

APQNews

(Issue 26)

December 30, 2022



Main Contents

1. The Board
2. AAC & AGM
3. President Report
4. QA activities
5. Up-coming event

Chief Editor:

Jianxin Zhang

Editorial Committee: Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jagannath Patil, Deepthi Bandara, Farida Nurmanbetova, Barry Aw Yong; Nar Bahadur Raika, Srinivasa Chandramouliswar Sharma, Umankulova Onolka, Timur Kanapyanov

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 26)

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

2022

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Secretariat:

No. 202, South Shaanxi Road Shanghai

200031, China

Tel: +86 2154032285

Email: apqnsecretariat@163.com

Website: www.apqn.org

Code: 52310000575884994B

Chief Editor: Jianxin Zhang

Editorial Committee: Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jagannath Patil, Deepthi Bandara, Farida Nurmanbetova, Barry Aw Yong; Nar Bahadur Raika, Srinivasa Chandramouliswar Sharma, Umankulova Onolka, Timur Kanapyanov

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 APQN Administrator at: apqnsecretariat@163.com.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE FOR APQNEWS (Issue 26)

Dear APQN members, dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the 26th issue of APQNews (2022)!

Bells are ringing, and New Year is coming. On the occasion of New Year, both APQN sixth and seventh Board Directors, are extending our festival greetings and best wishes to 268 members from 47 countries/territories, extending our sincere appreciation and deep respect to those who care and support the sustainable development of APQN!

We are very happy to present you the 26 issue of APQNews at the eve of the new year. In this issue, there are over 20 articles in 5 columns, among which the most prominent things are worth reading.

It is sustainable for APQN to successful hand-over from the sixth Board to the Seventh Board! Nar Bahadur Raika (President), Galina Motova (Vice President), Liu Pingping (Secretary/Treasurer), and Board Directors - Jianxin Zhang, Jagannath Patil, Jun Barry Aw Yong, Srinivasa Chandramouliswar Sharma, Umankulova Onolkan, and Timur Kanapyanov.

It is highly recommended President Report which vividly describes what APQN has done in the past 6 years! It presents in 10 aspects, such as APQN organization construction, human resource development and others. With the 5 spirit legacy of "Dedication, Sharing, Serving, Innovation and Sustainable Development", APQN is deemed to be greater!

It is happy ending for APQN to hold 2022 AAC and AGM in Singapore! The 4-day event saw about 120 delegates from educational QA organizations, regulatory bodies, and universities from 27 countries/territories. In total, we had 11 sessions, 5 meetings, 2 keynotes, 1 ceremony and 1 city tour.

It is good to see that many QA actions have been taken during COVID pandemic. APQN attending the QAA at 25th Anniversary Online Symposium, IAAR holding VI Central Asian International Forum, NIAD-QE holding University QA Forum 2022...

As always, we are happy to share valuable information on upcoming QA event: 2023 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be hosted by American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) on Nov. 02-04, 2023. The main theme is " *Innovation and Sustainable Development in Higher Education*". We are looking forward to seeing you all at APQN 2023 ACC in Bangladesh!

Last but not the least, as the chief-editor of 13 Issues (14-26) in the past 6 years, 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 27). Please stay tuned for APQNews!

Best regards

Chief Editor of the 26th Issue of APQNews: Jianxin Zhang

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jianxin Zhang'.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITOR'S MESSAGE FOR APQNEWS (Issue 26)	2
NEW YEAR 2023 GREETINGS	5
THE BOARD	7
Inaugural Speech of APQN seventh President	7
Introduction of the seventh Board Directors	10
The 1st APQN Board Meeting of 2022 was held in Singapore	19
The 2nd APQN Board Meeting of 2022 was held in Singapore	20
AAC & AGM	21
Initiation of APQN 2022 in mist of Covid-19 pandemic	21
Launch of APQN 2022 and Digital LMS submission for paper	21
Delegates from 27 Countries came to APQN 2022 in Singapore	22
Day 1: 24 Nov 2022	23
Day 2: 25 Nov 2022	25
Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony	27
APQN 2022 Award Ceremony	27
Day 3: 26 Nov 2022	29
Closing of APQN 2022 AAC and AGM	33
Day 4: Post-Conference Event City Tour	34
Release of the book entitled "APQN Research on the COVID Impact"	35
APQN Annual General Meeting	36
PRESIDENT REPORT	39
Prologue	39
I. APQN Organization Construction: Mission and Framework	40
II. Human resource development	41

III.Regulation and system construction	44
IV.Academic development	49
V. COVID Response Mechanism	56
VI.Construction of external quality assurance: APQR	60
VII.Construction of internal quality assurance : APQL	60
VIII. Publications	61
VIII. Increase of Financial Status	63
IX. Spirit legacy	64
Closing Words	66
QA ACTIVITIES	67
MPI-APQN jointly organized the 14 th HE International Conference	67
APQN Attending the “QAA at 25 th Anniversary” Online Symposium	69
IAAR held VI Central Asian International Forum	71
NIAD-QE held University Quality Assurance Forum 2022	74
APQN Attending the Stavanger-Lingnan Research Symposium 2022	76
ULAB Receives APQN Best internal QA Award for 2022	77
UP-COMING EVENT	79
Welcome to 2023 AAC and AGM at AIUB, Dhaka, Bangladesh	79

NEW YEAR 2023 GREETINGS



New Year 2023 Greetings

Dear Members of Asia Pacific Quality Network,

On behalf of the 7th Board of Directors, I am pleased to send Warm Greetings to all the 268 members of the Network, for the New Year 2023 – which in the Bhutanese Lunar Calendar is the Female Rabbit Year.

It was exactly a month ago that the Seventh Board of Directors took over the baton for steering and spearheading the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) from the Sixth Board of Directors in Singapore. As you are aware, the current Board consists of a good mixture of dedicated and experienced members as well who are all enthusiastic and passionate about the Network's vision and mandate. The team representing diverse experiences is all set to take the Network to greater heights in the years to come.

Dear Members of Asia Pacific Quality Network,

On behalf of the seventh Board of Directors, I am pleased to send Warm Greetings to all the 268 members of the Network, for the New Year 2023 – which in the Bhutanese Lunar Calendar is the Female Rabbit Year.

It was exactly a month ago that the Seventh Board of Directors took over the baton for steering and spearheading the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) from the Sixth Board of Directors in Singapore. As you are aware, the current Board consists of a good mixture of dedicated and experienced members as well who are all enthusiastic and passionate about the Network's vision and mandate. The team representing diverse experiences is all set to take the Network to greater heights in the years to come.

