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APQN 2014 Conference

The APQN 2014 Conference and AGM was hosted by Foreign Trade University (FTU), Vietnam in the Crown Plaza West Hanoi on March 7-8, 2014 with the overall theme of "Higher Education Quality Assurance in a Changing World: Envisioning the future of Asia Pacific". There were totally 205 participants from 32 countries/territories within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region as well as the representatives from international organizations, such as UNESCO and ECA attending the great event.

The participants for the conference were warmly welcomed by the Chair of the Local Organising Committee, Prof. Hoang Van, Chau, President of FTU, Vietnam on March 7, 2014 in Hanoi. Dr. Jagannath Patil, President of APQN from NAAC, India made an address before the opening speech by Dr Pham Xuan Thanh, General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation (GDETA), Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Vietnam.

Dr. Antony Stella, a Commissioner at the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA), the federal quality assurance agency of the United Arab Emirates, made a keynote speech on "Developmental Areas for the Asia Pacific Quality Network" while Mr. Colin Tück, the Director of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) gave a keynote on "Asia Europe Dialogue in Higher Education Quality Assurance" for the conference.

The 4 Panel Discussions respectively focused on the topics of "Challenges and Opportunities for Asia Pacific: Higher Education QA in a Changing World", "Quality Assurance across borders: different models for education/different models for Quality Assurance", "Towards QA collaboration and exchange: locally, regionally and globally" and "Outcome, Innovation and Development of Quality Assurance".

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Prof. Angela Yung-Chi Hou, et al 16 panel lists shared their research findings and academic ideas as well as their own experience or practice with the plenary participants on the relevant topics of Quality Assurance. 34 papers with different sub-themes were orally presented in the 5 Parallel Sessions.

Besides, the APQN 2014 Conference also conducted 2 workshops. One was the Workshop on APQN's Quality Information Portal, facilitated by Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQN President and Dr. Mark Frederiks, ECA Coordinator, while the other was Workshop on Asia Pacific Quality Register, facilitated by Mr. Colin Tück, EQAR. All the presentations and pictures of the Conference are available at <http://www.apqn.org/events/past/details/?id=478>.



Feedback from the Sponsored Participants for 2014 APQN Conference

It is acknowledged with much appreciation the continuous effort by APQN in providing opportunities for its members to share experiences and best practices on quality assurance and build networks with those who are bearing the flag of quality in education and training. Overall the conference was a success and the coordination by hosting institution contributed to this. The feedback provided at the conference is reiterated in this report.

-Ms. Kovi Aiolupotea, SQA, Samoa

I have participated in very useful conference in Hanoi, Vietnam. We have seen that there is no border in educational field, however they exist between countries in the world in ground. We have also seen our position in accreditation in comparison with the world. There is still a lot of work that we have to do. I'm very glad that I had a chance to participate in

such honorable conference and I want to express my gratitude to Foreign Trade University and APQN for giving me a grant.

-Ms. Altanchimeg Bat-Ulzii, MNCEA, Mongolia

Quality Assurance has been introduced to the Sri Lankan higher education system recently, and a considerable amount of study programs in the public universities have been assessed. It will be gradually expanded to cover all sectors in Sri Lanka, public as well as private. In this stage, more in depth information and deeper knowledge about systems already implemented in other countries are needed to enrich the process of expansion and building up its capacity.

-Ms. Samanthi Wickramasinghe, QAAC, Sri Lanka

Asian Value Framework for Quality Assurance
- A thought that can unite the greater Asia and Pacific
[Extract from Address by APQN President at Hanoi 7-8 March 2014]

Dear Colleagues,

Asian EQA bodies have faced huge challenge of doing balancing act between old traditions of education with certain value systems as against new forces of higher education internationalisation.



While the world is moving towards diminishing national/territorial boundaries by building regional alliances and networks, creating trade zones, economic blocks to benefit from power of unity, how is it that we are struggling to get the benefit of a great Value called Asia?

The real issue, I think is identity crisis of being Asian. The boundaries of Asia are culturally determined, as there is no clear geographical separation between it and Europe.

Given its size and diversity, the concept of Asia - a name dating back to classical antiquity - may actually have more to do with human geography than physical geography. [Wikipedia]

Today Asia suffers from fragmented identities, conflicts over geographical boundaries and veiled competition to claim the share of being partly Asian...!

