started	Completed	Completion Rate	Average Time to Complete Survey
145	32	32	100%	19 minutes

The participants confirmed from a variety of well-established institutions, including the Russian Register and National center for Public Accreditation (NCPA) from Russia, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) from India, the Education Quality Evaluation Agency (EQEA) from China, the Accreditation Council for Education (ACE) from Indonesia, the Agency for Quality Assurance in the Field of Education "EdNet" from Kyrgyz Republic, HKCAAVQ from Chinese Hongkong and many others. This diversity highlights the range of quality assurance practices across different systems.

II. Results for Satisfaction

The satisfaction survey asked questions on the 10 items: (1) the registration process; (2) the opening ceremony; (3) the keynote speeches; (4) the plenary sessions; (5) the parallel sessions; (6) the gala dinner; (7) the closing session; (8) the conference content; (9) the venue and facilities; (10) overall AAC. Table 1 gives the feedback from the participants. **In the context of this survey, the lower the score, the better the result.** This system likely follows a scale where 1 represents "very satisfied" and higher numbers, like 2 or 3, represent decreasing levels of satisfaction (e.g., "very satisfied," "satisfied," "neutral," "dissatisfied").



1. Registration process and opening session. The registration process received a "very satisfied" rating of 1.28, which on the survey scale indicates a smooth and well-organized experience, with most participants rating it highly. The opening ceremony also received positive feedback, with a slightly higher score of 1.3, suggesting that attendees found it engaging and well-executed.

2. Keynote speeches, Plenary and Parallel Sessions. The keynote speeches achieved a score of 1.37, indicating a solid level of appreciation from attendees, though not as high as other sessions. The plenary sessions, which had one of the best scores at 1.50, showed stronger engagement and were among the most favored elements of the event. The parallel sessions were rated at 1.36, showing that while they were valued, they were slightly less well-received than the plenary sessions.

3. Networking Opportunities. The networking and social aspects, including the Gala Dinner, were rated 1.36, indicating that participants found the opportunities for interaction and networking to be quite satisfying. The closing session was the highest-rated part of the conference at 1.54, likely due to its effective wrap-up of the event's key messages and activities. Regarding the overall conference content, 30 respondents gave it a score of 1.40, reflecting broad satisfaction with the topics and information presented.

4. Venue and Logistics. The venue and facilities received a generally positive rating of 1.33, indicating that attendees were comfortable with the arrangements and found the logistics to be well-managed. However, the city tour scored lower, with a rating of 1.89. This suggests that while the overall event organization was strong, the tour experience may not have fully met attendees' expectations and could

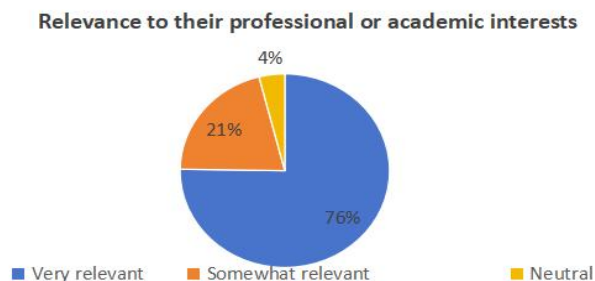
benefit from improvement.

5. Overall Satisfaction. The overall experience of AAC 2024 was rated 1.46, reflecting a generally positive reception from participants, though with some room for further improvements in certain areas. The average score across all categories was 1.44, indicating a solid level of satisfaction with the conference as a whole.

III. Key Strengths of the AAC

1. Key strengths. In reflecting on the 2024 AAC, the participants were invited to share their thoughts on what they perceived as the **key strengths** of the conference. Thus, using open-ended questions the attendees expressed their enthusiasm, highlighting the direct interactions among HEI and QAA representatives from different countries. They emphasized how these connections were invaluable, noting that, (1) the gala dinner played a significant role in fostering a welcoming atmosphere; (2) the keynote speeches delivered by Wesley Teter and Jiang He; (3) the talks as compelling and thought-provoking, offering insightful perspectives on contemporary issues in education quality that resonated deeply with the audience.

2. Relevance to their professional or academic interests. In evaluating the content of the conference, the participants were invited to provide their insights on its relevance to their professional or academic interests. The responses revealed a generally positive perception of the conference's content: 76% of the respondents replied “Very relevant”, 21% of the respondents replied “Somewhat relevant” while only 4% thought “Neutral”, and no one thought “Not very relevant”.



This data offers insights into how well the conference themes resonated with attendees' professional and academic priorities. This indicates that a significant majority of the attendees found the conference highly relevant to their fields.

VI. Areas for Improvement

However, not all feedback was uniformly positive. Some shared their neutral view: (1) some sessions were repetitive, impacting their overall engagement with the conference; (2) the disappointment regarding the organizing team’s time management; (3) the scheduling of sessions could have been better organized, which ultimately detracted from their experience; (4) the closing session felt lacking in festivity; (5) few countries were represented in 2024. It was suggested to add music or other celebratory elements could greatly enhance the overall experience. This

feedback highlights the importance of engaging attendees and making the conclusion of the event a more enjoyable celebration.

