

# APQNews (Issue 29)

June 30, 2024



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### Chief Editor:

Jianxin Zhang

### Editorial Committee:

Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jianxin Zhang,  
Jagannath Patil, Nar Bahadur Raika, Umankulova  
Onolkan and Timur Kanapyanov

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 29, 2024)**

**The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)**

**Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region**

**2024**

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**Secretariat:**

**No. 202, South Shaanxi Road Shanghai  
200031, China**

**Tel: +86 2154032285**

**Email: [apqnsecretariat@163.com](mailto:apqnsecretariat@163.com)**

**Website: [www.apqn.org](http://www.apqn.org)**

**Code: 52310000575884994B**

**Chief Editor: Jianxin Zhang**

**Editorial Committee:** Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jianxin Zhang, Jagannath Patil, Nar Bahadur Raika, Barry Aw Yong, Umankulova Onolkan, and Timur Kanapyanov

**Assistant:** Xiaoying Cao

**Administrator:** Le Fang, Yinjie Xu

***Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region***

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE FOR APQNEWS (Issue 29)

**Dear APQN members, friends and colleagues,**

**Welcome to the 29<sup>th</sup> issue of APQNews (2024)!**

We are very happy to present you with the 29<sup>th</sup> issue of APQNews. In this issue, there are 13 articles in 6 columns, among which the most prominent things are worth reading.

**It is remarkable for MPU-APQN to hold the 15<sup>th</sup> Higher Education International Conference!** It brought together nearly 100 experts and scholars from various countries/territories. They explored the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and pedagogical transformations on quality assurance in higher education. It has provided a platform for the QA persons from QAAs and HEIs in quality assurance.

**It is inspiring that all kinds of QA conferences were held by APQN members:** (1) the University Quality Assurance Forum 2023 held by NIAD-QE; (2) the 17<sup>th</sup> Iran Conference on Quality Assurance in University Systems, and (3) 2024 International Conference on Education Evaluation held in Chongqing, China.

**It's worth mentioning that QA projects and activities were successfully conducted:** (1) APQL-RR virtual meeting; (2) the report of the focus group of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Survey; (3) the joint accreditation by NCPA (Russia) and EQEA (China); (4) Russian-Chinese cooperation in quality assurance for higher education...

As always, **we are happy to share wonderful news on the upcoming QA event:** 2024 AAC and AGM to be held by "Russia Register" in St. Petersburg, Russia will be held on September 26-29 (Wednesday - Sunday), 2024! The main theme is "*Quality Assurance and Global Tertiary Education: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Innovation*". We are looking forward to seeing you all at APQN 2024 ACC in St. Petersburg!

Last but not least, as chief-editor, I am greatly appreciated for your contribution! At the same time I also cordially invite you to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews (Issue 30). Please stay tuned for APQNews!

Best regards

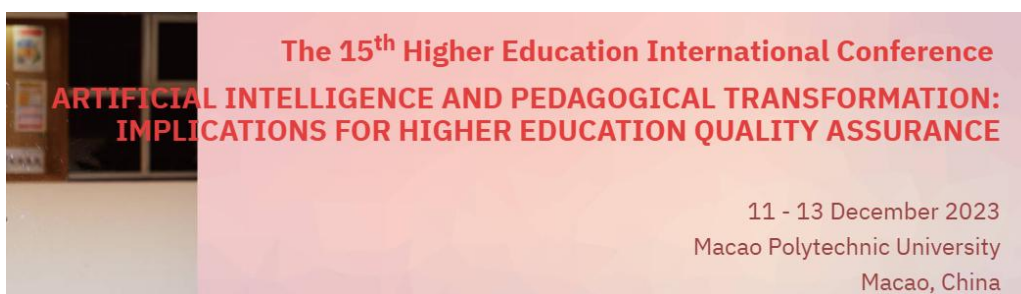
**Chief Editor of the 29<sup>th</sup> Issue of APQNews: Jianxin Zhang**

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## KEY SPEECH

### Open Speech at MPU-APQN International Conference



#### Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

It's my pleasure to present the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) at this academic international conference. APQN is 20 years old this year. And now APQN is one of the biggest networks in HE, including 186 members from 44 countries/territories.

The Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) has held this conference annually for 15 years. And for 8 years APQN and MPU have been working very closely at the conference. Thanks to MPU, the international conference has become useful, productive and attractive for quite a number of stakeholders: HEIs, QQAs and national authorities.

This year MPU holds its 15<sup>th</sup> conference devoted to “*Artificial Intelligence and Pedagogical Transformation: Implications for Higher Education Quality Assurance*”. It is a very important theme.

We are living through a very demanding time right now. Over the past few years, humanity has experienced numerous challenges and risks. Each of these challenges has a direct impact on the sphere of higher education.

For more than 2 years of the COVID pandemic, there was a lot of pressure on higher education, particularly in terms of students' practical training. Universities had little choice but to switch to online learning in almost no time at all. It was necessary to restructure the process of education, seek innovative teaching methods, and find new ways to evaluate student learning outcomes. These actions significantly accelerated the digital transformation of higher education in general. After the restrictions were lifted, e-learning became part of the educational process, and

transformed into hybrid learning.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is currently on the agenda. Digitalization has penetrated nearly all spheres of our everyday life. As a result, massive changes occurred in the labor market. We are currently witnessing the emergence and rapid involvement of AI as the new global normality. The Fourth Industrial Revolution presents an existential challenge to higher education, questioning the traditional, long-established academic system.

Given the high rate of information growth, it has become evident that knowledge transfer is no longer a key concern of educational institutions. Today almost any knowledge becomes outdated very quickly. Rather, the ability to continuously acquire new knowledge on their own has become an increasingly crucial skill to be taught. Today, the concept of lifelong learning has to be replaced with an educational journey.

The traditional idea of a university, where students gain knowledge at the same time and place, has lost its relevance. Knowledge can be gained from any source at any time, via any intermediary. Universities are evolving to meet these contemporary needs by becoming more flexible and more open. They are not INstitutions anymore. They have become EXtitutions.

These changes are not limited to educational providers alone. Students' needs and requirements are evolving as well. In addition to the individual approach and flexibility of education that students normally take for granted, they now require a quick and facilitated entry into the labor market. In order to meet this particular requirement, new forms of education and new educational environments are emerging. These are so-called ed-tech companies and platforms offering online training courses as well as bootcamps for accelerated practical training. New concepts begin dominating the language as well. Never before have we used such terms as, micro-credentials, nano-degrees, digital badges and others.

The emergence of artificial intelligence and large language models, such as ChatGPT, represent a fundamental paradigm shift in the educational sector. It seems not long ago that we were greatly concerned about the problem of bogus universities and diploma mills. Today we are facing the challenge of how to assess the skills required for effective critical thinking, teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving.

We cannot stop the evolutionary process and reject or postpone its advances. Today, shutting down the Internet seems next to impossible. All we can and should do is change with the evolving world. The same is true for HEIs: in order to survive, they must adapt to the sudden changes. No other sustainable option is available. The question is still open: how to speed up the reaction to these changes in the sphere of education without compromising its quality?

The expert community is now engaged in heated debates on how to assess micro-credentials. These mini-degrees are becoming an increasingly popular



prerequisite to entering the labor market. They are more than simply fast food for people looking for or changing jobs. This is an opportunity for talented young people to achieve their goals swiftly.

Meanwhile, this is not a complete list of problems to be tackled right now. Just think: (1) the quality of our lives entirely depends on the quality of education; (2) the safety of our lives in many aspects depends on the quality of education; (3) the future development of every country and the whole world depends on the quality of education. It means we are responsible for what the world will be like tomorrow.

