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Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

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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 31, 2025)

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

2025

Editor's Message for APQNEWS (Issue 31)

Dear APQN members, colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the 31st issue of APQNews (2025)!

We are very happy to present you with the **31st** issue of APQNews. There are **6** articles in 4 columns in this issue. In this issue, we present to you the following content.

Firstly, we focus on the APQN Board Online Meeting held in April. The meeting engaged in in-depth discussions on core issues of APQN, laying a solid foundation for future sustainable development.

Secondly, we are delighted to see that APQN has released the 2024 AAC Anthology, which includes three parts: (1) QA for Cross-Border Higher Education: International Standards, Challenges, and Solutions; (2) Embracing Digitalization for QA: Innovations and Future Trends; and (3) QA in Higher Education Institutions: Fostering Excellence in Teaching and Learning in All Stages of Life. This anthology is not only a summary of the academic achievements of the past year but also a valuable reference for researchers in the relevant fields.

Thirdly, this issue brings you a preview of our most important upcoming event - APQN 2025 AAC and AGM will be held on 20-23 November 2025 in Hong Kong SAR, China, including a warm welcome message from the APQN President, as well as relevant event arrangements.

Finally, we have also issued the "Call for Expressions of Interest (EoI) to Host 2026 AAC and AGM" and "Call for Nominations for 2025 APQN Quality Awards". Meanwhile，APQN extends a warm welcome to QAAs to join the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR). These initiatives reflect the APQN's relentless pursuit of future development and quality improvement. We encourage all members to actively engage.

Please stay tuned for with next issue of APQNews and welcome contributions to it.

Best regards

Chief Editor of the 31st Issue of APQNews: Jianxin Zhang

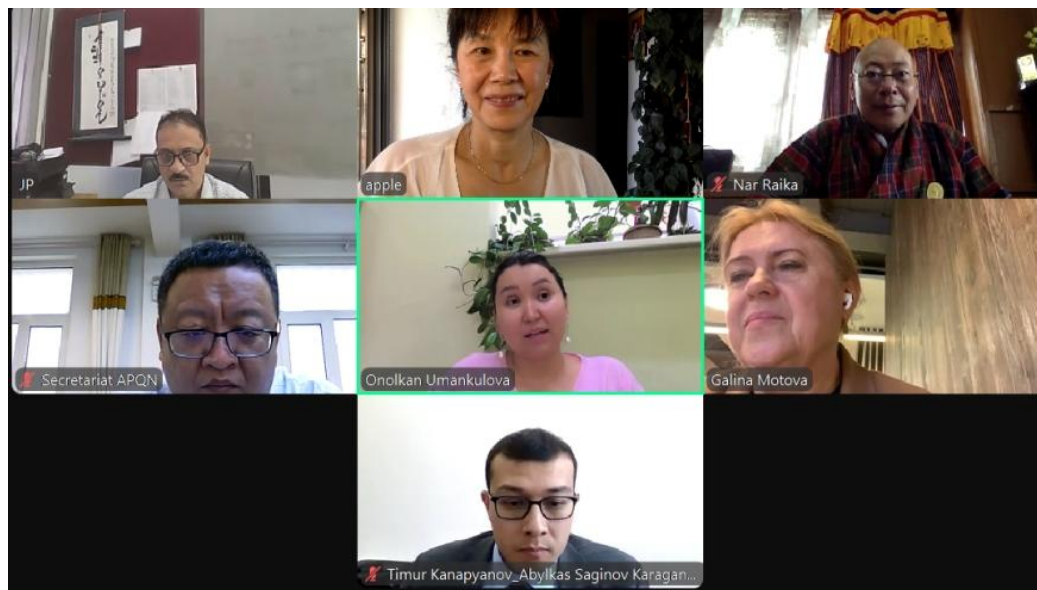# Contents

The Board

APQN Board Online Meeting Held in April

APQN Board convened online on April 8, 2025, under the leadership of President Dr. Galina Motova. The meeting brought together all Board directors to discuss strategic priorities aimed at strengthening the organization's sustainability and stability.