To improve future events, the participants were asked to share any challenges or issues they faced during the conference. The responses provided valuable insights into both the successes and areas that could be improved.

1. Language Barriers. Some participants suggested that providing more translation services or multilingual resources would enhance inclusivity.

2. Representation. Because few countries were represented in the 2024 AAC, it was suggested to highlight the need for increasing participation from various nations and emphasizing the importance of broader international representation within the APQN to foster inclusivity and diversity.

3. Timing of AGM. There was a suggestion to change the timing of the AGM, potentially moving it to the first day of the conference. This proposal aims to enhance the overall experience by allowing for a better integration of the AGM within the conference schedule.

3. Presentation Techniques. Suggestions included accompanying report presentations with a book of conference abstracts and using roll-ups to highlight key points. Innovative presentation techniques were recommended to improve engagement during discussions, as well as adding music or other celebratory elements to the closing session.

4. Online Engagement. Despite the use of technology, some remote participants felt that their engagement was limited compared to those physically attending. Enhancing virtual participation tools could address this issue.

5. independent QA process. Another attendee emphasized the importance of creating an independent quality assessment process to make future conferences more effective. This idea not only identifies a challenge but also suggests a way to set consistent processes at the national level, promoting quality and accountability in organizing events.

Conclusion

The APQN 2024 AAC was a resounding success, with high levels of satisfaction among the attendees. The event provided a valuable platform for discussing and advancing quality assurance in higher education, fostering international collaboration and exchange. As the organization continues to grow and evolve, it will take into consideration the feedback received to further enhance future conferences.

We look forward to the next APQN AAC, which will undoubtedly build on the success of this year's event, continuing “to dissolve the boundaries for a quality region” in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

*(Written by Olga Safonkina and Aleksandra Zvezdova from Russian Register,
Jianxin Zhang from APQN Board)*

QA Project

Release of APQN 2023 Anthology in St.Petersburg

On Sep 27th, 2024, APQN 2023 Anthology was officially released at the Open Ceremony of APQN Academic Conference (AAC) in St.Petersburg, Russia.

Dr. Timur Kanapyanov (APQN Board Director, Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee) chaired the ceremony. Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang (APQN Immediate Past President) and Prof./Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed (Chair of Bangladesh Accreditation Council representing the Organiser of 2023 AAC and AGM)) announced the official release. Five APQN Board Directors, Wesley Teter from UNESCO Bangkok, Dr Alexandra. Zvezdova from Russian Register, Dr. Christina Ng from HKCAAVQ came to stage to witness this important event.



The Anthology of APQN Academic Conference 2023 was inaugurated and published on APQN website, in September 2024, during the APQN Academic Conference 2024 in Russia. The theme of the Anthology was “Innovation and Sustainable Development in Higher Education”. American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) hosted the APQN Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting 2023, in November 2023, for the first time in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The published Anthology consists of 32 accepted papers from APQN Academic Conference 2023, held at Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Chief Editor of the Anthology was Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna, Member, Board of Trustees, AIUB, with the Editor being Prof./Dr. Farheen Hassan, SFHEA, Faculty of Business Administration, IQAC, AIUB. The Managing Editors were Mr. Ziarat H. Khan (Deputy Director, Office of Student Affairs, AIUB), Prof./Dr. A.B.M. Rahmatullah (Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, IQAC, AIUB), and Dr. Md. Saef Ullah Miah (Associate Professor, CS, FST, Program Assessor, IQAC, AIUB), with Editorial Assistance from Md. Sarowar Hossain, Abdullah Abu Saeed, Mr. Md. Imranul Haque, Mr. Pronoy Anthony Costa, and Ms. Nazia Farhana from AIUB.

The APQN Academic Conference 2023 had four reputed keynote speakers from around the world. Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Chairman of Bangladesh Accreditation Council, Bangladesh and Mr. Stéphane Lauwick, President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), Belgium, presented their keynote speech on “Digital Quality Assurance” and “Journey to Quality Enhancement”. Mr. Jan Friis, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs at Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), United States and Prof./Dr. Olgun Cicek, Board Director of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), presented their keynote sessions on the topic of “Transformative learning (TL) and Transformative teaching (TT)” and “University-Industry Linkage in the Background of Internationalization” respectively.

APQN Academic Conference 2023 marked the 20th Anniversary of APQN, and on this occasion Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang (Fifth and Sixth APQN President, General Secretary, Yunnan Association of Higher Education (YAHE) & Professor, Yunnan University, China) presented her paper “The Pursuit of Quality Assurance of Higher Education without Boundary: A Case Study of APQN’s Striving for its Ultimate Goal for 20 Years”, commemorating the event.

The published papers in the Anthology adhered to the sub-themes: (1) Quality of Transformative learning (TL) and Transformative teaching (TT); (2) Blended Education from the perspective of 4th Industrial Revolution and the COVID Pandemic; (3) Digital Quality Assurance and Journey to Quality Enhancement; (4) University-Industry Linkage in the background of internationalization; and (5) The 20th anniversary of APQN.