What could be the uniting spirit behind our initiatives as QA fraternity in Asia-Pacific, despite huge

diversity, several sub-regional identities and geopolitical aspirations?

Is it possible to leverage the strengths of these huge continents which are destined to be together on a wider platform called greater Asia? I think, the need of hour is probably to redefine and rediscover the Asian values in the changing scenario of the world. Can we create a unifying force that will accommodate diverse sub regional aspirations and agenda as part of greater Asian dream?

As collective voice of 50 QA bodies of 40 countries, APQN can act as focal point in Asia to evolve regional strategies and agenda in wake of changing world's higher education scenario of HE and QA.

I feel that a thought like Asian Value Framework for Quality Assurance can be this unifier which I propose to present in this conference.

Let the churning on quality and values begin in this modern day conference on Quality Assurance with what Buddha has said sometime 2500 years ago.

“In the sky, there is no distinction of east and west; people create distinctions out of their own minds and then believe them to be true.”

Dr Jagannath Patil

President, Asia-Pacific Quality Network

APQN 2014 AGM

The Board proposed changes of clause No. 36 and 39 of APQN constitution in order to ensure sustenance of APQN's activities and policies. The full and intermediate members casted their ballots paper either on site or via email within 21 days. The details for the tally of the returned ballots have been compiled by the Secretariat, doubly verified by the Office Bearers, and confirmed validity of process by the independent constitutional expert. With the majority voted supported the proposal, the amendments of the Constitution has been approved by the AGM according to the tally of returned ballots. As a result, the current clause No. 36 and No. 39 will be respectively changed into ***“36. The Board of APQN consists of the President, immediate Past President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer, and four other elected members, and other members whom the Board may decide to co-opt, to a maximum of four co-opted members on the Board, provided immediate past president can have only one term ex-***



officio, if he/she has already served 3 successive elected terms on board” and “39. The Board is elected by the General Council for three-year periods. Re-election to the Board or any position on the Board is permitted for a maximum of three successive terms, provided that re-elections can be sought by any member after gap of at least one term.” This result is an indication of strong faith that APQN members have in our current policies and their desire for sustainable growth of APQN.

MoU between APQN and AKKORK

During the 2014 APQN Conference, APQN has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AKKORK, Russia. Both parties will endeavour to take necessary steps to encourage and promote co-operation of mutual interest in several areas, including the establishment of AKKORK as the APQN's Quality Hub.



APQN 2014 Quality Awards

APQN Quality Awards were initiated in 2013 to mark decennial celebrations of APQN, which was intended to identify and distinguish extraordinary or prominent QA contributions and good practices that have potential of replications in the Asia-Pacific area. As feedback to APQN Quality Awards has been very encouraging, APQN Board decided that awards would continue every year. The 2014 APQN Quality Awards had four categories, i.e. APQN's Best/Model Internal QA Award, Champions Award, International Cooperation in QA,

APQN 2014 Quality Awards (*continue*)

Category	Agency/Name
APQN's Best/Model Internal QA Award	Internal Quality Assurance unit (IQA) of the South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine (SAITM), Sri Lanka
	National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan
APQN Quality Champions Award	Prof. Colin N. Peiris, Director, QAA Council of the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.
	Dr. Jan Cameron, Director, Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities(AQA), New Zealand
	Dr Pham XuanThanh, Deputy Director General, Senior specialist, General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation (GDETA), Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam (MOET)
International cooperation in QA	Prof. ZitaMohdFahmi, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Quality Assurance) ,Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), Malaysia
	The Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA), Mongolia
Training and support of reviewers	Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association, Chinese Taipei
	Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), Hong Kong,China



❖ Training and Support of Reviewers. Among 23 nominations for 2014 APQN Quality Awards, 9 winners were finally selected by the international jury as above. Dr. Jagannath Patil expressed his sincere congratulations to all the winners and awarded them trophies and certificates with other distinguished guests at the ceremony of APQN Quality Awards. APQN also awarded special mementos to representatives of UNESCO, European Consortium of Accreditation—ECA and Government of Australia as a token of appreciation for collaboration with APQN.