While we acknowledge and appreciate the tremendous achievements made by the past Boards of Directors, this is the time to reflect on our past and present work and consider possibilities for our future. It is a future of greater meaning and engagement that we must look forward to and prepare for. The clear vision we set for that future will be our driving force and motivation. It is truly said that the dream of the future is better than the history of the past.

We need to consider both long-term and short-term plans, expectations, hopes and aspirations. We shall consider the long-term goals of ensuring quality in higher education thereby making it not only comparable but also compatible with those that exist beyond our own borders. We shall work towards providing meaningful education and training of the highest possible standards focused on transferable skills and competencies. Let our aspirations be high enough so that we reach higher than ever.

Talking about the plans, we have them enough for the year 2023. The American International University - Bangladesh is preparing to host our mega event of APQN Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting (AAC & AGM 2023) in November

2023. We will send out the invitation for hosting the AAC & AGM 2024 during the year. Other events like International Higher Education Conference and Global Summit will also find their time and place. There will be projects, research activities and their publications to keep the members active in innovation and creation of new knowledge. The first year of the term of the seventh Board also deserves our time and effort to develop and endorse the Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

It is good to continue with the time-tested good practices based on our rich experiences. As the New Year dawns, it is even better to reflect on and improve the system that needs our attention and to adapt and adjust to the needs of changing times and unexpected situations. Even documents like our own Constitution deserves to be reviewed to accommodate the current requirements. This will entail, for example, the need to align our existing Procedure Manual too.

Collaboration and cooperation with other quality assurance agencies around the globe is inevitable. It will be our priority. We shall facilitate such initiatives to move forward with the common goal of assuring quality in higher education. We also would like to encourage more agencies and institutions to join the Network.

There is also a forum created to share our experiences and best practices. APQNews, our quarterly publication and its Editorial Board invites and requests all the member agencies to submit any articles that they would like to see published and shared. The APQNews27 is scheduled to be published in March 2023.

We will put all our efforts to take the status of the Network to the next level. We believe that we will know our true strength only when we have a burden to bear. Once we put our body, mind and spirit together, there is nothing we cannot achieve. We will continue to work together with single-minded dedication, devotion and passion. At this point of time, I am reminded of a saying: "Life is not about expecting, hoping and wishing; it's about doing, being and becoming."

Finally, but most importantly, I would like to wish you more happiness, peace and prosperity than all my words can tell, not just for today, but all throughout the New Year and beyond.

Tashi Delek!



APQN Board Directors: Mr. Nar B Raika, President; Prof. Dr. Galina Motova, Vice President; Mrs. Pingping Liu, Secretary; Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, Immediate Past President; Mr. Barry Aw Yong, Director; Prof. Dr. Srinivasa C Sharma, Director; Mrs. Umankulova Onolkan, Director; Dr. Timur Kanapyanov, Director; Dr. Jaganath Patil, Director; Mr. Le Fang, Administrator



THE BOARD

Inaugural Speech of APQN seventh President

Esteemed dignitaries, honored guests, distinguished members of the audience and dear ladies and gentlemen,

I bring to you my warm greetings from the Kingdom of Bhutan and thank you for the special joy of this evening.



It is with deep joy and humility that I acknowledge this privilege to make a few inaugural remarks on behalf of the seventh Board of Directors of the largest agency for quality assurance in higher education – the Asia Pacific Quality Network.

At the outset, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the sixth Board of Directors led by a highly distinguished and dedicated President, Prof. Jianxin Zhang, who successfully completed two terms as the head of the Asia Pacific Quality Network. The Secretariat to the APQN also deserves our heartfelt appreciation for taking care of the administrative tasks and the Independent Council for conducting the election of the seventh Board successfully.

I would also like to offer my heartiest congratulations to the seventh Board of Directors who were elected with overwhelming support from the members. We look forward to working together to ensure quality in higher education that is beneficial, relevant and current to the needs of changing times. We commit ourselves to fulfilling the mandate entrusted to us. We will work towards finding innovative, flexible and inclusive solutions to the challenges posed and opportunities provided by the prevailing circumstances. We shall work towards finding ever better ways to achieve the highest possible standards in relation to our work.

I am personally honored to take up the role of leading the Network to greater heights with the blessings and support of all of you involved in this critical task. This is an opportunity for a small country like Bhutan, where Gross National Happiness is the way of life, to serve beyond our borders in the field of quality higher education. I am inspired by the leadership in my own country where we emphasize quality and relevance besides access and equity.

His Majesty the King constantly reminds us that “in preparing our youth for the future, we must take advantage of available technologies, adapt global best practices, and engineer a teaching-learning environment suited to our needs. Technology is the argument of our time and a major indicator of social progress”.

It is only appropriate to have this event here in Singapore as Singapore is considered an example in the provision of quality education particularly higher education. We thank EDUVALUE in Singapore for hosting and making all the arrangements for this event.

Talking about the Singaporean education system, we are aware of its achievements particularly in relation to the outstanding PISA test results scored by its youth. Even Bhutan, through the personal initiative of His Majesty the King, has adopted and adapted Singaporean education especially in the technological field. We deeply appreciate the achievement made by this beautiful country.

The seventh Board comes from different cultural backgrounds with varied experiences and motivation to work as a family to benefit the Network. We are privileged by the trust and confidence bestowed upon us. Taking over the baton from the largest country by one of the smallest is a heavy task. But I am personally committed to serve the family of this Network that stands to attain the goal of “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region” and the mission of “enhancing 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”.

Quality in higher education is a complex and somewhat elusive concept. Trying to ensure quality, therefore, is even more complex and must be handled using diverse approaches that befit different countries and regions of the world. At this juncture, we move from thinking about preparing work-ready graduates to future-ready graduates. Aspiring to provide quality higher education is the first step to providing relevant experiences in the classrooms – policies to translate into practical engagement of learners. We must look ahead and beyond 21st Century skills and adopt technology to skill, re-skill and up-skill through relevant curriculum options, experiential learning processes, authentic assessment practices to develop required competencies in the learners.

As I take on this big responsibility, I propose to move the Network further guided by the 3CS – Constitution, Collaboration, Continuity, and Sustainability.

For any action that we undertake, we will be guided by the Constitution of the Network. We would encourage participation and input from the members from the region and beyond for collaboration and cooperation to develop the strategies and implement the actions. We will adopt, adapt and adjust to the needs of the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world for continuity of the practices and change thereby making them current and relevant. We will not work as if we have inherited the Network from our past six Board of Directors but as if we have borrowed it from our future Boards to make it sustainable.