Anthology 2023 is the 11th publication from APQN, creating a platform for experts to contribute research, insights, and best practices on quality assurance. The anthology fosters collaboration and continuous improvement in education standards among member institutions.

(Written by Institutional Quality Assurance Cell of AIUB & Jianxin Zhang from APQN Board)

APQL Council Meeting Held in St.Petersburg

At 18:30 - 19:30 pm on Sep 26th, 2024 (Moscow standard time), the APQL Council Meeting was held at Conference Hall Turgenyev at Cort Inn St.Petersburg Hotel & Conference Center in St.Petersburg, Russia. The participants include Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang(APQL Chairperson), Dr. Jagannath Patil (Co-Chairperson, online), Dr. Galina Motova (member), Dr. Taohong Chen and Mr. Shiming Wei from APQN Secretariat. Besides, two special invitees from RR: Aleksandra Zvezdova and Olga Safonkina, as well as two special invitees from APQN Board: Dr. Timur Kanapyanov and Ms. Umankulova Onolkan, attended the meeting.



The agenda consisted of 5 items. After the warm welcome to all participants and self-introduction, the chairperson, Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang, introduced the development of APQL.

1.The project of APQN Quality Label as regional/international accreditation for internationalization of higher education (IHE) was launched in January, 2014. After a 28-month exploration, it has been finalized and is well under way in the implementation. The primary purposes: (1)To establish the criteria and standardization of quality assurance of internationalization of higher education(IHE); (2) To determine the best way to sustainably deploy IHE in the Asia-Pacific Region; (3)To promote both incoming and outgoing international mobility of students, degree, credit, programs, staff, projects and others international double flow of “going abroad” and “drawing home” at higher education institutions(HEIs) in the Asia-Pacific Region, even the whole globe; (3) To promote IHE at home concerning campus, curriculum, teaching and learning, joint programme, intercultural and international competences and learning outcomes in the local country.

2. In April, 2019, APQL Council conducted a site review to Symbiosis International University (SIU) in India, and the APQL Council agreed that SIU be

awarded the APQL for Internationalization, which is valid for a period of five years (2019-2024). This year needs to be renewed

3. In December, 2023, APQN-BAC has signed the MoU with Bangladesh Accreditation Council, Bangladesh (BACB) at 2023 APQN Academic Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

4. In December, 2023, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) has submitted the expression of interest (EOI) for APQL. Due to the unstable and chaotic situation in Bangladesh, no further action till today.

5. On March 29, 2024, APQL and Russian Register (RR) held an online meeting to explore potential collaboration opportunities. The meeting was attended by Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang (Chair of APQL Council, APQN Immediate Past President), Dr. Galina Motova (APQL Council Member, APQN President), Dr. Aleksandra Zvezdova (Head of the Department for Assessing the Quality of Education, RR), and Dr. Olga Safonkina (Project Manager, RR). After that, the MoU has been discussed by mail twice. It has been decided that the MoU signing would be at the Close Session on September 28, 2024 at the same hotel.

Follow the introduction of the APQL development, Aleksandra Zvezdova and Olga Safonkina presented their report entitled “Roadmap for Russian Register: APQL Implementation”. It is a detailed plan for RR to implement APQL standards. This roadmap covers initial setup, coordination, pilot programs, and expansion phases. The presentation consists of 4 phases: Phase 1 is initial setup and strategic planning; Phase 2 is coordination and pre-labeling process; Phase 3 is pilot program on internationalization labeling; and Phase 4 is implementation and expansion. No doubt, during all the phases, innovation is a fundamental pillar, which plays a crucial role in modern quality assurance and serves as a key component in the labeling process.

Last but not the least, the participants gave their opinions and suggestions for promoting APQL: (1) the renewal of the APQL to Symbiosis International University (SIU) in India; (2) the possibility of the new label for Innovation, industry cooperation; SDGs, hybrid education and others; (3) the online and site workshop, seminar, round table and discussion to make APQL known to the HEIs and programs (both site and online); and (4) the possibility of developing the criteria for cross-nation double degree programme.



The participants were full of hope that in 2025 the APQL review would be conducted in Russia or other countries. At 19:30, the meeting ended with satisfaction.

(Written by Jianxin Zhang, the APQL Chairperson)

APQR Council Meeting Held in St. Petersburg

At 17:30 - 18:30 pm on Sep 26th, 2024 (Moscow standard time), the APQR Council Meeting was held at Conference Hall Turgenev at Cort Inn St.Petersburg Hotel & Conference Center, Russia. The Participants include Dr. Jagannath Patil (APQR Chairperson, online), Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang(Co-Chairperson), Dr. Galina Motova (member) Mr.N.B. Raika (member, online), Dr. Taohong Chen and Mr. Shiming Wei from APQN Secretariat. Besides, two special invitees from APQN Board: Dr. Timur Kanapyanov and Ms. Umankulova Onolkan, attended the meeting.



The agenda consisted of the following: (1) welcome and report on APQR-2024 and plan of action for 2025; (2) Suggestions on Development of APQR from the participants; (3) Way forward and close of meeting.