APQN President Participates in INQAAHE Forum at Tallinn

Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQN President was invited as a speaker at INQAAHE forum at Tallinn, Estonia along with EASPA conference held during May 26 – 29. As a lead speaker with Dr. David Woodhouse, JP made presentation on internationalization of quality assurance agencies. He also attended a special session for networks and shared APQN's good practices with other regional networks. As a key speaker in EASPA conference prior to INQAAHE forum JP made presentation on status and future of program accreditation in Asia Pacific.

Farewell to David Woodhouse

Forum was also occasion where Dr. David Woodhouse, the Founding Secretary of APQN, was given hearty farewell by QA Community as he announced retirement from fulltime QA before moving to orchards in Australia. Dr. JP offered felicitations to David on behalf of APQN and placed on record appreciation of APQN family for the invaluable contribution made by David to APQN in particular and QA fraternity in general.



Dr. Erika Soboleva —The New Board Member of APQN

On the first Board meeting of 2014 in Hanoi, Vietnam, Dr. Erika Soboleva from Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career development

(AKKORK) has been co-opted to be the Board member. Welcome! Dr. Erika Soboleva has worked for the International office of the Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career development (AKKORK) since 2009, which is the first independent agency in Russia in the sphere of education quality review and quality assurance. Erika's research interests lies in the areas of quality evaluation and quality assurance in education, e-learning quality evaluation, quality criteria, quality assurance systems in different countries and their comparison. Erika has published several works on quality assurance in renowned Russian journal in education "Vyssheobrazovanie v Rossii" ("Higher education in Russia"), in several books of abstracts from APQN, INQAAHE 2011-2012, 3rd ISQM and Online Educa Berlin 2010 conferences. In addition, Erika holds a post of Board Member of International Networks for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).



Welcome New Members

In the first half year of 2014, 9 new members has joined APQN, including 2 Full members, 6 Institutional members and 1 Observer. In addition, Korean Council For University College Education (KCCE) from South Korea has been approved to update its membership status from Intermediate into Full member. Welcome to all of them. Congratulations!

No.	Country / Territory	Agency	APQN Status
1	Japan	Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation	Full
2	China	Beijing Education Evaluation Institute	Full
3	Pakistan	Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University	Institutional
4	Cambodia	Phnom Penh International University (PPIU), Cambodia	Institutional
5	Pakistan	University of Central Punjab	Institutional
6	China	Macao Polytechnic Institute	Institutional
7	Bangladesh	IUBAT—International University of Business Agriculture and Technology	Institutional
8	Russia	Kazan Federal University	Institutional
9	Saudi Arabia	Jazan University	Observer

APQN 2015 Conference and AGM

Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center (YHEEC), China has been approved by the APQN Board to host the APQN 2015 Conference and AGM in Kunming, China in March, 2015. The tentative theme for the Conference is: *Quality assurance in Higher Education in the Global Village: Today's Reality and Tomorrow's Ideal.*



AACCUP “APQN Hour”



The Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) values the role played by the APQN in the promotion of quality assurance in the country and the region. In the last two successive annual national conventions, AACCUP featured an, “APQN Hour” in its 3-day program.

In the said segment of 27th AACCUP **Annual** National Conference and International Forum On Outcomes-based Quality Assurance on February 11-13, 2014, Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQN President, who could not personally attend the event, articulated through a video message his full support and felicitations to the quality assurance agency. “I have been seeing that every year AACCUP conducts such kind of annual conference inviting heads and the senior faculties of universities from the Philippines and try to get some experts from Asia Pacific on various topics. So this is a great contribution I would say not only to the Philippine Quality Assurance but also to the Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific,” he mentioned in a fourteen-minute video conference. Attended by almost 600 participants from SUCs, government and private institutions, the APQN Hour in the conference made clear the benefits APQN institutional membership. “APQN has been making an effort to stress the message of quality because quality is the keyword in the higher education which is rapidly expanding and this quality movement is being spearheaded in Asia by APQN. I urge all of you to contact Dr. Manuel Corpus or the APQN administrator which is based in Shanghai to see the possibility if you can become members. Once you are an accredited university by AACCUP it is very easy for you to get the membership of APQN,” he added.