One major topic was the APQN Board re-election. After reviewing survey results and proposals, the Board reached a consensus on the need for a term extension to ensure stability, with the final decision to be made by the vote of the General Council at the upcoming 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Related to this consensus, Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang was appointed to lead the amendment process of APQN Constitution.

The Board also finalized the keynote speakers for the 2025 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) -- Dr. Hattori Yasunao (Japan), Mr. Lucas B. Kavlie (USA) and Dr. Vicki Stott (United Kingdom). Invitations and communication will follow after the meeting.

Furthermore, a new website tender was approved, with a preference for a Shanghai-based service provider to ensure close coordination with the Secretariat. The website is expected to serve as a transparent, multi-functional platform with enhanced features such as voting and review tools.

Updates were shared on reimbursement procedures. The Secretariat is working

closely with individual Board directors to revise relevant documentation and aims to settle all outstanding reimbursements within the year.

In terms of membership policy reforms, the Board discussed the need to improve the efficiency and transparency of membership applications, voting, and annual analyses. Efforts to identify accessible digital collaboration tools are necessary. The Board emphasized the need for enhanced website functionalities, including voting and review features.

Finally, the Board highlighted the importance of increasing visibility for APQN's recognition mechanisms, APQR and APQL, including proposals for dedicated funding and potential legal registration of APQR.
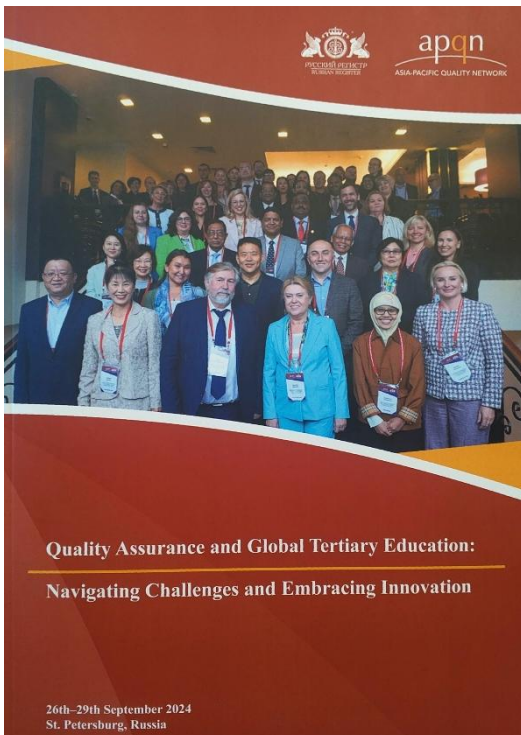
The meeting concluded with appreciation for the Board's dedication and commitment to advancing the agreed initiatives.

(Written by Weimin Shi, APQN Administrator)

QA Activity

APQN Releases 2024 AAC Anthology

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), in partnership with the Certification Association Russian Register, is proud to announce the release of an Anthology drawn from the landmark 2024 APQN Conference: *Navigating the Future of Global Tertiary Education*. Hosted jointly by APQN and the Russian Register in Saint-Petersburg, Russia from 26 to 29 September 2024, this prestigious gathering brought together quality assurance experts, institutional leaders, and policymakers from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

The Anthology brings together the conference's key discussions about quality assurance in higher education. It focuses on current problems and new solutions in the field. It comes at an important time, as universities worldwide face two major challenges: adopting digital technologies and expanding international cooperation. It provides practical, research-supported approaches to help teachers, accreditation organizations, and education officials manage these complex changes.

Selected by an editorial committee chaired by Dr. Aleksandra Zvezdova (Russian Register) and Prof. Jianxin Zhang (APQN), the anthology's contents represent the most impactful contributions from the conference's plenary sessions, expert panels, and research presentations. The volume stands as both a record of current best practices and a forward-looking guide for QA professionals preparing their institutions for the challenges of tomorrow's higher education ecosystem.