First of all, Dr. Jagannath Patil (APQR Chairperson) introduced the APQR Review of Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs):

In 2024, APQR has registered/renewed 2 QAAs to undergo the process of inclusion on APQR. They are: (1) Agency for the Assessment of the Quality of Tertiary and Vocational Education” Certification Association “Russian Register (RR), Russia; (2) Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health (IAAHEH) based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In 2024, APQR has received Expression of Interest (EOI) of 2 QAAs to undergo the renewal process of inclusion on APQR. They are; (1) Eurasian center for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQA), the Republic of Kazakhstan; (2) Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA),

Mongolia.

Reminder for QAAs for Renewal of APQR. As of now over 10 QAAs of across the world have been recognized and approved for inclusion on APQR since its establishment in 2015. At present, following 1 QAA, APQR recognition with validity period of 5 years has been expired. This QAA need to undergo for the renewal of APQR inclusion. It is Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) based in Suva, Fiji.

Out of 10 QAAs, 3 QAAs has been renewed: (1) National center for Public Accreditation (NCPA) , Russia; (2) Certification Association Russian Register (RR), Russia; & (3) IAAHEH, Indonesia .

Promotion of desk review as well as virtual review. Due to the pandemic, APQR decided to permit virtual site visits since 2020. Based on experience we will continue the blended mode(desk review + online (virtual) site visit) in upcoming reviews with the approval of APQR Council, in case QAAs unable to undergo for APQR onsite review process.

Acceptance of other Reviews for Inclusion onto APQR: APQR also accepts the reviews conducted by distinguished QA organizations/networks that have collaboration with APQN. The cost would be the same as given on APQR website (www.apqr.com), except for travel & other expenses which may not occur if an on-site visit does not take place.

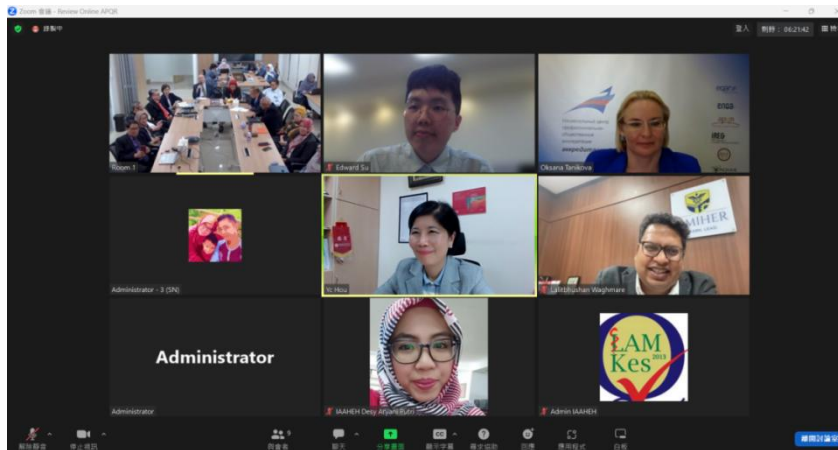
APQR Plan of action for 2025: (1) Complete Renewal process for 2 QAAs which submitted Eol; (2) Follow up & encourage other QAAs due for renewal; (3) Review & update APQR process documents; and (4) Reach out to APQN members to join APQR.

It was a great experience of learning and sharing with APQN quality assurance family. APQR hope to continue the legacy of APQN as the torch bearer of higher education quality assurance networking in Asia-Pacific. The meeting ended with satisfaction.

(Written by Jagannath Patil and Jianxin Zhang from APQR Council)

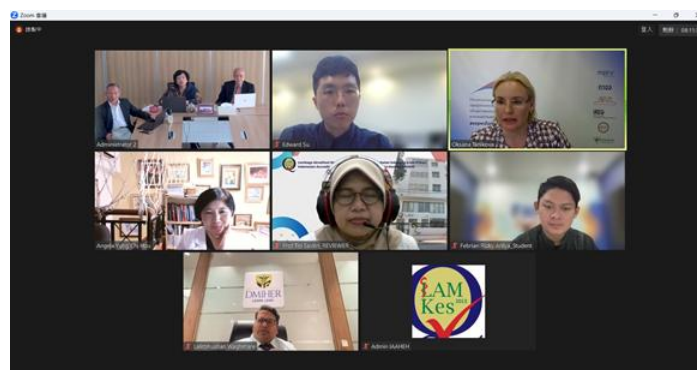
IAAHEH has been Approved for Renewal of inclusion on APQR

The second external review of Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health, Indonesia (IAAHEH) had been successfully carried out online from 23rd to 24th April, 2024.