Dear Colleagues, you will discuss quite a number of important issues at the conference. I urge you to engage in active discussion of the challenges and risks that we are currently facing. I wish all of you productive and successful work.

Thank you!

**7<sup>th</sup> APQN President: Prof. Dr. Galina Motova**

#### Conference Theme and Topics

The conference theme is "Artificial Intelligence and Pedagogical Transformation: Implications for Higher Education Quality Assurance". The following topics are of particular interest:

- Application of AI in Higher Education
- AI-based assessment and feedback
- Quality assurance of AI-based learning
- Personalized learning through AI
- AI and teacher professional development
- AI and curriculum innovation
- Opportunities and challenges of AI in education
- Ethical considerations of AI in education
- AI and the future of education

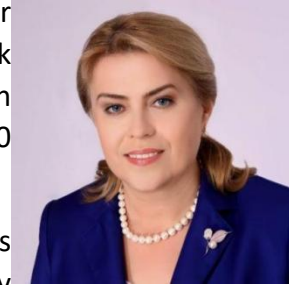
#### Asia-Pacific Quality Network

Founded in 2003, the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) is a non-governmental and non-profit network who has been striving for "Enhancing the Quality of Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region" and "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region". After 19-year development, APQN has 253 members from 45 countries and territories, becoming the largest and the most influential international organization on higher education in this Region. APQN has played a crucial and unique role in improving the QA mechanism, exchanging theory and practice experiences, promoting substantive co-operations, establishing Consultant Bank, reviewing Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR) and Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL) in this Region.

## APQN Testimonial for BAN-PT's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Dear colleagues,

APQN has always striven to enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region by strengthening the work of quality assurance organizations and extending cooperation between them through our extensive network of nearly 200 members from 44 countries/territories.



BAN-PT has been a member of APQN since 2004 and has always demonstrated a committed attitude to building a quality culture in higher education and carrying out accreditation procedures efficiently, reliably and accurately.

The cooperation and participation from our BAN-PT colleagues were far beyond membership. Prof. Dr. Kamanto Sunarto, ex-Chair of BAN-PT, was also a co-opted member of the APQN Board of Directors in 2007-2010. APQN appreciates his contribution and hard work in the position. In August 2018, BAN-PT hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> APQN Global Summit in Bali. There were 155 participants from Australia, Cambodia, China, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Indonesia. The event went incredibly smoothly, and all the participants of the Global Summit had an amazing experience in Bali due to the thorough planning and exceptional hospitality of the host.



APQN is quite proud of BAN-PT's accomplishments and wishes it to continue towards continuous improvement, exchange best practices, and extend the win-win collaborations with other APQN members.

On behalf of the entire APQN Board Directors and the Secretariat, I am delighted to be able to congratulate the National Accreditation Body for Higher Education on this notable 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! APQN will stand with BAN-PT and look forward to continuing success and future endeavors in quality assurance.

Sincere congratulations,

**Prof. Dr. Galina Motova (7<sup>th</sup> APQN President)**



## QA CONFERENCE

### MPU-APQN’s 15<sup>th</sup> HE International Conference Held

The 15<sup>th</sup> Higher Education International Conference on “*Artificial Intelligence and Pedagogical Transformation: Implications for Higher Education Quality Assurance*”, jointly organized by Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) and the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), took place at the University from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The conference brought together nearly 100 experts and scholars from various countries /territories, including Portugal, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, and Chinese Taipei. The conference has successfully provided a platform for scholars and experts in the field of quality assurance in higher education to share and exchange their knowledge and expertise in the field.



The opening ceremony of the conference took place at MPU on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> December. Prof. Im Sio Kei, Rector of MPU, said in his opening speech that with the rapid development and advancement of AI, there are both opportunities and challenges in maintaining and improving the quality of teaching and learning in higher education. By applying AI technologies, HEIs can optimize teaching methods, personalize learning experiences and assessments, and improve educational outcomes. With the ninth cooperation between MPU and APQN in the organization of the Higher Education International Conference, Macao will continue to serve as an exchange platform for scholars and experts from around the world and promote active presentations, exchanges and sharing of valuable experiences, insights and research results.

APQN President, Prof. Galina Motova, sent her congratulations and mentioned in

her online opening speech that the pandemic has significantly accelerated the digital transformation of higher education and has transformed the teaching mode to hybrid learning in a short period of time. The rapid development of AI has become a new global normality, and universities are evolving to meet these contemporary needs by becoming more flexible and open. However, higher education is faced with the challenge of how to assess students' skills in effective critical thinking, teamwork, creativity and problem-solving in micro-credentials, nano-degrees and digital badges. She looked forward to all participants engaging in active discussion on the challenges and risks facing higher education today.

The conference invited renowned experts in the field of quality assurance in higher education to deliver the keynote speeches. Prof. João António de Sampaio Rodrigues Queiroz, Executive Member of the Management Board of the Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES), Portugal, delivered his keynote speech on *"Higher Education Quality Assurance: The Strategic Goals"*. He stated that HEIs carry out their activities in accordance with their strategic objectives to ensure the fulfillment of their training, research and promotion functions and to guarantee their commitment to society. Institutional assessment should serve as an instrument for continuous improvement of the national higher education system, covering all types of educational institutions. Institutional assessment should target the quality of performance of HEIs, assessing their strategies adopted to ensure quality management of their activities and the extent to which they have fulfilled their mission.

Prof. Ir. Dr. Khairul Salleh bin Mohamed Sahari, Deputy Chief Executive QA Officer of the Malaysian Qualifications Agency, delivered his keynote speech on *"Quality Assurance of Higher Education in the Era of Generative AI"*. He explained that Generative AI (GenAI) is a powerful tool that can create original content using underlying AI models. Not only has it changed the way learning takes place, it has also changed the way we learn. Quality assurance in higher education will therefore need to address these growing threats to ensure that the intended learning outcomes for students are met and fulfilled.

Mr. Johnson Ong Chee Bee, Quality Assurance Expert of the ASEAN University Network, delivered a keynote speech on *"A Future-Ready Quality Assurance of Higher Education in the World of Artificial Intelligence and Disruptions"*. He pointed out that today's HEIs around the world are facing various disruptions, and research suggests that by 2030, up to 70% of business activities across almost all professions will be automated by GenAI. Another study found that almost half of the university students are using AI, compared to just 22% of the staff. These challenges have brought new thinking on how the operation of HEIs will be affected as well as the quality assurance ecosystem, and how HEIs can navigate, transform and engage with a wider ecosystem.

Prof. Lo Shiu Hing, Deputy Director and Acting Community College Principal of HKU SPACE, delivered his keynote speech on *"Responses of Universities to Generative*

AI". He mentioned that the emergence of GenAI has created both opportunities and challenges for universities around the world: some universities are taking a relatively liberal approach to the use of GenAI, while others have proposed ethical guidelines for its use. He presented the different responses of universities and promoted discussions through case studies, providing a direction for critical thinking for the scholars and experts at the conference.