Call for Contribution & Subscription



Higher Education Evaluation and Development

(HEED) is a journal founded by Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) and is jointly owned and published with Asia-Pacific Quality

Network (APQN) from 2014. Dr. Jagannath Patil, President of APQN and Dr. Angela Yung-chi Hou, Vice President of APQN have served as the Editors-in-Chief. *HEED* is a scholarly refereed journal with an aim at encouraging research in higher education evaluation and development, raising standard of evaluation research, and sharing outcomes of evaluation and higher education worldwide. Papers in the fields of theoretical and narrative studies as well as the book reviews and shorter research notes are also considered. As stated, the journal welcomes high quality papers on topics such as Quality assurance and evaluation in higher education, research and development of higher education, and other topics related to higher education and development. The first issue of 2014 was released in July, 2014. Welcome more subscription.

More information could be available from HEED 8.1 EDM-http://www.airitipress.com/EDM/HEED-8-1-EDM_APQN.html.

TWAEA Training Programs

Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA) has hosted a series of training programs and sessions not only for evaluators, but also the institutions to introduce the new “Accreditation” system and the relationship with employability. Besides the experienced faculties to share with precious experiences, renowned experts are invited to share successful practices. Secretary-General, Peter P.T. Cheung, from Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education was invited to give talks in March, 2014 to address the implications of “Accreditation” and the introduction about the quality assurance system in HK. Questions and discussions were raised and held during the Q&A session after the talks and the doubts and concerns as the differences between evaluation and accreditation, the propriety of IQA, the assessment on the curriculum development, the dispute resulted from the students’ assessment on the faculties teaching performance and the fairness and uniformity of the evaluation standards could be clarified to reach the consensus. It’s regarded as a good start to have an international expert and more internationals will be invited to join TWAEA’s training programs and sessions in the near future.



TEQSA Update

TEQSA periodically publishes the 'TEQSA Update'. The Update is for higher education and ELICOS providers in Australia and contains information about TEQSA's regulatory framework, policies and processes, as well as upcoming events.

All TEQSA Updates are available on the TEQSA website at <http://teqsa.gov.au/news-publications>.

TEQSA invites you to review the TEQSA Update.



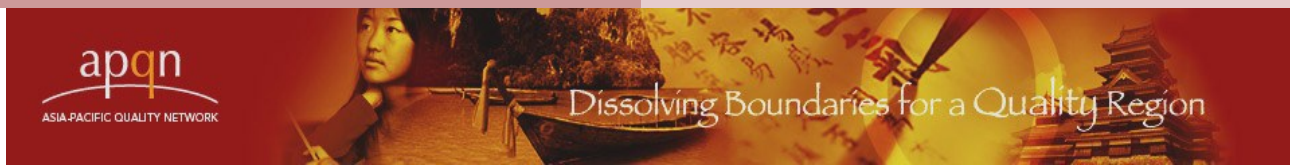
NBEAC Conference

National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC), Pakistan was established by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in 2007 with the purpose to assure quality in business education degree programs. It is a national level accrediting authority which organizes and carries out comprehensive accreditations.

The conference 'Emerging Challenges of Business Schools in Pakistan' was first of the series of four strategic level conferences, providing a platform for deans, directors and heads of business schools to interact with each other and with industry professionals, which was held on **27-28th January 2014**. The role of accreditation in improving quality was highlighted by speakers in the first session on globalization, who stressed that no businesses will be able to remain isolated from the impact of increasing competitiveness in the global arena. This was reinforced by the last session of the first day, which focused on how accreditation can and should be viewed as a developmental process. Thus a suggested path to improve quality was to get into the process of accreditation. Universities can apply accreditation frameworks of NBEAC, SAQS or any other models for self-improvement.



Participants of 1st Deans & Directors Conference



Glimpses from APQN 2014 Conference at FTU, Hanoi



A horizontal banner with a warm, golden-yellow background. It features a composite image: on the left, a woman's face; in the center, a traditional Japanese boat; and on the right, a traditional Japanese building. Faint Japanese calligraphy is visible in the background.

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQNews is an in-house publication of APQN edited by APQN President Dr. Jagannath Patil and published by APQN Secretary Prof. Li Yaogang with support of the APQN Administrator.

APQN welcomes all contributions for the next issue of APQNews. Please make contact with the APQN Secretariat or email to apqnsecretariat@163.com by 15 Oct. 2014.