Online review for IAAHEH with APQR review panel

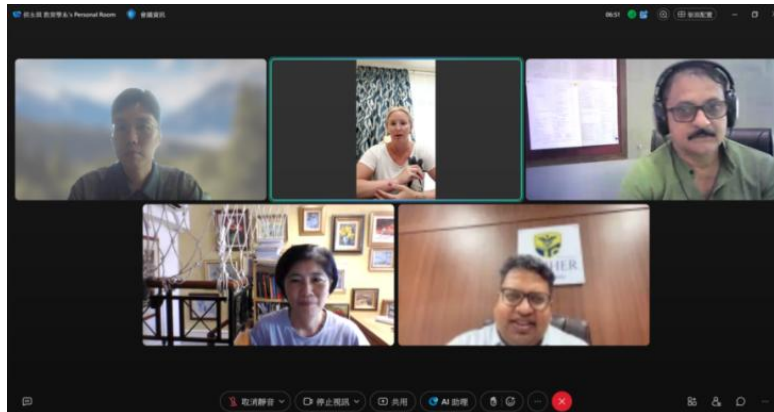
The whole review process was conducted by an independent review panel, including Prof. Angela Yung Chi Hou (former APQN vice president; Department of Education, National Chengchi University, Taiwan) as panel chair, Dr. Oksana Tanikova (Deputy Head of the Accreditation Office of the National Center for Public Accreditation, Russia) and Prof. Lalitbushan Waghmare (Vice Chancellor, Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education and Research, Maharashtra, India).



Online review with IAAHEH reviewers and student representative

During the two-day virtual onsite visit, more than 32 representatives from the government, the agency, universities, reviewers and employers in the 7 interview sections were interviewed by the review panel in order to verify the documents and evidence provided. From the evidence gathered by the Review Panel, the IAAHEH has been successfully re-recognized as an APQR aligned agency aligned with APQR criteria.

The review process was facilitated by Dr Jagannath Patil, Chairperson of APQR and Director of APQN.



Internal discussion by review panel with Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQR Chairperson

APQN congratulates IAAHEH on its successful renewal on APQR for second cycle valid from August 2024 to August 2029.

(Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health, Indonesia)

QA Activity

NIAD-QE held University Quality Assurance Forum 2024

The NIAD-QE University Quality Assurance Forum 2024 entitled “A Tectonic Shift in Quality Assurance of Higher Education: What can we learn from the latest UK experience?” was held on October 9, 2024. The forum invited Ms. Vicki Stott, Chief Executive of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), the United Kingdom, and over 370 participants joined online and in-person from across Japan and abroad.



The program was chaired by Prof. MORI Rie from Research Department of NIAD-QE. The forum began with the opening address by HATTORI Yasunao, Ph.D., President of NIAD-QE.

Ms. Stott introduced with an overview of QAA, an independent, not-for-profit quality assurance agency established in 1997, with members of 275 higher education institutions in the UK. The model of quality assurance in higher education in the UK is different in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and QAA’s scope of service varies according to the needs of each nation’s sector. She noted that in recent years there has been an increased alignment in the overall direction of quality assurance and regulation across the UK’s devolved nations: Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, while the quality assurance landscape in England has been moving towards a slight different direction. She then introduced the quality assurance systems in each of the nations to explain further.

England in particular, Ms. Stott referred to its change of direction in the role of QAA after the withdrawal from the Register of English higher education

providers, in which QAA had been acting as a cooperator in part of the assessment process. She emphasized that while the registration scheme focuses solely on the regulatory baseline, the withdrawal allows QAA to be more agile and responsive to the changing environment of higher education by providing advice, guidance, and good practices to its member institutions to help them achieve higher education quality above those baselines. She also introduced that QAA provides relevant resources relating to artificial intelligence (AI) in an agile manner, responding to the rise of AI in higher education.

In the latter half of the program, Prof. TODAYAMA Kazuhisa, Dean of Research Department of NIAD-QE, moderated the Q&A and discussion session. Many questions were asked by the audience such as the involvement of students in QAA's quality assurance activities, the status of appointments to reviewers from industry and other countries, and how good practices are identified in the review process. For the question of how far the use of AI in education has progressed in the UK, Ms. Stott pointed out, with her answer, QAA's views on the role of how AI should play and the need for guidelines to ensure its proper use. Audience also showed high interest in the Office for Students (OfS) which is the responsible body of the Register of English higher education providers. Ms. Stott explained the role of the OfS with a comparison with QAA. The discussion led to wider topics of the guarantee of university autonomy and the significance of universities to undergo evaluation, and the speakers and audience exchanged their perspectives enthusiastically until the very end of the session.



The forum ended successfully with the closing remarks by Prof. Dr. MITSUISHI Mamoru, Vice-President of NIAD-QE.

For presentation materials and recordings, please visit:
<https://www.niad.ac.jp/english/news/en2024/entry-5443.html>

(Written by NIAD-QE, Japan)

Focus Group Discussion on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in QAAs

On Dec.6, 2024, Focus Group Discussion(FGD) on “the Use of Artificial Intelligence(AI) in Accreditation and Quality Assurance Organizations” was held online, chaired by Prof. Nadia Badrawi, President of ANQAHE, together with 2 moderators: Prof. Tariq Sindi and Prof. Yasser El-Wazir. In this Zoom meeting, the participants from 8 quality assurance agencies(QAAs) from APQN participated. They are: Prof./Dr. Galina Motova from NCPA, Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang from CEEI, Dr. Jagannath Patil from NAAC, Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika from QAAD, Mrs. Umankulova Onolkan from EdNet, Dr. Timur Kanapyanov from IAAR, Dr. Christina NG from HKCAAVQ and Weiming Shi from SEEI.