We would like to use the Strategic Plans 2019-2022 as the springboard for the next three years (2022-2025) or even beyond to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) or Agenda 2030 of ensuring ‘inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all’ (SDG 4). This will guide effective

implementation of the activities of the three years. We will reflect on the documents already in place to continue improving with the guidance of the Board, particularly the outgoing President.

We have seen our Network grow from 222 member-agencies in March 2019 to 268 members as of today. We will work towards making our family even bigger.

More agencies are expected to get themselves assessed to join the Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR). We will continue to facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for encouraging to join the Register through the guidance of the APQR Chairperson.

I have been greatly inspired by Simon Sinek who said, “The role of a leader is not to come up with all the great ideas. The role of a leader is to create an environment in which great ideas can happen.” I see myself in this role to ensure the fruition of our collective vision.

I look forward to working closely with all of you and our member-agencies.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!

Introduction of the seventh Board Directors

Dear APQN Members,

As you know well, from November, 2021, APQN began the election work of APQN seventh Board Directors. Six months later, after passing six steps of the voting procedure, on June 6 this year, APQN announced the result of the election. They have taken over at Annual General Meeting on November 25, 2022.











The seventh Board Directors are

President: Elected Nar Bahadur Raika from Bhutan

Vice President: Elected Galina Motova from Russia

Secretary/Treasurer: Ex-officio Liu Pingping from China

Board Directors: (1) Ex-officio as Immediate Past President, Jianxin Zhang from China; (2) Co-opted as APQR Chair, Jagannath Patil from India; (3) Elected Jun Barry Aw Yong from Singapore; (4) Elected Srinivasa Chandramouliswar Sharma from India; (5) Elected Umankulova Onolkan from Kyrgyzstan; and (6) Elected Timur Kanapyanov from Kazakhstan.

<p>APQN President Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika (Elected)</p>  <p>BHUTAN</p>	<p>APQN Vice President Prof. Dr. Galina Motova (Elected)</p>  <p>RUSSIA</p>	<p>APQN Secretary/Treasurer Ms. Pingping Liu (Ex-Officio)</p>  <p>CHINA</p>	<p>APQN Past President Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang (Ex-Officio)</p>  <p>CHINA</p>	<p>APQN Board Director Dr. Jagannath Patil (Co-opted as APQR Chairperson)</p>  <p>INDIA</p>
<p>APQN Board Director Mr. Barry Aw Yong (Elected)</p>  <p>SINGAPORE</p>	<p>APQN Board Director Prof. Dr. S. C. Sharma (Elected)</p>  <p>INDIA</p>	<p>APQN Board Director Ms. Umankulova Onolkan (Elected)</p>  <p>KYRGYZSTAN</p>	<p>APQN Board Director Dr. Timur Kanapyanov (Elected)</p>  <p>KAZAKHSTAN</p>	<p>APQN Administrator Mr. Le Fang (Appointed)</p>  <p>CHINA</p>

Congratulations to all of them!

President



Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika is the seventh President (2022-2025) of the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), the largest and most influential non-profit/non-government organization in quality assurance of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region. He is the Specialist (Advisor) to the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Division, Department

of Adult and Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Bhutan. Prior to the present position he has worked as a teacher, lecturer and then chief program officer after joining civil service in 1988.

He earned his M.Ed. degree from the University of Newcastle, Australia; Advanced Diploma in Educational Studies from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom; and B.Ed. degree jointly from the National Institute of Education, Bhutan and Institute of Education, University of London, U.K.

During his 34+ years of service he has also served as a member Academic Board, Royal University of Bhutan (RUB), External Examiner, Examinations Secretary, Head of Math department, B.Ed. Programme Leader, Royal Civil Service Commission panelist, Higher Education Reform, to name a few.

He has facilitated many workshops on teaching mathematics, assessment techniques, mentoring trainee teachers, and quality assurance in tertiary education. He was one of the consultants on continuous assessment in Laos. He was the co-researcher with Prof. Maureen Bell, University of Wollongong, Australia on *“Teaching and learning at the Royal University of Bhutan”*.

In addition to writing articles in relevant publications, Mr. Raika has made notable contributions to the development of several important publications like *“Teaching Primary Mathematics Handbook”*, *“NIE Examinations Handbook”*, *“Teaching Practice Handbook”*, *“B.Ed. Primary Handbook”*, *“Continuous Formative Assessment Guidebook”* and *“Idea Folder in Teaching Mathematics”*. He worked in the task-force in developing *Bhutan Qualifications Framework*, *Bhutan Qualifications Authority* draft Bill, *Bhutan Professional Standards for Teachers*, and other documents related to quality higher education.

Currently, he is also a member of Academic Planning and Resource Committee (2nd term) for the RUB and active member of Evaluation Association of Bhutan and Bhutan Switzerland Society. He is a core trainer for the accreditation exercises of higher education programmes and institutions.

Vice President



Prof. Dr. Galina Motova is Vice President of APQN (2019 – 2022, 2022 – present). She is the Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia. She obtained her PhD and DSc degrees from Moscow State Pedagogical University.

She has more than 25 years of work experience in the field of quality assurance, including senior positions at the National Accreditation Agency (NAA) (1995 – 2009) and the National Centre for Public Accreditation (2009 – present).

Dr. Motova is a certified ENQA expert, who has taken part in ENQA reviews of QA agencies and HEIs.

She has organized international forums, assemblies, and conferences of quality assurance networks ENQA, CEENQA, and APQN (CEENQA General Assembly, St.

Petersburg 2006; ENQA Members Forum, St. Petersburg 2014, APQN Annual Academic Conference and General Meeting, Moscow 2017).

Galina Motova has been a participant in international projects Align (Tempus), SAGRIS (Erasmus+), and DEQAR Connect (Erasmus+). She was a member of ENQA's working groups on Excellence and Academic Integrity (2012-2014).

Galina Motova is rightly considered one of the founders of the system of quality assurance in the Russian Federation and a leading researcher in the field of quality assurance who has participated in the development and implementation of QA criteria and policies at the national level. She is among the authors of the Russian National Reports to the Bologna Process Conferences of Ministers responsible for Higher Education (2007, 2009 and 2015).

Dr. Motova, as Editor-in-Chief of the journal "Accreditation in Education" (established in 2005), has put a lot of effort into promoting quality assurance and the best national and international practices in Russia and abroad.