The first section, QA for Cross-Border Higher Education: International Standards, Challenges, and Solutions, explores the complexities of transnational education through multiple lenses. Dr. Liu Yunsheng's research on reshaping educational quality assurance systems provides a macro-level perspective, while Dr. Aleksandra

Zvezdova's work on the APQN Quality Label offers practical frameworks for international accreditation. Case studies are complemented by Dalkhat Ediev's analysis of demographic trends impacting global higher education.

In the second section, Embracing Digitalization for QA: Innovations and Future Trends, contributors examine technology's transformative role. Hongxu Liu with co-authors present groundbreaking research on AI-enhanced smart classroom evaluations, while N R Mohan and K R Vishnu Mahesh chart new pathways for QA in the digital age.

The third section, QA in Higher Education Institutions: Fostering Excellence in Teaching and Learning in All Stages of Life, gathers diverse institutional perspectives. Dr. Ruchi Tripathi's NAAC-accredited case studies reveal effective teaching quality frameworks, while Dr. Samanth Wickramasinghe and Dr Sunesh Hettiarachchi analyze internal QA's impact on faculty performance in Sri Lankan institutions. Additional contributions, such as Huang Rong and Liu Lei's research on senior university development and Nayer Fardow and his co-authors' work on lifelong learning QA models, create a comprehensive picture of excellence across educational stages. including Anatoly Lysyakov's examination of the joint research college of two Universities in Russia and China, demonstrate successful models of cross-border collaboration

Concluding with Enhancing Internal Quality Assurance of QAAs: Innovations and Governance, the anthology features Dr. Jianxin Zhang and co-authors' qualitative research from APQN's 20th anniversary celebrations alongside practical governance studies. Ariunbold Jaaljav and Basbayar Batmunkh outline Mongolia's national qualification framework alignment and Dr. Yudha Nurhantari's audit findings from Indonesia.

Together, these thematically organized contributions – ranging from macro-level policy analyses to institutional case studies – provide both theoretical frameworks and actionable insights for navigating quality assurance in an era of globalization and digital transformation. The anthology not only reflects on current challenges but also charts a course for future innovation in global higher education quality standards.

You can download the book from APQN website:

https://www.apqn.org/index.php/library/aac-proceedings

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

Invitation from Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR)

Dear Head of the Agency,

APQN is serving as facilitator of quality assurance agencies in Asia Pacific region for more than two decades. Since last two years, the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR) have been maintaining the Database of External Quality Assurance Results in the Asia-Pacific Region (DAQAR). DAQAR is an open database of higher education institutions and study programmes accredited by quality assurance agencies registered in the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR). Nowadays there are more than 5700 external review reports of 291 HEIs in the Database.

As a full member of APQN we extend a warm welcome to your agency to join APQR and gain all benefits of this membership: 1) the exclusive right to upload the results of accreditation procedures in DAQAR on a free-of-charge basis; 2) being registered in APQR confirms that your agency is reliable, authentic and entrusted; 3) your agency becomes visible on the international arena, thus, boosting the opportunities for international cooperation with other agencies and HEIs; 4) APQR increases competitive advantages of your agency on the national and international levels; 5) APQR registration increases confidence in the results of your quality assurance activities. It ensures that students, employers, and institutions can trust the quality of education provided by the programmes you accredit; 6) promotion of agency's activities internationally.

The eligibility criteria for APQR registration and the application process are described here: https://apqr.co/eligibility-criteria/criteria-process.

Given the fact that your agency is a full member of APQN and has considerable background in quality assurance of higher education, the site-visit for your agency in terms of APQR review can be held online (no travel and cost of stay expenses).

Please also note that if your agency has already undergone the external review by another reputable QA network (INQAAHE, EQAR, etc.), the acceptance to APQR can be carried out based on the outcomes of such review. For more details please contact apqnsecretariat@163.com

We are sure that you are committed to the quality of education and strive to be meaningful for institutions and stakeholders. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Upcoming Event

Welcome Message from the APQN President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), it is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you for the APQN Annual Academic Conference, to be held in Hong Kong SAR, China, on 20 –23 November, 2025.