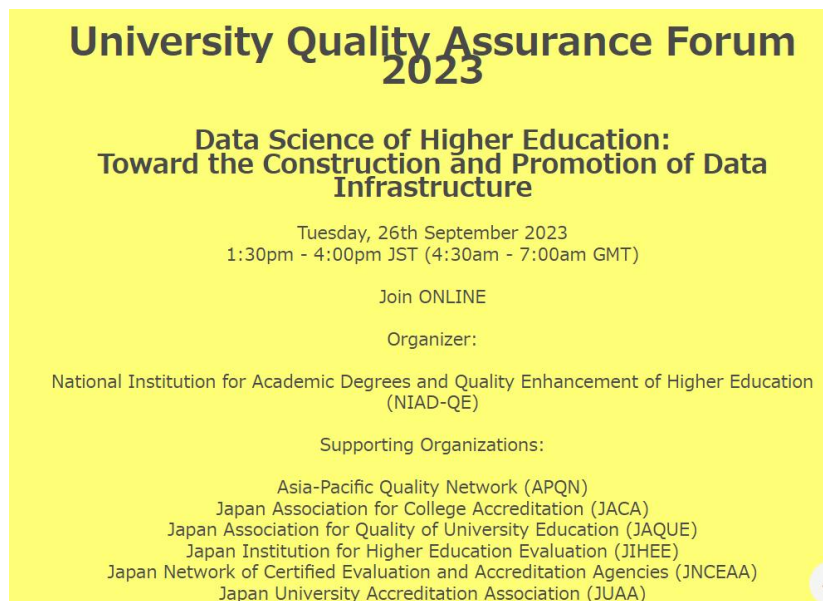
The 15<sup>th</sup> Higher Education International Conference was divided into five sessions. Experts and scholars from around the world presented their research on the implications of AI on quality assurance in higher education, and discussed various topics such as the application of AI in higher education, AI-based assessment and feedback, quality assurance of AI-based learning, personalized learning through AI, AI and teacher professional development, AI and curriculum innovation, and ethical considerations of AI in education, making a very lively event. The Teaching and Learning Centre of MPU also presented certificates for the "Award for Teaching Excellence in e-Learning" for academic year 2022/2023; the teaching members receiving awards are Ai Yifang from the Faculty of Languages and Translation, and Chung Siu Weng and Lai Mei Kei from the Faculty of Arts and Design.



*(Written by Macao Polytechnic University, China)*

## NIAD-QE held the University Quality Assurance Forum 2023

The National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) held the University Quality Assurance Forum 2023 entitled “Data Science of Higher Education: Toward the Construction and Promotion of Data Infrastructure” on September 26, 2023, and about 440 participants joined virtually from across Japan and abroad.



**University Quality Assurance Forum  
2023**

**Data Science of Higher Education:  
Toward the Construction and Promotion of Data  
Infrastructure**

Tuesday, 26th September 2023  
1:30pm - 4:00pm JST (4:30am - 7:00am GMT)

Join ONLINE

Organizer:

National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education  
(NIAD-QE)

Supporting Organizations:

Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)  
Japan Association for College Accreditation (JACA)  
Japan Association for Quality of University Education (JAQUE)  
Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation (JIHEE)  
Japan Network of Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Agencies (JNCEAA)  
Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA)

The forum began with the opening address by FUKUDA Hideki. Ph.D., President of NIAD-QE, followed by keynote speeches by Dr. Christopher A. Cody, Principal Researcher/IPEDS Project Director at American Institutes for Research (AIR), Dr. Roman Ruiz, Senior Researcher/IPEDS Deputy Project Director at AIR, and Mr. Dan Cook, Deputy Director of Data and Innovation at HESA (part of Jisc), UK. The three speakers gathered with panelists at the forum venue in Tokyo and gave presentations on data infrastructure and management each in the US and UK.

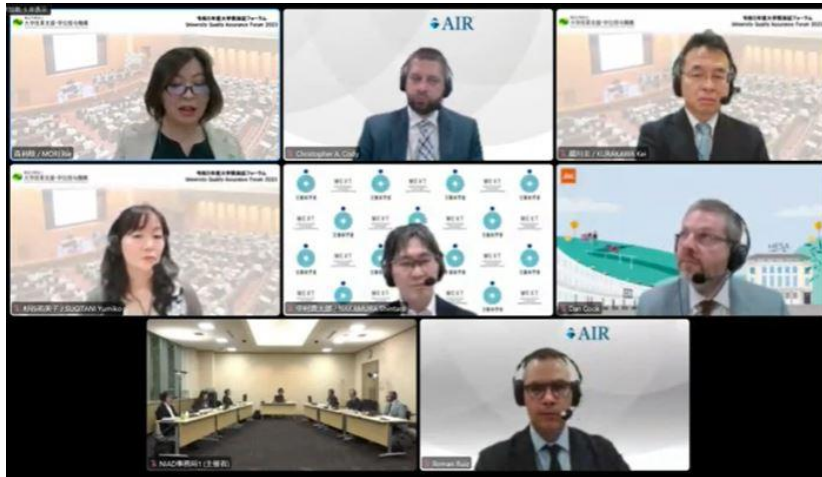
Dr. Cody and Dr. Ruiz delivered a speech to kick off the forum. They presented an overview of IPEDS from its history to its current data collection system and introduced survey components and variations in data collected by institutional characteristics - Institutions eligible for federal student aid programs are required to report to IPEDS, Keyholders and coordinators who collaborate with each other to ensure timely and accurate data collection and submission, and 3-year cyclical research and development process for data collection. IPEDS communicates with institutions by distributing weekly reminders, providing a free online community, and releasing updates through SNS to improve the information. Funding IPEDS training center - one of the key resources IPEDS funds, publishing "The Data Feedback Report" annually, and providing web-based resource pages and various data tools



designed for users with a range of experience levels and analysis needs were also introduced within what IPEDS offers to data reporters and users.

Mr. Cook presented an overview of HESA's responsibilities with an introduction of UK context and a merger between HESA and Jisc. HESA is the highly trusted main data collector supporting the governments and the higher education sector with administrative data collection about higher education across the whole UK, where each nation is governed separately, and education policy is devolved independently. Mr. Cook introduced methods and tools HESA uses to obtain data and help providers create or improve their data, and technology support by a properly-staffed help-desk that offers definitive support to submitting data. Mr. Cook pointed out at the end that HESA's main challenge for the future is reducing complexity and optimizing for efficiency while maintaining and protecting HESA's core business activities - administrative data collection, open data publication, and graduate outcomes - in an increasingly volatile cyber security environment.

Following the keynote presentations, the panelists, Mr. NAKAMURA Shintaro, Inspector at Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Prof. SUGITANI Yumiko from College of Education, Psychology and Human Studies, Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU), and Prof. KURAKAWA Kei from Research Department, also Executive Director of Center for Japanese College and University Portraits at NIAD-QE, delivered brief presentations which provided an opportunity to highlight the current status and challenges on constructing higher education information infrastructure in Japan. The panel discussion started with an introductory presentation by the moderator, Prof. MORI Rie from Research Department of NIAD-QE, and was centered on the topics of: how data is used or expected to be used in the US and UK by policymakers, institutional research, and individuals who wish to participate in higher education; how private information such as students' individual data is collected in the US and UK; and the possible concerns about negative impact of higher education institution ranking made by third-party from the publication of collected data. Questions from the audience were also shared during the discussion, and the speakers exchanged their perspectives sharing more detailed operation procedures of data quality management from each of their countries.



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

For presentation materials and recordings, please visit:  
<https://www.niad.ac.jp/english/news/en2023/entry-5089.html>

*(Written by NIAD-QE, Japan)*



## 17<sup>th</sup> Iran Conference on Quality Assurance in University Systems Held

The 17<sup>th</sup> Iran Conference on Quality Assurance in University Systems (QAUS-2024) was held at the S.B. University of Kerman, in Kerman city from 24 to 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. On the first day of the conference about 200 participants attended it. Six keynote speakers and 8 oral selected papers were presented. Furthermore 3 round-table meetings were held.



Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, the immediate past President of APQN was among the key-note online speakers. In 2018, she physically attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference on QAUS. This year, her paper was entitled “*The Pursuit of Quality Assurance of Higher Education without Boundary: A Case Study of APQN’s Striving for its Ultimate Goal for 20 Years*”. This presentation covered two aspects: (1) APQN’s 20-year historical development, and (2) APQN’s 6 signal achievements. In describing APQN historical development, she distinguished 4 stages: Initial development, Basic-construction development, Self-sufficient development and Sustainable development. She indicated APQN has played an important role in enhancing the quality of higher education in the region.



The other key-note speakers discussed the process and challenges of IQA and EQA in different disciplines in Iran’s higher education. Among these, Professor A.A. Haghdoust presented a paper on “*the process of capacity building in quality*

assurance of medical education in Iran". He described how the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) has recognized the National General Medical Doctorate Degree Council (NGMDC) of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) as an agency to evaluate general medical doctorate programs at different universities in Iran, against internationally-accepted criteria for accreditation. Recognition Status by the WFME is the quality measure that confers the understanding that the quality of medical education in accredited schools is to an appropriate and rigorous standard.



At the end, the conference statement was presented and the main issues raised at the conference were summarized. Then, it was announced that the 18<sup>th</sup> conference will be held at the Entrepreneurship Faculty of the University of Tehran in April 2025.

The National Conference on Quality Assessment of University Systems (QAUS) started in 2004. It was initiated by the University of Tehran Center for University Quality Assessment (UT-CUQA). Since then, QAUS has been held by various universities in Iran. The 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> conference was held at different Faculties and Professional Schools of the UT. The 8<sup>th</sup> conference was held at the Sharif University of Technology in Tehran. Then, every other year, it was held by universities in the provinces. Without doubt, QAUS Conferences have greatly established a platform for promoting the quality of higher education in Iran.



(Written by Abbas Bazargan from the University of Tehran)

## 2024 International Conference on Education Evaluation Held in Chongqing

On May 15-16, 2024, the "2024 International Conference on Education Evaluation" was held at the Liang Jiang Genting Grand Hotel in Chongqing, China. More than 800 participants from external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs), internal units of higher education institutions (HEIs) and teachers attended it. Among them, over 60 famous experts and scholars on education evaluation came from 15 countries. The theme is *"Education Evaluation: Current Situation, Change and New Situation"*. It was hosted by Chongqing Education Evaluation Institute (CEE), and co-hosted by the Huaxia Education Evaluation Alliance (HEEA), Chongqing Education Evaluation Center of "the Belt and Road", and Chongqing Research Association of Education Evaluation.



Researcher Liu Yanbing, Director of Chongqing Education Commission, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony. He pointed out that this conference was a concrete manifestation of Chongqing's profound understanding of the two strategies of *"an important strategic fulcrum for western development in the new era and a comprehensive hub for inland opening up"*. It is also a practical measurement to comprehensively deepen education reform and expand high-level education opening up to the outside world. He emphasized 3 aspects: (1) focusing on serving the comprehensive development of students to drive the reform of educational methods; (2) focusing on serving economic and social development to drive the reform of educational models; and (3) focusing on serving global education governance in to drive the reform of evaluation concepts.



Dr. Liu Yunsheng, Director of CEEI, released the important achievement of 2-year research - *“the Research Report on Global Education Evaluation”*. Director Liu introduced the findings and reflections of the global education evaluation research conducted by the CEEI team from three sections: (1) the world landscape of education evaluation research: the expansion of evaluation force; (2) the focus of educational evaluation research: the gathering of evaluation force; (3) the inspiration of educational evaluation research: the reflection of the evaluation force. The report presented specific good practices, beneficial experiences and practical problems in education evaluation in 20 target countries/territories, including 1 overall report and 22 national/regional reports. It showed that global education evaluation research presents an overall scenery of "global expansion and local balance". Student evaluation has shifted from focusing on "increase" to "growth", teacher evaluation has shifted from focusing on "profession" to "career", institution evaluation has shifted from focusing on "input" to "output", and evaluation systems have shifted from focusing on "regulation" to "empowerment".



In the keynote speech, Jianxin Zhang (APQN fifth and sixth president), Martin Valcke (Professor of the Department of Education Studies, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at, Ghent University, Belgium), Andreas Schleicher (Director of Education and Skills at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Chief Designer of the International Student Assessment Programme), and Wei Xiangdong, (Secretary-General of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority) delivered the keynote speeches. The speakers conducted in-depth exchanges and discussions on such topics as the theory and methods of the



development trends of international education evaluation, national experiences, and regional and education practical paths. Through multi-party interactions and diverse exchanges, they came to a consensus on world education evaluation and would work together to promote the rapid development of education evaluation in different countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the globe.



APQN Immediate past President, Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang gave the keynote speech entitled *"Pursuit of Quality Assurance of Higher Education without Boundary: a Case Study of APQN's Striving for its Ultimate Goal for 20 Years"*. Focusing on the ultimate goal, Prof. Dr. Zhang described what APQN has done on the long march of "Quality Region without Boundary" in 2 aspects: Part 1 was APQN's 20-year historical development for a Quality Region, and Part 2 was the signal achievements, namely: (1) serving the huge QA cohort without boundary; (2) cooperating with QA organizations without boundary; (3) focusing on QA themes at 19 AACs without boundary; (4) conducting over 50 QA projects without boundary; (5) implementing 14 QA actions without boundary under the COVID; and (6) publishing over 50 QA periodicals, books/tools anthologies without boundary.



Five sub-forums were held in the 5 parallel sessions, namely: (1) the reform of the quality assurance system driven by innovation in preschool education evaluation; (2) the high-quality development of vocational education driven by evaluation innovation in a digital and intelligent age; (3) the high-quality development of higher education and new quality evaluation power; (4) the innovative exploration and internationalization trend of basic education student evaluation; (5) the establishment and evaluation of university think tanks from a global perspective. More than 30 experts from 5 sub-forums shared their experiences in educational

evaluation reform and explored the implementation paths of systematic promotion of evaluation reform.

At the expert report on the second day, Kyi Shwin (Secretary General of the Myanmar National Committee for UNESCO ), Leung Ho Hon (Professor of Sociology at SUNY Oneonta, United States), Hu Fang (Deputy Director of CEEI), and Mona Abdellaal Abdelhamid Elsayed (Secretary-General of the Association and Assessment and Evaluation Science of the Union of Arab Universities) delivered 4 speeches. They provided the participants with different perspectives on the evaluation results, critical thinking, quality assurance of quality education, and effective governance of artificial intelligence, which greatly attracted the participants' attention.

This international conference is based on the successful holding of the first "International Conference on Education Evaluation (Chongqing)" in 2022. This conference put education evaluation in a broad scope of time and space, focusing on the "changes" and "unchanging" of educational evaluation. The reform of education evaluation is closely related to the direction of educational development. CEEI has made contributions to actively participating in the establishment and governance of global education evaluation and promoting the iterative upgrading of rules and technologies in education standards.