Dr. Motova has widely lectured on the current issues of education and quality assurance. She has provided specialized quality assurance training for more than 10,000 experts and HEI staff members during the last ten years. She has coordinated numerous accreditation procedures for higher educational institutions in Russia and abroad and participated as an expert and an observer in international quality assurance reviews of HEIs.

Galina Motova authored and co-authored more than 250 publications, including three monographs. She has also been awarded the titles of "Honorary Worker of Education of the Mari El Republic" (2004) and "Honorary Worker of Education of the Russian Federation" (1994).

Secretary / Treasurer



Ms. Pingping Liu, Associate Professor, is the Vice President of Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI), China. She is mainly engaged in educational evaluation, research and management in higher education and Chinese-foreign cooperative education, and is responsible for the project department of evaluation in these fields. She has participated in editing books such as "Educational Evaluation Regulations" and published papers in educational evaluation for core journals. She obtained her master's degree in English Language and Literature at the College of Foreign Languages, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST) in April 2005. Prior to SEEI, she worked as teaching staff in higher education and elementary education for years.

Board Directors

APQN Past President - Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang



Professor Dr. Jianxin Zhang is the fifth and sixth President (2016-2019; 2019-2022) of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network ("APQN", the largest and most influential non-profit and non-government organization in quality assurance of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region). She is Co-chair of the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR), Professor of Yunnan University, General Secretary of Yunnan Association of Higher Education (YAHE) and Advisor of Council for CHEA/CIQG in USA (2012-2019; 2022-).

She obtained her PhD degree at Peking University in China, and obtained her Master degree at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) in Switzerland. She was a visiting scholar in Asia-Pacific Program of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID) of UNESCO.

Her main focus now is the practices and researches of quality assurance. As the local host, she successfully organized the 2015 AAC in Kunming, China. She led over 30 on-site evaluations to various higher education institutions, designed the framework of program evaluation, and conducted over 30 workshops on QA in China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and other countries or regions. As an APQR panelist, She evaluated the Fiji Higher Education Commission, the Russian Register and other QAAs in this region. She is one of the review panelists on the CHEA/CIQG Quality Platform Review on the Students Learning Outcomes (SLOs), and the site review leader of APQN Quality Label (APQL) on Accreditation of Internationalization to Symbiosis International (Deemed University) in India. She presented her research at the Asia-Pacific Sub-regional Preparatory Conference for World Conference on Higher Education, participated in International Forum for Education 2020 organized by East-West Center in USA and over 20 international conferences in USA, Russia, Switzerland, Sweden, Australia, Pakistan, India, China and other countries. She has visited over 60 countries /regions on various academic assignments and QA matters.

She has been teaching for over 40 years in comparative education, quality assurance, qualitative research methods and other 20 courses, supervised over 60 postgraduates in Yunnan University. She presided and engaged in over 60 research projects both domestically and abroad, e.g. "APQN Sustainable Development" , "INQAHE-APQN Survey of Internal and External QA Landscape" . She has published over 30 books (6 monographs, 4 translated books, 26 edited books) and over 250 papers. Among them, 10 received official governmental academic awards both domestically and abroad.

APQN Board Director - Dr Jagannath Patil



An internationally recognized quality assurance professional, Dr. Jagannath Patil is the former President of Asia Pacific Quality Network [APQN], the regional network of QA bodies from over 50 countries. Besides being the first Indian to head APQN, he was also an elected president of global quality network - INQAAHE in 2015-2016, being the first Asian expert to become INQAAHE President. He is also the founder Chairperson of Asia Pacific Quality Register [APQR]. He currently serves on APQN Board as Co-opted Director as the Chairperson of APQR Council (2019-2022).

With experience of his long tenure as Adviser at National Assessment and Accreditation Council of India, JP was in Japan for an year on invitation by NIAD QE as a Specially Appointed Professor.

As the Convener of first Global Summit on Quality higher education with 16 international partners organized by NAAC and APQN which culminated in historic Bengaluru Statement 2016 on Next- generation Quality assurance in Higher education, Dr JP has played key role in placing NAAC and India prominently on global quality scenario. He has coordinated Accreditation exercise of about 1500 Higher Educational Institutions.

Dr. Patil was the Convener of the Core Working Group (CWG) which designed Revised Accreditation Framework and also the Convener of Core Committee to Implement the Revised Accreditation Framework of the NAAC, India.

Among various recognition, Dr. JP is recipient of international award by the Government of Australia titled- Endeavor India Award, 2007, Decennial felicitation Award by APQN, 2013, Plaque of Honor by ONESQA, Thailand, 2014 and Lifetime Achievement Award by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, India in 2017.

Having visited over 50 countries, he is one of the sought after speaker in QA fraternity around the world and has delivered Key note speeches in Asia, Europe, Africa and Americas. He has served on many Working Groups of UNESCO.

As the Convener of Global Yoga Accreditation Summit on Yoga higher education with 7 international QA Agencies under the ambit of Yoga Education organized by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India and co-organized by Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations (PMI-UN) which culminated in historic New York - Bengaluru Statement 2019 towards a Global Ecosystem in Yoga Higher Education through collaboration, mainstreaming and accreditation, Dr JP has played key role in placing NAAC and India prominently on global yoga quality assurance scenario.

Recently, Dr. Patil was appointed as Specially Appointed Professor at National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Tokyo, Japan for a period of one year since October 2019. NIAD-QE is a

premier quality assurance agency of Japan under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

JP can be reached at jp.naacindia@gmail.com, or <http://www.apqn.org/about/board/patil.php>

Dr Jagannath Patil

Adviser, NAAC India

Former Research Professor of NIAD QE, Tokyo, Japan

Former President of APQN and INQAAHE

Chairperson, Asia Pacific Quality Register (www.apqr.com)

jp.naacindia@gmail.com

APQN Board Director - Barry Aw Yong, Singapore



Barry has been a keen entrepreneur and is the founder of the EV Education Group. His leading company, EDUVALUE, has redefined how private schools are managed in Singapore, and the company has made launching and running schools a painless process for over 35% of the local PEI industry. Multiple other Brands have since been launched over the years and they include M&A, Academic, Human Resources, University Partnership and Digitization Consulting Services.

By developing cutting edge processes and systems, Barry has shaped efficient and effective methodologies for how schools can better comply with government compliance standards, while also pushing themselves towards higher global standards. Barry concurrently sits on several boards as a QA director and adviser, and has a positive standing with several governing bodies in Education globally.