This year's conference, themed "Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education", comes at a pivotal moment for both academia and industry. As the demands of the global workforce evolve so must our approaches in education, quality assurance, and institutional adaptability. Together, we can explore innovative strategies to deepen university-industry partnerships, ensuring that higher education remains relevant, resilient, and responsive to the needs of the students and employers. The relationship between higher education and industry is no longer optional - it is essential. Universities that embed industry collaboration into their quality assurance frameworks develop dynamic, future-ready learning environments.

Yet, challenges are inevitable: the rapid expansion of digital learning, boost in micro-credentials, and transformative potential and disruptions of artificial intelligence. We recognize that even the closest collaborations with industry partners cannot fully ensure the agility needed to address these rapidly evolving trends. To address future challenges, universities must clearly define their role and purpose in society.

In light of these challenges, effective quality assurance mechanisms are essential to safeguarding educational standards. Let us explore these critical issues and propose actionable solutions for the global academic and professional community.

Proudly hosted by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), this Conference will unite quality assurance experts, educational leaders, policymakers, and industry partners from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Together, we will explore innovative strategies, share insights, and shape the future of education and accreditation in the Asia-Pacific Region. Through keynote speeches, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, we will share best practices, debate emerging trends, and foster cooperation that transcends traditional boundaries.

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

Your expertise and perspectives are invaluable to this dialogue. Together, we will shape a future where higher education and industry work hand in hand to enhance quality, innovation, and societal impact.

I warmly welcome your participation and look forward to meeting you in person in Hong Kong for an inspiring and impactful event.

Warm regards,

Dr. Galina Motova
President
Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

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

You can register at the following website: https://apqn2025.hkcaavq.edu.hk/en/index/

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 developments, 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	Online Registration (Early bird)
15 Aug	Notification of selected papers
1 Sep	Announcement of accepted EoI for hosting APQN AAC & AGM 2025 Announcement of APQN 2025 awards
1 Oct	Updated Conference programme
1 Oct – 31 Oct	Online Registration (Regular)
1 Nov	Collect presentation materials (ppts)
20 Nov	Welcome to Hong Kong Registration (pm) APQN / APQR / APQL Meetings
21 Nov	Conference Day 1
22 Nov	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)

Announcement

Call for Expressions of Interest (EoI) to Host 2026 AAC and AGM

Dear APQN members,

Warmest greetings from the APQN Seventh Board and the Secretariat!

The APQN Board is seeking Expressions of Interest (EoI) from member organizations to co-host the 2026 APQN Annual Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM). We welcome EoI to host the conferences from all members (it is not the practice to hold the consecutive event in the same country).

AAC and AGM are major events of the year and good opportunities for members to update themselves on the latest trends in quality assurance and liaise with their colleagues in the region. They focus on improving quality assurance in education, academic and practical exchanges and communications, not involving any political issues of any country. The goal is "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region" and the mission is to "enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific region".

The proposed dates of AAC might be from June to December 2026. The tentative program of AAC and AGM is as follows:

Day, Time	Agenda
Day-1	
13:00	Registration
16:00-19:30	The 1st Board meeting and other Council meetings (Board Directors only)
Day-2	
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:30	Opening
10:30-12:30	Keynote Speech-1
	Plenary Sesion-1
13:30-18:00	Plenary Sesion-2
	Parallel Sessions 1-2; Workshop 1
18:00-20:00	Welcome Dinner
	APQN Quality Award Ceremony
Day-3	
09:00-12:30	Keynote Speech-2
	Plenary Sesion-3
	Parallel Session 3-4; Workshop 2
13:30-14:30	Plenary Sesion-4
14:30-15:30	Closing Session
15:30-16:30	Annual General Meeting (APQN members only)
16:30-18:00	The 2nd Board Meeting (Board Directors only)
Day-4	
08:30-13:00	City tour

The responsibilities of the local host:

- Making the following drafts and submitting to the APQN Board:

    1）the overall theme and 4 sub-topics;

    2）the budget;

    3）the proposed registration fee (no more than 300 USD).