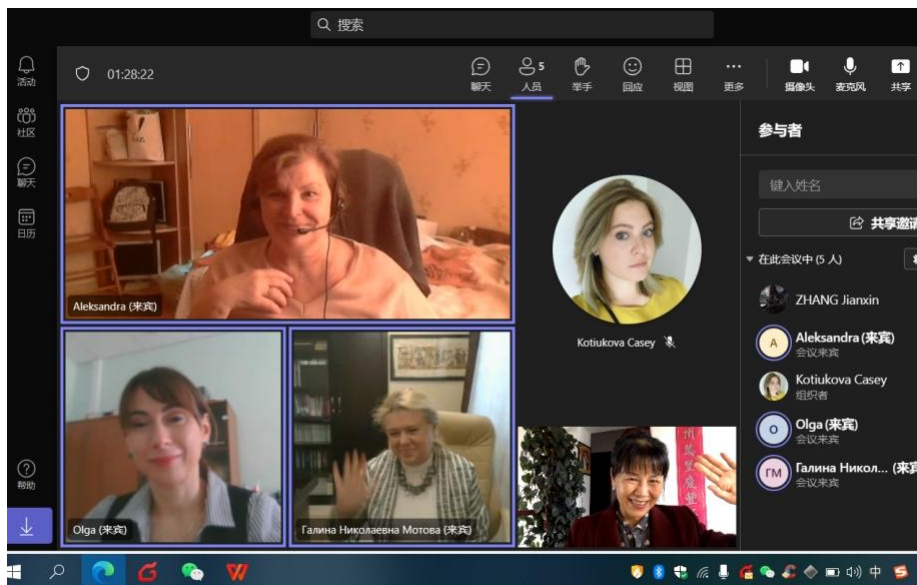
*(Written by Chongqing Education Evaluation Institute, China)*



## QA PROJECT

### APQL-RR Virtual Meeting Successfully Held

On March 29, 2024, the Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL) and Russian Register (RR) arranged 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. Alexandra Zvezdova (Head of the Department for Assessing the Quality of Education, RR), and Dr. Olga Safonkina (Project Manager, RR).



**The meeting agenda comprised three key items:** (1) APQL review; (2) APQL Internationalization pilot in Russia and the cooperation opportunities between APQL and RR; and (3) the possibility of introducing innovations into APQL.

Under Item 1, Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang and Dr. Galina Motova provided insights into the current status of APQL, highlighting its inception in 2019 and its suitability for both institutional and program accreditation. The first pilot review commenced in 2019, with the APQL Council making related decisions. The discussion emphasized APQL's three primary directions: Internationalization, Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and Online Teaching.

Item 2 focused on RR's proposal to pilot APQL in internationalization for institutional accreditation at a Russian partner university. Discussions centered around the conditions of cooperation between RR and APQL, with a call for further

dialogue to define cooperation methods and logistics.

Finally, under Item 3, RR expressed interest in integrating innovations into APQL criteria. Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang and Dr. Galina Motova stressed the importance of clearly identifying the applicable functions of HEIs for these innovations and differentiating them from ISO standards. RR committed to developing clear criteria for innovation integration, subject to consideration and decision by the APQL Council.

The success of the APQL-RR Virtual Meeting marks a significant milestone in enhancing regional educational quality and fostering international cooperation. It underscores the importance of strengthening linkages between the international and national quality assurance mechanism.

*(Written by Dr. Olga Safonkina from Russian Register, Russia)*



## Report of Focus Group of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Survey

On the afternoon of April 12, 2024, the 2<sup>nd</sup> focus group of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Survey under the theme of "Global Trends in Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities for Internal and External Quality Assurance" was conducted by Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang (facilitator, APQN Immediate past President). Angela Yung Chi Hou (Chair of the Asia-Pacific research group, Professor of National Chengchi University, Chinese Taipei), Dr. Hazman Shah Abdullah and four postgraduates also joined it.

The target participants are from six external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs) from five countries: (1) the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), Thailand; (2) Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA), Mongolia; (3) Education Quality Evaluation Agency (EQEA) of the Ministry of Education, China; (4) Chongqing Education Evaluation Institute (CEEI), China; (5) the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan; and (6) VNU Center for Education Accreditation (VNU CEA), Vietnam. The mentioned QAAs are APQN full members.



The focus group included the following sections: (1) self-introduction of participants; (2) the introduction of the background of the Global Study II by the facilitator; (3) questions & answers based on the six questions; and (4) closing remarks.

After the self-introduction from all the participants, Pro. Dr. Jianxin Zhang presented the PPT to introduce the background, the history, the purpose, and the methodology of the II Global Study. Based on the six questions, the focus group began "Questions and Answers". Below is the summary report.

### 1. The general attitude of the participants on the questions is very positive

First of all, Prof. Dr. Jianxin conducted a quick survey of the six questions on whether the EQAAs have positive reactions or not. Later on, based on the speeches of the speakers, three further questions were posed for clarification: online evaluation; student participation and challenges & reactions in COVID.

Country	Agency	Question							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Thailand	ONESQA	√	√	X	√	√	√	√	√
Mongolia	MNCEA	√	X	√	√	X	√	X	√
China	EQEA	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√
China	CEEI	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√
Pakistan	HEC	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√
Vietnam	VNU CEA,	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	√

Among the 9 questions, most are very positive, especially to the question “What are major challenges that your agency confronted during the pandemic & in the post-pandemic era? How did you agency respond to these challenges?” But as for No. 6 “Were the policies & procedures cover quality assurance of non-formal & informal education both incorporated into national qualification framework(NQF)?”, three countries have not established NQF yet.

## 2. Good practice of the EQAAs is very encouraging

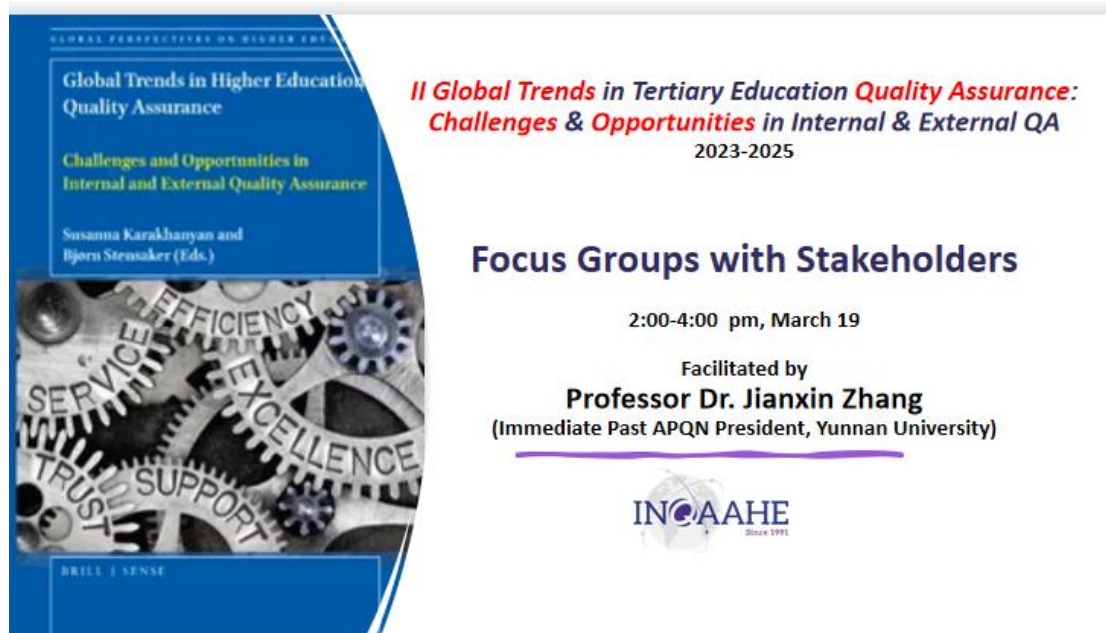
Based on the general feedback of the 9 questions mentioned above, the six EQAAs elaborated their good practice on 9 aspects from different perspectives, among which, the following three are very encouraging: Good Practice 1: New QA tools with AI technology by Education Quality Evaluation Agency (EQEA) of Ministry of Education, China. Good Practice 2: Good collaboration with government & higher education institutions (HEIs) to ensure the quality of higher education by Chongqing Education Evaluation Institute (CEEI), China. Good Practice 3: Internal and External QA system, Pakistan. The other EQAAs also introduce their good practice on student participation in evaluation by Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA), Mongolia; developing status of NQF from VNU Center for Education Accreditation (VNU CEA), Vietnam.