As a visionary entrepreneur, Barry's sights are set on a horizon that seeks to better the Education industry as a whole, forging powerful partnerships to bring industry shaking digital solutions to schools. These digital technologies help EDUVALUE's clients become more efficient, eliminate operational redundancies, reduce operational costs, and rapidly stand on the frontier of a digital future.

Having rapidly advanced in the Private Education Industry, Barry's ventures have seen penetrations within the wider educational sectors in Singapore and within South East Asia. His companies are now making decisive landfalls in neighbouring countries, where they are expected to bring a defining shift to Education.

Learn more about EDUVALUE at these sites:

<http://www.EDUVALUEglobal.com>

<http://www.EDUVALUE.com.sg>

APQN Board Director - Prof.S.C.Sharma



Prof. S. C. Sharma is an educationist, researcher, administrator, technocrat, musician and a man with a mission to serve the society with relentless devotion and sincerity. At present he is the Director of NAAC. He has ushered in a new era of accreditation process including ICT based accreditation process.

He is the former Vice Chancellor of Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University, Bilai and formerly, the Vice-Chancellor of Tumkur University, Tumkur, Vice-Chairman, Karnataka State Higher Education Council, Government of Karnataka and Principal, R.V. College of Engineering, Bangalore. He is a distinguished Adviser for many academic institutions and academic bodies across the country. He was Visiting Scientist for Department of Aerospace, Indian Institute of Science (I.I.Sc.,). He is a Hon ' rary Distinguished Professor in the Centre for Energy, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, (IIT-G).

He has holds Ten doctoral conferment based on his research work from various Universities including Mysore University and Deakin University, Australia. He holds the Doctor of Law from the prestigious National Law School of India University, Bengaluru. He is conferred with Honoris Causa from Nine Government supported universities.

He has won many accolades and awards including the prestigious international ' THERMEC ' - 2013 Distinguished Award at Las Vegas, USA. Prof. Sharma has authored two books along with Nobel Laureates. These scientific efforts have resulted in over 374 research papers, 18 books and 6 patents. His publications have earned more than 9606 citations with h-index of 51 from Scopus and to his credit 137 research papers published in refereed proceedings with ISBN number.

APQN Board Director - Mrs. Umankulova Onolkan



Mrs. Umankulova Onolkan is a President of the Agency for quality assurance in the field of education "EdNet" and has been leading the Agency since its foundation in 2012 in Kyrgyzstan, and stood in the roots of establishment of an independent accreditation for higher education in the country. She has a master degree in Vilnius University on " International business economy and management " graduating with a master thesis focusing on differences between Kyrgyzstan and Lithuania in respect to the results of creation of knowledge-based economy impacted by research and development policy at tertiary education. She was also one of the fellows of the UK-government John Smith Trust Fellowship program - a program for leaders of the region, and as a result could

bring the best practices on quality assurance and accreditation into her EdNet Agency.

Within her 15 years of professional experience she has been managing more than 10 national and regional project in education area, prepared more than 30 analytical reports about education and other areas. As a chair of the leading accreditation agency in Kyrgyzstan she took one of the key roles in development of national legislation about quality assurance and accreditation in the country, and participated in more than 25 official ministerial working and expert groups for quality assessment and accreditation. By 2022 she has been trained of more than 5000 university teachers and administrators about the importance of the learning outcomes for assuring the quality of education, internal and external QA systems. She has a certificate of a professional trainer. She ' s been an education expert for such prestigious organizations as the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, European Commission, Asian Development Bank and many private companies.

Having wide experience in quality assurance and accreditation worldwide, with the focus on Central Asian and European regions, she has a substantial understanding and applied efficient strategies in building accreditation systems in the country, that can help other countries in understanding of the best models with consideration of country' s peculiarities.

Contact details:Email: umankulova@gmail.com; Contact: +996-312-900-820.

APQN Board Director - Dr.Timur Kanapyanov



Dr. Timur Kanapyanov is a Deputy General Director for International Cooperation at the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR, Kazakhstan). Before joining IAAR in 2012, he worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of History of the State of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

He received his Master's degree in Comparative Politics from the University of Bucharest, Romania, and his Ph.D. is in Political Science from L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan. His major fields of interest are the quality assurance of higher education institutions, parliamentary development in new democracies, post-communist legislative studies, and democratisation. His articles have appeared in international and Kazakh academic journals. He has more than 20 publications related to education and QA. He has exclusive copyrights to IAAR accreditation standards. Dr. Timur Kanapyanov is a reviewer for the scientific and analytical journal "Qogam jane Daur" published by the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Dr. Timur Kanapyanov is a Member of the Russian Expert Guild for Professional Education, a participant of the 12th ENQA Training of Agency Reviewers, and acts as the Chairman of the State Attestation Commission on Educational Programmes in

Kazakhstan. He organized and coordinated seminars, workshops, forums, elaboration and development of the Standards and Guidelines on Accreditation, and under his supervision IAAR participates in various international and Erasmus projects.

Dr. Kanapyanov coordinated IAAR external assessment for entry into international networks and registries such as ENQA, WFME, EQAR, APQR, IREG and YOKAK.

Contact Details: Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana city, Baurzhan Momyshev avenue 2, EP-4V

E-mail: timur@iaar.kz

Website: www.iaar.agency

The 1st APQN Board Meeting of 2022 was held in Singapore

In the afternoon of November 24, 2022, APQN 1st Board Meeting of 2022 was held at EDUVALUE office in Singapore both online and offline. The physical attendees were Jianxin Zhang (President), Galina Motova (Vice-President), Deepthi Bandara (Board Director), Jun Barry Aw Yong (Board Director), Alan Go (local organizer), Nar Bahadur Raika (Incoming President) and Umankulova Onolkan (Incoming Board Director). The online participants were Liu Pingping (Secretary/Treasurer) and Jagannath Patil (Board Director).



The meeting comprised 5 items. First of all, President Jianxin welcomed all attendees both online and offline. Secondly, Barry and Alan, the local organizers gave brief reports on the preparation of 2022 AAC and AGM. Thirdly, Jianxin Zhang (the Chair of Programme Committee of 2022 AAC and AGM) gave a report on 2022 AAC and AGM, such as the tenth version of the programme and others. The 7 follow-up tasks were also confirmed, such as the report writings of 2022 AAC Report and 2022AGM, the publication of academic anthology of selected papers of 2022 AAC in Singapore.

Later on, Ms. Liu Pingping (Secretary/Treasurer) gave a brief Secretary/Treasurer report. She presented secretariat work, including 6 items: (1) APQN Members; (2) Board Matters; (3) Events and Projects; (4) External Publicity; (5) Finance Affairs; and (6) Public Relations.