The FGD meeting schedule includes an introduction to the project objectives, design, and expected impact, an overview of the main findings of the AI survey done in collaboration between APQN and ANQAHE, in which 23 APQN agencies participated, presents the results of the AI survey on 49 QAAs, and questions to the focus group participants.

The objectives of the focus group meeting were: (1) to explore how the QAAs in Higher Education implement AI in the quality assurance and accreditation process; and (2) to explain the hurdles of AI adoption for accreditation tasks.

The Project design is the explanatory sequential design:(1) the first phase (completed): quantitative data was collected and analyzed ; (2)the second phase: qualitative data is collected and analyzed based on the quantitative results. The qualitative data is used to explain the quantitative data.

The outcomes of this FGD meeting can be resumed as the following: (1) how some of the QAAs use AI for tasks like report writing, data analysis, and accreditation, and exploring potential applications for further growth; (2) to identify the challenges in AI implementation.

In the conclusion, the participants emphasized the importance of collaboration between the APQN and ANQAHE networks, other international groups, and the various QAAs especially in disseminating good practice, developing standards for AI utilization in the processes of accreditation and QA, using AI in the data analysis, assessments, performance evaluation, and encourage the QAAs to adopt uses of AI by organizing training courses for professional development to all QAAs, create a collaborative platform for AI tools, organize a pilot program to refine accreditation processes utilizing AI, encourage research, and finally be aware of the AI bias and ethical consideration in using AI.

(Written by Prof. Nadia Badrawi, President of ANQAHE)

NCPA's International School for QA experts 2024 in Kyrgyzstan

The International School of Experts was held on 2-6 October, 2024 in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, hospitably hosted by the Kyrgyz National University. More than 50 representatives from Kyrgyz higher education institutions participated in the event. The National Center for Public Accreditation (NCPA, Russia) and the Independent Accreditation Agency Bilim-Standard (Kyrgyzstan), with the endorsement and support of the Guild of Experts in the Sphere of Professional Education, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Association of Universities in the Kyrgyz Republic, carefully organized and implemented the event.



At the opening of the International School of Experts, Lyra Samykbayeva, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic; Dogdurbek Chontoev, Rector of KNU; Galina Motova, Director of the National Center for Public Accreditation (NCPA) and President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN); and Eric Esentaev, Director of "Bilim-Standard," welcomed representatives of CIS universities.

The speakers emphasized the importance of educational quality as a pivotal focus in the reform and modernization of the educational system. Today, Russia, the Kyrgyz Republic, and many other countries use accreditation as a method to assess the efficacy of ongoing reform. International accreditation is known to bolster the academic reputation and image of educational institutions.

Throughout the training, a series of lectures and practical sessions were conducted to equip the participants with a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of accreditation systems in different countries, elucidating the unique characteristics and significance of the international accreditation process, detailing the methodology for successful accreditation, and the operational capabilities of an expert, as well as considerations for building a pool of experts.

The theoretical component of the school was complemented with a series of practical training sessions aimed at developing experts' practical skills and providing them with hands on experience of effective and efficient work in the composition of the external review panel, formulating informative clarifying questions, providing relevant recommendations, maintaining interviews, and offering solutions on meaningful improvements. Case study analysis gave exemplary insights into the work of an expert.



The focal point of the event was the demonstration of the advantages of international accreditation outcome databases, specifically the use of the [Database of External Quality Assurance Results in the Asia-Pacific Region \(DAQAR\)](#) to enhance educational programs in the global educational sphere.



The School of Experts elucidated the fundamental methodologies for evaluating educational quality, benefiting participants as prospective accreditation experts and enabling them to critically assess the academic programs delivered in their home institutions. Establishing quality networking, sharing best practices, learning new approaches in accreditation and integrating tools to enhance competitiveness and promote study programs were all experienced by the participants.

The International School of Experts served as a venue for acquiring practical knowledge and fostering productive collaboration among representatives of CIS higher education institutions.

(Written by Oksana Tanikova, Deputy Head of the Accreditation Department, Russia)

Three Memorandums of Understanding Signed at AAC

On Sep 28th, 2024, three Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed at the Closing Session of APQN Academic Conference (AAC) at St.Petersburg in Russia.

1. **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ).** The MoU was represented by President Galina Motova from APQN and Dr. Christina Ng from HKCAAVQ. The signing of the MoU between the two parties marks the beginning of collaboration to host the 2025 APQN Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting. During the signing, the Board Directors: Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang, Dr. Timur Kanapjanov, Dr. Onolkan Umankulova and Dr. Chen Taohong as well as GD Arkady Vladimirtsev from Russia Register, all witnessed the MoU signing



2. **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Certification Association "Russian Register" (RR) and the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN).** This MoU initiates collaborative activities in the area of labeling, aimed at promoting the quality of higher education. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a framework for cooperation between APQN and RR for the joint-Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL) in higher education. The overall objective of the joint-APQL initiative is to support, develop, improve, and enhance international standards of excellence in higher education institutions (HEIs) and programs. The joint-APQL initiative is grounded in the principles of ensuring high-quality education. Dr. Galina Motova, President of APQN, and Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang represented APQN in this MoU. Arkady Vladimirtsev, General Director of the Certification Association "Russian Register," represented RR in this MoU.