## 3. Challenges and Issues to be further stressed in the future

As for the challenges and opportunities of the “Global Trends in Quality Assurance in Higher Education for External Quality Assurance”, the participants gave the following points: (1) quality control of online education; (2) strategies for integrating technology; (3) enhancement of teachers' capabilities; (4) assessment of students' learning experience and outcomes; (5) continuous monitoring and

improvement mechanisms; and (6) international cooperation and standard setting.

In summary, the post-pandemic era and the age of AI require external QAAs to constantly innovate and adapt to ensure that the quality of higher education is effectively guaranteed and continuously improved.

The image displays two related items. On the left is the cover of the book 'Global Trends in Higher Education Quality Assurance: Challenges and Opportunities in Internal and External Quality Assurance', edited by Susanna Karakhanyan and Björn Stensaker. The cover features a blue background with a circular inset showing interlocking gears with words like 'EFFICIENCY', 'SERVICE', 'TRUST', 'SUPPORT', and 'EXCELLENCE'. On the right is a white event poster for 'II Global Trends in Tertiary Education Quality Assurance: Challenges & Opportunities in Internal & External QA 2023-2025'. The poster includes the title, the date and time '2:00-4:00 pm, March 19', the facilitator 'Professor Dr. Jianxin Zhang (Immediate Past APQN President, Yunnan University)', and the INCAAHE logo.

*(Written by Jianxin Zhang, Xiangmei Zhu from the APQN Research Team)*



## Joint Accreditation by NCPA (Russia) and EQEA (China)

The Asia-Pacific region represents half of the world's population characterized by a diversity of contexts, cultures, higher education systems and approaches to quality assurance. Joint accreditation is one of the ways to facilitate mutual recognition of qualifications received in different countries, enhance cooperation between them and contribute to the development of mobility programs. Study programs that undergo joint accreditation get a unique opportunity to check quality at the international level, receive recommendations from qualified foreign experts and be promoted worldwide. Moreover, the universities that have been jointly reviewed receive accreditation certificates from two countries.

The National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA, Russia) has conducted joint accreditation since 2012, however, this procedure was given a boost in 2015 when NCPA and the Education Quality Evaluation Agency of the Ministry of Education (EQEA, China) signed the Memorandum of Understanding. On November 4, 2023 the quality assurance agencies renewed the cooperation agreement at the APQN Annual Academic Conference in Bangladesh.



The signing ceremony of the MOU between NCPA and EQEA, 2023

Since 2015, NCPA and EQEA have jointly accredited 79 study programs at 11 Russian HEIs and 9 study programs at 5 Chinese HEIs.

The National Research Tomsk State University (TSU) is one of leading universities that was jointly accredited by NCPA and EQEA. TSU is the largest classical university in the Asian part of Russia, the acknowledged center of science, education and innovation. Since 2019 NCPA and EQEA jointly accredited 22 study programs of this university. Moreover, in February 2024 6 more programs of the Faculty of Geology and Geography underwent joint Russian-Chinese accreditation. The decision about accreditation of these programs will be made at the meetings of the Accreditation Boards in Russia and China.





*Joint Russian-Chinese accreditation at TSU, 2024*

The Moscow State University of Psychology and Education (MSUPE) is also one of the universities that underwent joint accreditation by NCPA and EQEA in 2022. Two study programs were successfully accredited for the period of six years. The outcomes of such accreditation were beneficial for the university, and MSUPE applied for joint accreditation of 2 more study programs of the Faculty of Education Psychology. In April 2024 a joint Russian-Chinese external review was conducted. The decision about accreditation of these programs will also be made at the meetings of the Accreditation Boards in Russia and China.



*Joint Russian-Chinese accreditation at MSUPE, 2024*

Such practice is a valuable experience for all stakeholders. HEIs get a chance to obtain independent opinions from professionals who work in the same field but in another country; to review the quality of study programs and promote them worldwide as well as to attract foreign applicants. QAAs enhance the quality of education in their countries, contribute to mutual recognition of qualifications, share best practices and promote cooperation between all parties involved in external reviews.

***(Written by Anna Ishutkina, Head of the International Relations Office, National Centre for Public Accreditation, Russia)***

## QA ACTIVITY

### CHEA Participates in APQN Academic Conference



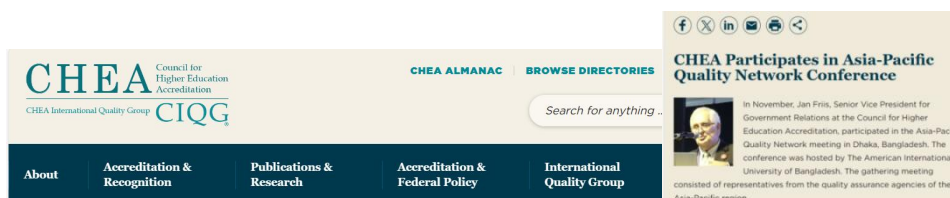
In November, Jan Friis, Senior Vice President for Government Relations at the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), participated in APQN academic conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference was hosted by the American International University of Bangladesh. The gathering meeting consisted of representatives from the quality assurance agencies of the Asia-Pacific region.

“It was exciting to see several CIQG advisory council members in attendance and participating at that meeting”, said Friis. “The dedication and commitment to higher education quality assurance by the members of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network was notable and impressive.”

Friis served as a keynote speaker at the event, delivering an address titled, *“Innovation and Sustainable Development in Higher Education.”* Friis discussed the pressing need for improved and expanding education delivery methods and educational attainment. This includes advocating for credit recognition for competency-based education, credit for prior learning, stackable micro-credentials, reverse credit transfer to obtain credentials, dual enrollment opportunities for high school students, and other higher education modalities.

During the conference, it was confirmed that the Asia-Pacific Quality Network continues to use the CIQG Quality Principles in evaluating institutions before they become members of the Asia Pacific Quality Network.

As part of the conference program, students from the American International University of Bangladesh, performed traditional folk songs from their country, accompanied by dancers from the institution who showcased traditional folk dances. This cultural representation by students added a refreshing and vibrant dimension to the conference.



Source: <https://www.chea.org/chea-participates-asia-pacific-quality-network-conference>

## Russian-Chinese Cooperation in Quality Assurance of Higher Education

In the academic community, exchanging ideas is crucial for keeping up with current developments in the field of education, updating professional qualifications and interacting with peers. International experience acts as a benchmark for defining the development strategy for countries willing to learn from and adapt international experience in their day-to-day work.



One of such meaningful events was an international conference, "Russian-Chinese cooperation in the sphere of quality assurance of higher education," which took place at Moscow State University of Psychology and Education (MSUPE) on April 23, 2024. The hybrid format of the event made it possible to bring together over 150 participants from all over Russia.