In closing, all of the sixth Board Directors were required to provide his/her summary report of the term to be released at APQNews (Issue 26). After the acknowledgement, the meeting adjourned.



(Written by Jianxin Zhang, APQN Immediate past President)

The 2nd APQN Board Meeting of 2022 was held in Singapore

APQN Second Board Meeting in 2022 was held both offline and online at 17:50-19:00 on November 26, 2022. It was chaired by APQN President, Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika, at the Lifelong Learning Institute, Singapore, while the offline participants also included: Prof. Dr. Galina Motova (APQN Vice President), Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang (Immediate Past President), Mr. Barry Aw Yong (Board Director) and Mrs. Umankulova Onolkan (Board Director). The online participants were Ms. Pingping Liu (APQN Secretary/Treasurer), Dr. Jagannath Patil (co-opted ex-officio as APQR Chairperson), Prof. Dr. S. C. Sharma (Board Director), and Mr. Le Fang (APQN Administrator).



The Meeting commenced by welcoming all participants by President Nar Bahadur Raika. It was the first time that the seventh Board met. Also, it was the first time that the seventh Board takes the responsibility to contribute and provide ideas for APQN development.

The Secretariat/Treasurer Pingping Liu presented “APQN Tasks Draft for 2023”. Ms. Pingping introduced 7 major categories of tasks – AAC and AGM, Annual Report, APQR, Finance Issues, Publication, Routine, and Membership Review. Among all the 37 tasks, 15 of them have already been taken by the Secretariat or both the Secretariat and the Host. Regarding the remaining 22, it is decided that the Board Directors should take some of the tasks all by his/herself.

APQN Immediate Past President Jianxin Zhang put forward 8 suggestions, focusing on the problems crucial for APQN future development, such as “Amend the Criteria of APQN Membership in APQN Procedure Manual, because the criteria are for the QAAs, not for institutional members nor for individual members”.

Vice President Galina Motova also raised 4 suggestions regarding the difficulties and prospects of APQN, such as “considering the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 for APQN Development” “redesigning APQN and APQR Website”.

At last, President Nar Bahadur Raika gave the closing remarks. Despite the COVID pandemic, APQN is moving and doing well in connecting members with activities. He believed that with the shared experience and expertise of APQN board directors as well as members, APQN will be moving faster and becoming closer.

The Board Directors agreed that both AAC, AGM and the Board meeting was well-organized, beneficial, and fruitful. They expressed thanks to the sixth board, the Secretariat, and the host EDUVALUE, looking forward to the upcoming physical meetings. The board meeting is of great importance for APQN further development.

(Written by Yingjie Xu, APQN administrator)

AAC & AGM

Initiation of APQN 2022 in mist of Covid-19 pandemic

EDUVALUE proposed holding APQN 2022 AAC and AGM Singapore to the APQN Board of Directors a few months after holding APQN 2021 webinar on November 27, 2021, as the world and Singapore relaxed its travel restrictions in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

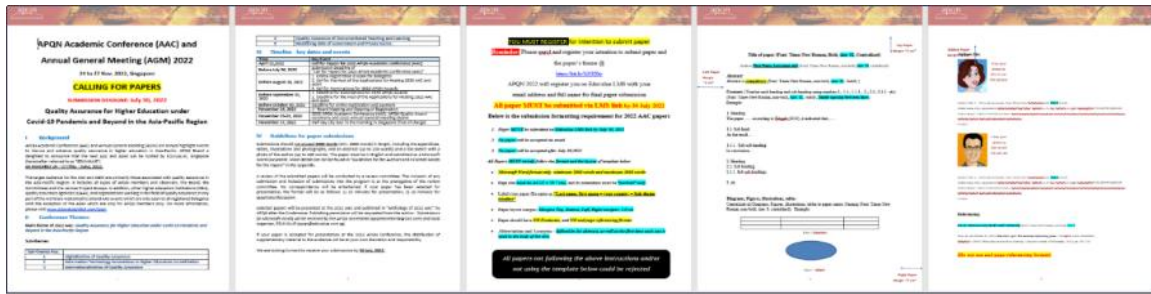
After much deliberation, the APQN Board of Directors has settled on 2nd April 2022 as the launch date for APQN 2022. Six members of the EDUVALUE staff were assigned to oversee the conference's advertising, locations, tours, meals, lodging, transportation, and paper submissions. A timeline and associated tasks were drafted for APQN Board approval indicating 15 milestones to be achieved till the D-day of the APQN 2022. Due to Singapore relaxing its travel restrictions for Covid-19, many events were competing for venues during the same time period as APQN 2022. Despite this, the team was able to secure Lifelong Learning Institute located at 11 Eunos Road 8, Singapore 408601 as the venue by mid-June 2022. EDUVALUE was also able to get the Singapore Tourism Board to support the event and secured a corporate sponsor, AlphaDX by July 2022.



Singapore National Official Mascot Merlion souvenir for all delegates

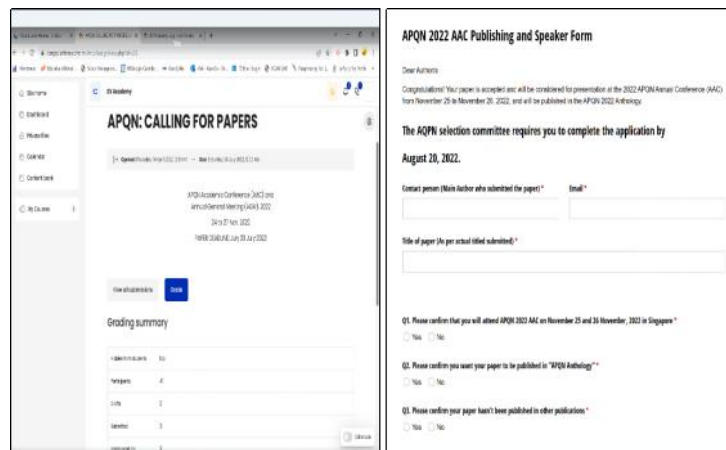
Launch of APQN 2022 and Digital LMS submission for paper

It was announced on April 2, 2022 (without a confirmed venue) that APQN 2022 would be held, and a call for papers was issued with a submission deadline of July 30, 2022.



For the first time in APQN AAC’s history, all registration of interest for paper submission and final paper submissions are handled digitally through the EDUVALUE LMS system, saving a great deal of time and effort in subsequent consolidations of papers and recording of author details and follow-ups.