3. **Service Agreement for the Publication of APQN Anthology (2024 AAC).** This Agreement is entered into between the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), the project-implementing entity, and Russian Register, which has been appointed to publish the anthology of accepted papers from the 2024 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) in Saint Petersburg.



(Written by Olga Safonkina and Aleksandra Zvezdova from Russian Register)

The Board

2024 APQN First Board Meeting Held in St. Petersburg

The first APQN Board Meeting of 2024 was convened in St. Petersburg, Russia, chaired by Dr. Timur Kanapyanov, APQN Board Director. The meeting brought together both offline and online participants, with representatives from APQN Board, APQN Secretariat and the local host, Russian Register. Offline attendees included Dr. Galina Motova, APQN President, APQN Board Directors Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang, Ms. Umankulova Onolkan, Chen Taohong from Shanghai Educational Evaluation Institute (SEEI), Shi Weimin, APQN Administrator, and local host representatives from Russian Register, Aleksandra Zvezdova and Olga Safonkina. Online participation included Dr. Jagannath Patil and Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika. The meeting also featured special guest Dr. Christina Ng, Senior Registrar of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), who will host the 2025 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM).



Dr. Kanapyanov opened the meeting by extending his gratitude to the local hosts, Russian Register, for their hard work and dedication in organizing the 2024 AAC and AGM. He emphasized the significance of APQN's role in strengthening quality assurance across the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting the importance of collaboration and engagement in the upcoming conference. The local organizers, represented by Aleksandra Zvezdova and Olga Safonkina, provided an update on the progress of the conference preparations, confirming that all logistical arrangements were in place, and demonstrated the materials, including conference booklets, gifts, and notebooks for participants. The Board expressed their appreciation for the meticulous efforts of the local team in ensuring a smooth and successful event.

The Board then discussed the keynote presentation by Prof. Nadia Badrawi, President of ANQAHE, who, due to last-minute visa issues, was unable to attend the conference in person. It was agreed that she would deliver her address via a pre-recorded video presentation, with Dr. Kanapyanov stepping in to moderate the

plenary session in her absence. This solution was well-received by the Board, ensuring that despite her unforeseen absence, Prof. Badrawi's valuable insights would still be shared and contribute to the conference's proceedings.

One of the key topics of discussion was the work of the APQN Review Committee on new membership applications. Ms. Umankulova Onolkan, Chairperson of the Review Committee, proposed the creation of an online system to streamline the voting and discussion process among Review Committee members. This system would allow for better tracking of the applications and reasons for rejection, providing transparency and efficiency. Dr. Kanapyanov further suggested that applicants should be required to submit additional documentation, such as licenses and proof of recognition by local or international quality assurance agencies. The APQN Secretariat, represented by Mr. Chen Taohong and Mr. Shi Weimin, agreed to explore these suggestions and present a solution to the Board in due course. The Board also discussed the strategy to attract new, trustworthy members from the Asia-Pacific region, emphasizing the need for careful vetting of institutions.

The focus then shifted to preparations for the 2025 APQN AAC and AGM, which will be hosted by HKCAAVQ in Hong Kong. Dr. Christina Ng provided an update on the preparations, confirming that the dates would be finalized soon and discussing the need for predefined themes and sub-themes for the event. The Board expressed its support for the proposed plans, and it was agreed that the formal agreement between APQN and HKCAAVQ would be signed during the 2024 AAC. This agreement will ensure that the 2025 AAC aligns with APQN's mission and continues the tradition of fostering collaboration and innovation in the field of higher education quality assurance.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the APQN-HKCAAVQ Agreement, which outlines the responsibilities and expectations for hosting the 2025 AAC and AGM. The Board was keen to ensure that the themes and sub-themes of the 2025 event reflect APQN's strategic priorities and the evolving challenges in global higher education. The finalized agreement will be signed at the closing session of the 2024 AAC, marking another milestone in APQN's ongoing efforts to strengthen regional collaboration and quality assurance practices.

Dr. Timur Kanapyanov closed the meeting by thanking all participants for their contributions and reaffirming APQN's commitment to advancing quality assurance across the Asia-Pacific region. He expressed optimism about the success of the 2024 conference and the continued efforts to enhance APQN's role as a leading platform for collaboration and innovation in higher education.