The Vice-Rector for Educational and Socio-Psychological Work of MSUPE Olesia Vikhristyuk welcomed the participants of the seminar as the host. In her greeting address, she emphasized that thorough work on establishing cooperation between Russian and Chinese universities was one of the ways to ensure joint development of the quality of education, expand facets of cooperation, and increase the standard of education. These days, combining resources and efforts in order to quickly address ever emerging contemporary challenges and taking preventive actions to lessen their detrimental effects on the social and educational domains is the primary goal for the academic community.

Viktor Alexandrovich Bolotov, PhD, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Chairman of the National Accreditation Board, also made a welcoming speech at the beginning of the seminar and wished the participants fruitful and effective work.





The keynote speakers of the seminar were Mr. Huiwu Zhang, the Deputy Director of the Education Quality Evaluation Agency of the Ministry of Education (EQEA, China), and Dr. Galina Motova, the Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA, Russia), APQN President.



Dr. Motova provided an overview of the tendencies currently occurring in the sphere of higher education worldwide as well as the system of quality assurance in Russia. Particular emphasis was placed on the recently developed Database of External Quality Assurance Results of the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (DAQAR), where the information on the accredited programs can be uploaded by the accreditation agency registered in the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR).

Mr. Zhang introduced the work of the Education Quality Evaluation Agency of the Ministry of Education, P.R. China (EQEA), gave a detailed analysis of the Chinese higher education evaluation system and emphasized the benefits and opportunities of the Chinese-Russian joint accreditation procedures. In his speech, Mr. Zhang expressed hope that there would be further opportunities to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Russia in the field of quality assurance of educational institutions, to do international projects, to strengthen international research, and to jointly improve the quality of education.



In addition to discussing international trends in evaluating the quality of higher education in both countries, the seminar participants evaluated the benefits and capacity of joint Russian-Chinese accreditation. They also had the chance to become fully immersed in the quality assurance of higher education in China and Russia. The participants appreciated the high level of the seminar and the expertise of the speakers, and they also emphasized that such events contribute to improving the quality of higher education in both countries. There will hopefully be more events like this in the future.

***(Written by Marina Kurdiymova, Manager of the International Relations Office, National Centre for Public Accreditation, Russia)***

## UPCOMING EVENT

### Welcome to APQN 2024 AAC and AGM in Russia

**Dear APQN members, dear colleagues,**

Welcome to the 2024 AAC and AGM to be held by "Russia Register" in St. Petersburg, Russia, on September 26-29 (Wednesday - Sunday), 2024!

The view to St. Petersburg from the Neva River



#### **APQN 2024 AAC and AGM: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Innovation**

The Agency for the Assessment of the Quality of Tertiary and Vocational Education (AAQTVE), a part of the Certification Association "Russian Register," is excited to extend a warm invitation to the prestigious APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in St. Petersburg, Russia. The great event will take place in September 26-29 (Wednesday - Sunday), 2024.

AAC seeks to contribute both globally and nationally to the enhancement of quality assurance in tertiary education. Internationally, the conference is designed to facilitate the exchange of best practices, insights, and experiences among practitioners, policymakers, and educators worldwide. On a national level, it empowers representatives from national quality assurance agencies (QAAs) and higher education institutions (HEIs) to gain insights into global trends and innovative solutions, refining their quality assurance frameworks for better-informed international recognition.

The theme of 2024 AAC is "*Quality Assurance and Global Tertiary Education: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Innovation*", which offers an exhilarating journey. Picture yourself immersed in an intellectual adventure that transcends borders, sparking conversations that will shape the future of global tertiary education. The event unfolds as a dynamic expedition, exploring 4 sub-themes: (1) QA for Cross-Border Higher Education: International Standards, Challenges and Solutions; (2) Embracing Digitalization for QA: Innovations and Future Trends; (3) QA

*Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region*



in Higher Education Institutions: Fostering Excellence in Teaching and Learning in All Stages of Life; and (4) Enhancing Internal Quality Assurance of QAAs: Innovations and Governance.

Additionally, the conference will encompass discussions on student-centered education, problem-based approaches, micro-credentials, and skills mismatch concerning the development of competencies for future jobs. The focus will extend to the development of new skills and expertise considering emerging challenges, such as those posed by artificial intelligence(AI).

**Dear all, please note down the following dates:**

Time	Key Event
December, 2023	Press release the announcement of APQN 2024 AAC and AGM
January 1, 2024	Call for Papers for 20244 APQN Academic Conference (AAC)
Before June 30, 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deadline of Call for Papers for 2024 Academic Conference (AAC)</li> <li>2. Call for the Host for Hosting 2025 AAC and AGM</li> <li>3. Call for Nominations for 2025 APQN Awards</li> </ol>
Before July 30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deadline for the EoI for Hosting 2025 AAC and AGM</li> <li>2. Deadline for the Applications for APQN Awards</li> </ol>
July 1-20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Online Registration is open</li> <li>2. Announcement of accepted papers</li> <li>3. Announcement of the EoI for by APQN Board</li> <li>4. Announcement of the Applications for APQN Awards by APQN Board</li> <li>5. The first draft of the Programme of 2024 AAC &amp; AGM</li> </ol>
September 26 (Thursday)	<b>Arrival in St.Petersburg, Russia for APQN 2024 AAC and AGM</b>
September 27-28 (Friday-Saturday)	<b>APQN Academic Conference(AAC) and Annual General Meeting(AGM)</b>
September 29 (Sunday)	<b>Half-day City Tour to St.Petersburg, Russia</b>

**APQN 2024 AAC Venue: CORT INN Hotel & Conference center**

The venue for the conference is planned as CORT INN Hotel & Conference center, located on the Griboyedov Canal embankment, in the historical center of St. Petersburg.



The conference venue provides an experience of allure, with each hall named after a distinguished Russian literary figure, adding a touch of cultural richness to the event. The grand "Tolstoy" hall mirrors Leo Tolstoy's literary grandeur, offering a spacious backdrop for the exchange of profound ideas. Feel the essence of Russian literature in the "Chekhov," "Gogol," and "Dostoevsky" halls, each honoring the intellectual vigor and emotional intensity of these iconic writers. These intimate settings are crafted to foster meaningful discussions, enveloping participants in the literary heritage of Russia and as you gather in these distinguished spaces, be prepared for an ambiance that sparks creativity, enlightens the mind, and sets the stage for thoughtful conversations.

Notably, the city tour is seamlessly integrated into the conference program, allowing the participants to discover the enchanting sights of St. Petersburg while enhancing the conference experience. St. Petersburg in September is an invitation to immerse yourself in the city's grandeur, history, and artistic splendor, all woven into the fabric of this exceptional conference event.

In September St. Petersburg offers a delightful blend of cultural richness and favorable weather for sightseeing. As summer transitions into autumn, the city's iconic landmarks come alive in a mild and pleasant atmosphere. The renowned Hermitage Museum, housed in the Winter Palace, beckons with its unparalleled art collection. A stroll along the historic Nevsky Prospect reveals the city's vibrant energy, adorned with elegant boutiques, cafes, and theaters.

The majestic Peter and Paul Fortress, set against the backdrop of the Neva River, invites exploration of its historical significance. The city's numerous canals and bridges, often referred to as the "Venice of the North", provide a picturesque setting for boat tours, offering unique perspectives of St. Petersburg's architectural marvels.

However, it is worth remembering that some foreign citizens intending to enter the Russian Federation are required to obtain a visa. Please, get registered for the conference in time to allow us to proceed with your visa invitation.