- Handling onsite registrations. The registration fees are used by the local host, but 50 USD per international participant will be submitted to APQN to meet its overheads and processing charges. APQN Board members (no more than 10) and invited keynote speakers (no more than 3) will be registration waivers; while for local participants, the host can have its own decision.

- Being responsible for the expenditure, including the registration kit (the programmes; the booklets of participants; conference materials, etc.), 3 buffets, 4 coffee breaks, a half-day excursion including a meal (the participants could be charged a small fee as a guarantee and help the organizers to book transportation and meals), travel of the keynote speakers, complimentary gifts and certificates for chairs, speakers and presenters.

- Arranging for all the venues (including the venues of the Board meetings and other committee meetings on the sidelines of the conference) and the conference facilities (including a paper printer for Secretariat, a computer and a slide show for PPTs in each session room, Wi-Fi for AAC, 3-5 good photos from each session, etc.) upon informing the APQN Secretariat at least 7 days before AAC.

- Arranging up-dating the registrants and handling the queries on travel, accommodation and visa, providing invitation letter for visa application and facilitating the visa procedure, if needed. Setting up a website of 2026 AAC with all the necessary information for participants, if possible.

- Conducting onsite or online evaluation survey of AAC and AGM and writing a 500-word report on the result; writing the 3000-word report of the AAC with 10-20 photos to be published in APQNews.

- Publishing APQN Proceeding of the selected papers with the financial support from APQN (if the host is willing to do), whose first responsibility and rights should be APQN.

We are looking forward to getting your Expressions of Interest!

APQN Seventh Board on June 25, 2025

Call for Nominations for 2025 APQN Quality Awards

Dear APQN members,

APQN Quality Awards were initiated in 2013 which aimed to mark decennial celebrations of APQN. By 2024, 73 awards have been given to prize winners both within and outside the Asia-Pacific Region. The Awards have given positive energy for APQN's long march of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region" as well as "to enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them".

APQN Quality Award is intended to identify and distinguish extraordinary or prominent QA contributions and good practices that have potential for replication in the Asia-Pacific area. APQN Criteria and Chiba principles will be generally applied to all categories as selection criteria. Based on "APQN Procedures Manual (version 3, 2017)", APQN would encourage members which have been doing much more outstanding work individually, institutionally, nationally as well as internationally to submit applications for Quality Awards.

The 2025 APQN Quality Award categories are as follows:

1. APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA (Two categories)

Category 1: This award is open to full and intermediate APQN members. This award recognizes organizations which have engaged in successful cooperation with other organizations internationally to further cross-border education and quality assurance of international initiatives.

Category 2: This award is also open to organizations outside the APQN region. This award recognizes organizations which have engaged in successful cooperation with organizations and institutions within the Asia-Pacific region to further cross-border education and quality assurance of international initiatives.

2. APQN's Best/Model Internal QA Award

This award category is for institutional and associate members only. The members who have committed to quality assurance mechanisms and quality culture building are encouraged to apply for this award so as to make much wider circulation about their best or model IQA practices and experiences.

3. APQN Climate Champions Award

This award recognises APQN members who have made exemplary contributions in terms of green and sustainable initiatives in response to climate change. Institutional efforts for research on global warming and climate action, on campus and beyond campus, through active collaboration of

faculty, students and society will be considered for this award. This award is for institutional and associate members category.

4. *APQN's Best Model of QAA Award*

This award is for quality assurance agencies (QAAs) only that are either full or intermediate members of APQN. The QAAs who have committed to EQA new-mechanisms, such as new standards, methods, measurements to match the IT and social development, are encouraged to apply for this award so as to make much-wider circulation about their best model EQA practices and experiences.

We are looking forward to getting your nomination!

APQN Seventh Board on June 25, 2025

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQNews (Issue 31, 2025)

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.