(Written by Timur Kanapyanov from APQN Board)

2024 APQN Second Board Meeting Held in Russia

On September 28, 2024, the APQN held its second Board Meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, focusing on “The Sustainable Development of APQN.” Attendees included APQN Board Directors and special guests from the host of 2024 AAC & AGM. They are Prof./Dr. Galina Motova (APQN President), Prof./Dr. Jianxin Zhang (APQN Immediate Past President), Dr. Taohong Chen, Ms. Umankulova Onolkan (APQN Board Director), Dr. Timur Kanapyanov (APQN Board Director). Mr. Shi Weimin (APQN Administrator). Representatives from the host of 2024 AAC & AGM, Aleksandra Zvezdova (Head of the Department for Quality Assessment of Education of the Certification Association “Russian Register”) and special guest from 2025 AAC&AGM, Dr.Christina NG (Senior Registrar of HKCAAVQ) also participated in the meeting.



Dr. Christina provided an update on preparations for the 2025 AAC and AGM and outlined the timeline for key activities, concerning the launch of a dedicated conference website and a call for papers. She also included detailed issues regarding the organizing work on the conference, including the venue, budget and accommodation.

The meeting also addressed logistical challenges related to bank transfers. Several feasible solutions were proposed and remained to be further discussed.

Additionally, Board directors discussed improving transparency and accountability of APQN. In terms of membership applications, the need for clearer communication regarding application outcomes and a streamlined review process was emphasized. Key proposals included extending Board member terms, ensuring accountability through regular meetings, and enhancing the functionality of the APQN website. The revival of the Global Summit, previously on hold due to the pandemic, was also a topic of discussion.

The meeting marked a significant step towards enhancing APQN’s operational efficiency and transparency, with ongoing efforts to implement these initiatives in the coming months.

(Written by Weimin Shi from APQN Secretariat)

Upcoming Event

Welcome to APQN 2025 AAC and AGM in Hong Kong SAR, China

2025 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be co-hosted by the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and Hong Kong Council of Accreditations for Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) in Hong Kong SAR, China

20-23 November 2025



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

APQN and HKCAAVQ would like to extend a warm invitation to all professionals and stakeholders in the higher education and training sector to participate in this great event for in-depth exchanges on the latest development, innovations, good practices for enhancing the quality of higher education in the Asia Pacific region.



The theme of the conference is “*Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education*”

Discussions during the conference will be structured around the following sub-themes:

1. *Professional Relevance and quality of Higher Education: Collaboration and Integration with Industry*
2. *Innovation and quality in Higher Education Curriculum and Pedagogy in line with industry collaborations*
3. *Fostering quality of flexible learning pathways*
4. *Driving for excellence in Higher Education: Role of External Quality Assurance*

The Conference will provide the opportunity for all stakeholders in the education and quality assurance community to exchange, update and gain insights

into the global trends and latest innovations. The Conference theme and sub-themes offer a framework for discourse on the roles of higher education and external quality assurance amidst the changing landscape of higher education and the increasing relevance of industry collaborations. Technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence, create the challenges and opportunities on curriculum design and pedagogy, as well as quality assurance. High-quality education relies on robust internal quality assurance mechanisms in institutions. The functions of external quality assurance standards and processes are extending from gatekeeping to supporting development and enhancement. The Conference will also encompass discussions on development for flexible and innovative pathways, including quality assurance and recognition of non-traditional qualifications such as micro-credentials.

The upcoming conference in 2025 coincides with HKCAAVQ's 35th anniversary. Please join HKCAAVQ to celebrate. And together let's reflect on the developments and achievements of the quality assurance community in the Asia Pacific Region.

The Conference website will be launched on 1 April 2025. All the details will be uploaded and updated on the website.

APQN AAC and AGM 2025 in Hong Kong

Date	Key Event
20 Nov 2024	Announcement of APQN AAC & AGM 2025 with Conference Theme & sub-themes
1 Apr 2025	Launch of 2025 Conference website Call for Papers for APQN AAC 2025 Call for nominations for APQN 2025 awards Call for EOI for hosting of APQN AAC & AGM 2026
15 Jul 2025	Deadline for call for papers Deadline for call for nominations for APQN 2025 awards Deadline for EOI for hosting of APQN AAC & AGM 2026
1 Aug – 30 Sep 2025	Online Registration (Early bird)
15 Aug 2025	Notification of selected papers
1 Sep 2025	Announcement of accepted EOI for hosting APQN AAC & AGM 2025 Announcement of APQN 2025 awards
1 Oct 2025	Updated Conference programme
1 Oct – 31 Oct 2025	Online Registration (Regular)
1 Nov 2025	Collect presentation materials (ppts)
20 Nov 2025	Welcome to Hong Kong Registration (pm) APQN / APQR / APQL Meetings
21 Nov 2025	Conference Day 1
22 Nov 2025	Conference Day 2 APQN AGM
23 Nov 2025	Half-day City Tour of Hong Kong (optional)

Welcome to 2025 APQN ACC and AGM in Hong Kong SAR, China!

(Written by Christina NG from HKCAAVQ)



Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQNews (Issue 30, 2024)

Call for Contribution for the Next Issue

APQNews is a half-year periodical newsletter on updating APQN development within the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN). 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.

A great way to get involved with the APQN community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your APQN colleagues? 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: apqnsecretariat@163.com.

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