### Introduction of the local host: Russian Register



Formally established in 2015, the Agency for the Assessment of the Quality of Tertiary and Vocational Education (AAQTVE), a part of the "Russian Register" focusing on Quality Assurance in Education, has been actively engaged in collaborative efforts with educational organizations since the year 2000. Acknowledged both within Russia and internationally, the Agency holds a distinguished status as an independent expert and accreditation organization specializing in quality assessment. With extensive experience in collaborating with educational institutions, it has garnered wide-ranging national and international recognition. AAQTVE is committed to supporting the aspirations of educational institutions and diligently adheres to the requirements outlined in federal legislation governing the field of education.

Participation in this trans-formative experience, where global perspectives converge to navigate challenges and embrace innovation in tertiary education, is crucial for shaping the future of quality education on a global scale. The drive to organize this conference is firmly rooted in a commitment to providing a global platform for promoting dialogue, exchanging insights, and shaping the future of tertiary education worldwide – a realm where quality is not merely a measure but a philosophy.

APQN 2024 AAC and AGM go beyond the ordinary; it is a narrative intricately woven with threads of progress, collaboration, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. Join us in St. Petersburg, Russia, for an immersive experience where thought leaders, practitioners, and stakeholders come together to share insights, uncover innovative solutions, and collectively steer the future of quality education. Your presence will be a pivotal chapter in this vibrant tale of education and innovation.

**See you in St. Petersburg!**



*(Written by Olga Safonkina, International Project Manager of Russian Register,*

*Jianxin Zhang from APQN Board)*

## CONDOLENCE

### Condolence from APQN Board Directors for Dr. Prof. Vladimir

#### Navodnov



#### Sad News from Dr. Galina Motova

Dear All,

It is with deep sorrow and a void in our hearts that we at NCPA inform you of Dr. Prof. Vladimir Navodnov's passing. He unexpectedly died on December 27, 2023 after a massive stroke.

Prof. Navodnov was a person of wisdom and character, a strategic and visionary leader, and an inspiring educationalist. He motivated everyone who came across him as a professional scholar and a true enthusiast. His visionary approach, incredible sense of humour, and wisdom will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him in person.

NCPA and the whole Russian academic community extend their profound gratitude for his dedicated efforts and significant contributions to the enhancement of the quality of higher education in the country and beyond.

Please keep him in your thoughts.

#### Condolence from APQN Secretariat and all SEEI colleagues

We were deeply shocked and saddened to receive the email about Dr. Prof. Vladimir Navodnov, as he was young and healthy in our memory.

He was an old friend of our colleagues at SEEI, as he had actively participated in APQN's academic activities and his week-long study visit at SEEI in March 2013.

During that visit, he delivered several lectures and engaged in several evaluation activities. He also represented NCPA to sign a cooperation agreement with SEEI, thus leaving a significant impact on our institution. His visit brought fresh theoretical and practical experiences that have greatly benefited us. Later, Dr. Prof. Feng Hui, was also invited to NCPA for a week-long study visit. Dr. Navodnov carefully arranged and warmly hosted him.

One small detail that remains etched in our memories is from 2014. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the APQN Secretariat based at SEEI was unable to attend the APQN academic conference, but over 60 copies of the APQN annual report needed to be presented at the venue. Dr. Navodnov, upon learning of this, kindly offered his assistance. He deliberately chose to stopover in Shanghai to personally help us deliver the reports. This year in the APQN Conference in Dhaka, we expressed a pity that Prof. Dr. Vladimir Navodnov was not there, and we also inquired about his recent situation and conveyed the greetings of Prof. Dr. Feng Hui.

Dr. Navodnov was a leading expert in international education quality assurance, renowned for his elegance, enthusiasm, wit, and unwavering love for China, particularly Shanghai. It is with great regret that we, at SEEI and APQN, have lost such a visionary friend. While his physical presence among us is no more, his legacy and impact will forever be enshrined in our hearts and minds.

Dr. Prof. Vladimir Navodnov will forever be in our hearts!

### **Condolence from Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang**

It's a shock to hear the bad news!

I am grieved to hear of Dr. Prof. Vladimir Navodnov's passing away. Please accept my deepest sympathies to all of the team in NCPA and his family.

I cannot remember how many times I have met Vladimir at APQN AAC, but I can clearly remember the moment when I arrive in Moscow for 2017 AAC held by NCPA. Vladimir and Galina went to the airport to meet me and together we took metro to the conference venue. As a real gentleman, Vladimir bought the metro ticket, helped me with luggage, showed me the way... It was quite a unique experience for me in Russia.

Since I have met him at APQN AAC and AGM many times. In my mind, Vladimir is a gentleman who always ready to help and appear whenever we need take a photo or need to do something. I still remember his kind smiles, handsome figures and enthusiasm to QA.

But above all, I shall mostly miss him for his wonderful sense of responsibility and contribution for NCPA and the academy field in QA.

I again feel deeply sorrowful at the news of his passing. Please accept my sincere condolences. Wish him happiness in the heaven!



### Condolence from Dr Jagannath Patil

It is indeed sad and shocking news. Vladimir has been such a wonderful friend of mine for more than 14 years .

I could not imagine any APQN or INQAAHE event without meeting him and Galina. I still remember the 2013 Taipei conference of APQN when we started APQN Quality Awards, the first name that came to my mind as President for APQN Quality Champion Award was that of Vladimir. He was truly a champion of quality and champion of APQN.

I always envied Galina for having such a friendly, supportive and highly professional Boss. I am sure Galina and the NCPA team would carry his remarkable legacy.

Vladimir will be always remembered by the APQN and QA fraternity around the world for his contributions and friendly relations .

Vladimir's untimely demise is a loss not only to his family and NCPA but the entire APQN fraternity.

### Condolence from Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika

Though I do not remember meeting him, but I can understand the great loss for NCPA, Russia and global higher education.

Please accept my personal condolences and let us pray his soul rest in peace and take the rebirth soon.

### Condolence from Ms. Umankulova Onolkan

It is a shocking news to get to know about passing of Dr.Prof.Navodnov.

He was always the man of high moral and professional values, and indeed it is a big loss for the academic community.

Please accept my sincere condolences with this big loss of a friend, of a colleague, of a great person. Let his soul rest in peace.

### Condolence from Dr.Timur Kanapyanov

This information has shocked us all.

I had the privilege of knowing Prof. Vladimir Navodnov for many years. Throughout our acquaintance, we consistently shared meaningful conversations and met regularly, fostering a relationship akin to close friends.

I, along with the team at the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), deeply mourn the loss of an outstanding personality, a respected academic leader, and a remarkable figure in the field of education.

It's challenging to find words when such a bright mind and talented individual, who made a significant contribution to the development of education in the Russian Federation and beyond, is no longer with us. In the person of Prof. Vladimir Navodnov we lose not only an experienced leader but also a great mentor whose contributions to the country's education are difficult to overestimate.

We extend our sincere condolences to his family, close ones, colleagues, and everyone who felt the warmth and wisdom of this remarkable person. The bright memory of Mr. Navodnov will remain in our hearts as a symbol of outstanding professionalism, dedication to the cause, and a deep love for education.

Prof. Navodnov has left an indelible mark not only through his individual achievements but also through the successful collaboration between IAAR and the NCPA. Under his leadership, we actively collaborated, striving towards common goals of quality education and higher professional education standards.

His contribution to the development of education quality assurance will be remembered for a long time and will inspire us to continue working for the benefit of the educational community.

***(Written by APQN Board Directors)***



## Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

### APQNews (Issue 29, 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](mailto:apqnsecretariat@163.com).

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