A total of 79 papers was submitted, the APQN paper selection committee completed the paper grading and acceptance of papers was by August 6, 2022. All authors are informed of their paper selection outcomes by August 8, 2022.



Delegates from 27 Countries came to APQN 2022 in Singapore

Overall, 120 delegates signed up for the event, which is a smaller turnout compared to other regional APQN AAC and AGM gatherings due to the inconsistency of Covid-19 policies and the increased international travel costs of airfare and accommodations brought on by global inflation. Attendees and presenters represented 27 countries at the conference.

Although a few APQN Board members, speakers, and a few attendees were unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances at the last minute, the event still saw about 113 delegates from educational QA accrediting organization, regulatory bodies, and universities from Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Germany, China Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, United Kingdom and Vietnam, and delegates from Singapore.



Representatives from these organizations came to the event Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education; The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE); Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA), Germany; Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA) in Chinese Taiwan, Chinese Taipei; Ectis / UK ENIC, United Kingdom; National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia; Quality Assurance Council, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka; New Zealand Qualifications Authority; National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India; NEAS, Australia; Japan University Accreditation Association, Japan; Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China; Certification Agency Russian Register, Russia; Quality Assurance in the field of education “EdNet”, Kyrgyzstan; Quality Assurance and Accreditation Division, Department of Adult and Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Bhutan; Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCU); Malaysian Qualifications Agency, Malaysia; Samoa Qualifications Authority, Samoa; Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China; Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Japan; National Council.

Day 1: 24 Nov 2022

The sixth and seventh APQN Board members and APQR Council representatives arrived at EDUVALUE's office by 4.30 pm. A Zoom link was set up for those who couldn't travel to Singapore.

Day 1 saw the conduct of three meetings: APQN Finance Committee Meeting that was chaired by APQN sixth and seventh Vice-President Prof. Galina Motova, the first Board Meeting was chaired by APQN sixth President: Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang and

APQR Council Meeting was chaired via zoom link by APQR Chairperson and APQN Board Dr. Jagannath Patil.

The APQN Secretariat office from Shanghai, represented by APQN Secretary/Treasurer Mrs. Pingping Liu and APQN Administrator Mr. Le Fang, joined in via zoom together with participants from India, Dr. Jagannath Patil and APQN Board Director, Prof. Dr. S. C. Sharma, as well as from Kazakhstan, APQN Board Director Dr. Timur Kanapyanov. Mr. Alan Go, Lead Researcher of EDUVALUE's EV Academy updated the Board on APQN 2022.

The Boards met for several hours to settle outstanding business, determine strategic goals for APQN in 2023 and beyond, and discuss a wide range of other topics. Despite some Board members only landing in Singapore shortly before the meetings begin, it was encouraging to see some of them making active contributions.

As a way of saying "welcome to Singapore," EDUVALUE hosted a dinner for the VIPs.



6th and 7th APQN Board of Directors and APQR council meetings in progress on 24 Nov 2022.

Day 2: 25 Nov 2022

At 7 a.m., the EDUVALUE APQN 2022 host planning committee, along with all EDUVALUE Singapore and Malaysia staff, arrived at the event venue, the Lifelong Learning Institute, to begin setting up the Conference theatre and registration desks. The first delegate arrived at 7.30 a.m. for Conference Day 1 registration. To welcome them to Singapore, the Singapore Tourism Board provided each delegate with a door gift, including a Singapore National Official Mascot Merlion souvenir for all delegates.

While waiting for the conference to begin, many delegates met up with old friends and peers for a lively early morning networking, while others entered the lecturer theatre, took their seats, and checked their phones for messages.

The Welcome speech for the APQN 2022 AAC is delivered by the host and local organizer, Mr. Barry Aw Yong, CEO, EDUVALUE Singapore, at precisely 9:05 a.m., followed by the Conference Theme address by Dr. Jianxin Zhang, the sixth president of the APQN.

As part of the morning opening ceremony, APQN sixth President Dr. Jianxin Zhang and all of the sixth Board Directors released the printed publication of "APQN Research on the COVID Impact on the Quality of Higher Education", Prof. Deepthi Bandara of the sixth Board of APQN released the digital publication of Sri Lanka APQN 2019 Anthology, and Associate Prof. Alan Go, Lead Researcher, EV Academy of EDUVALUE released the digital publication of APQN 2021 Anthology.



After morning tea-break and group photo session, keynote speaker 1, Dr Tariq Al-Sindi, the Chief Executive of the Education and Training Quality Authority of Bahrain, the Secretary General of the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) and an Executive Board member at The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) delivered his speech on "Quality Assurance in Higher Education During and After COVID-19". This was followed by Sub-Themes Plenary Sessions 1, 2 presentations and after lunch break

continued with Plenary Sessions 3 and 4 papers. The papers presented are as follows:

- **Sub-Theme 1: Digitalization of Quality Assurance**
 - Peer Review Portal: Digitalizing Quality Assurance by Sara Booth and Olgun Cicek from Dokuz Eylul University, Turkey and Online Peer Solutions Pty Ltd, Australia;
 - How the innovative FIBAA Quality Seal "Excellence in Digital Education can contribute to Quality Assurance in a Digital World by Diane Freiberger, Antonia Luetgens from Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA), Germany;
 - "ICT Driven Assessment and Accreditation Process of NAAC in India" by Mahantesh M Kuri, Vishal Chenraj Jain from Rani Channama University, India were presented.
- **Sub-Theme 2: Internationalization of Internal Quality Assurance**
 - Multi-level governance analysis for credit transfer systems: An example from Mauritius by Jeanette Baird, Anjusha Durbarry, Romeela Mohee and Shaheen Timol from University of Melbourne, Australia;
 - Improving Student Experience of Teaching Methods: Learning from a Comparative Study of Four Asia-Pacific Regions by Ying-Li Chou, Kazuyo Hara, Tuan La and Somyot Cheejaeng from Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA), Chinese Taiwan;
 - Internationalization of Quality Assurance vs. Quality Assurance of Internationalization: a Typology of Quality Assurance Activity in an Internationalized Context by Fabrizio Trifiro from Ecctis / UK ENIC, United Kingdom
- **Sub-Theme 3: Internationalization of External Quality Assurance**
 - Research on the Meta-Review to the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR) by Jagannath Patil, Jianxin Zhang and Zhijie Xiang from Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQR), Yunnan University, China
 - The Database of External Quality Assurance Results of the Asia-Pacific Quality Register as a Key Tool for the Development of QAAs and HEIs by Galina Motova, Vladimir Novodnov and Daria Efremova from National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia
 - Rethinking Institutional Review Methodology to Enhance the Expression of Results Reflecting a Better Image by Tilak Priyadarshana D Gamage and Deepthi C Bandara from Quality Assurance Council, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka
- **Sub-Theme 4: Quality Assurance of Outcome-Based Teaching and Learning**
 - Experience in Assessing the Formation of the Russian Students' General Professional Competencies Using Internet Technologies by Lemka Izmaylova, Mikhail Petropavlovskiy, Konstantin Ostanin and Olga Nefedova from National Accreditation Agency, Russia (Pre-recorded Video presentation)
 - Improving Relevance and Responsiveness: Aotearoa New Zealand's Early Micro-Credentials Journey by Eve McMahon and Terry Neal from New Zealand Qualifications Authority, New Zealand
 - Analysis of Criteria I and II of NAAC Assessment and Accreditation Process in the State Universities of India: Quality Assurance Perspective by Sharma S.C. from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India (Pre-recorded Video presentation)



Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Day 1 concluded at approximately 5.45 p.m., with delegates being escorted to waiting buses for transportation to the APQN 2022 Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony venue, Joyden Hall, located at Bugis+, 201 Victoria St, #07-01, Singapore 188067.

After a day of learning and networking, delegates get to enjoy a big buffet spread of Singapore delights and dishes, that the host has specially curated and even have two "Live" cooking stations for the delegates to enjoy some of Singapore famous dishes "Laksa", a spicy noodle dish popular in Southeast Asia. and "Kueh Pie Tee", a thin crispy pastry tart shell filled with shredded Chinese turnips, sweet mixture of thinly sliced vegetables and prawns.



APQN 2022 Award Ceremony

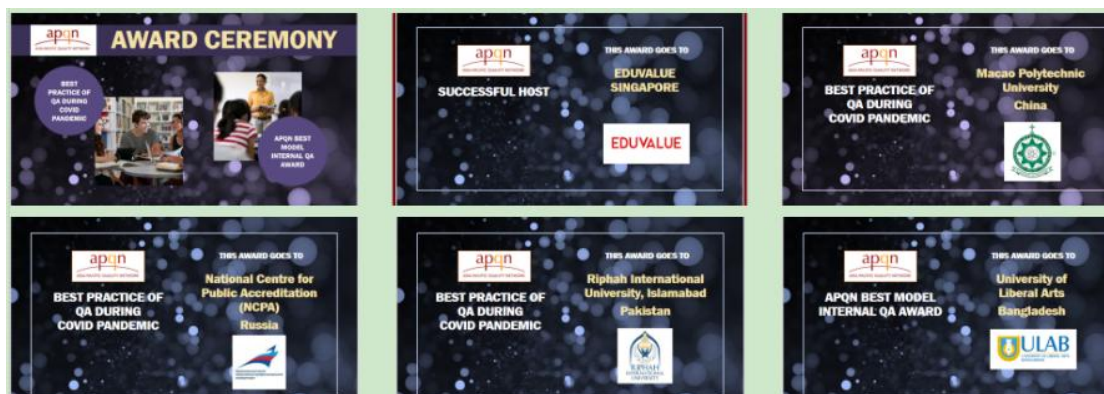
There was an APQN 2022 Award Ceremony that took place during the Gala Dinner. This year, EDUVALUE was recognized with the Successful Host Award for their work in organizing APQN 2020 (which had to be postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic), the APQN 2021 webinar, and APQN 2022, as well as editing and producing two digital APQN anthologies.



Dr. Jianxin Zhang, the sixth President of the APQN, presented the Successful Host trophy to Mr. Barry Aw Yong, CEO of EDUVALUE, and thanked him for his contributions as well as the efforts of all EDUVALUE staff.



There are three “Best Practice of QA during COVID pandemic” Awards presented to Macao Polytechnic University, China, by Dr. Galina Motova, APQN Vice-President (the award was received by Mr Alan Go in the absent of a representative from the University), Mr Barry Aw Yong, APQN Board Director presented the award to National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia, and Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara, APQN sixth Board Director presented to Riphah International University, Islamabad, Pakistan (the award is received on behalf by Indus University, Pakistan).



The APQN Best Model Internal QA Award was presented to University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh by Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika, incoming APQN seventh President (received on behalf by American International University Bangladesh)



At the APQN 2022 AAC and AGM, Indus University, Pakistan took the opportunity to honour the APQN Board Directors and a number of delegates for their contributions to Quality Assurance and Higher Education.



Director Quality Enhancement Cell, Ms. Sheema Haider from Indus University, Pakistan awarded Acknowledgement and Appreciation Certificates during the Gala Dinner's Award Ceremony. Recipients include APQN sixth President, Dr. Jianxin Zhang; Prof. Galina Motova, APQN Vice-President; Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara, APQN sixth Board Director; Dr. Jeanette Baird, Professor of University of Melbourne, Australia; Associate Prof. Alan Go, Lead Researcher, EV Academy, Singapore; Dr. Tariq Al-Sindi, Chief Executive of the Education and Training Quality Authority of Bahrain; Dr. Olgun Cicek, Dokuz Eylul University, Turkey; Dr. Fabrizio Trifiro, Ecctis / UK ENIC, United Kingdom and Dr. Patrick Pheasant, NEAS, Australia.

Day 3: 26 Nov 2022

On the second day of the APQN AAC, delegates began arriving at 9 a.m. to attend the six different parallel sessions held in two classrooms. The speakers at these sessions kept the attention of the delegates throughout the morning, and all of the

sessions were at nearly at full seating capacity.



Parallel sessions were at nearly at full seating capacity.

The following are the topics and sub-themes that were discussed during the parallel sessions:

Session 1 – Classroom 1, Sub-theme 1: Digitalization of Quality Assurance: Moderator: Prof Deepthi C. Bandara, APQN sixth Board Director, professor of University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka

1. Quality Assurance of Online Higher Education during COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case of a Pakistani University by Fawad Sadiq from Riphah International University, Pakistan

2. Experiences in Online Accreditation System: Inputs to Enhancement Plan by Maria Glenda O. De Lara and Michael Francis C. Garma from Philippine Normal University- Manila (The National Center for Teacher Education) and Nueva Vizcaya State University, Philippines.

3. Digitalization of Quality assurance; Challenges and Way Forward by Chani Imbulgoda from Postgraduate Institute of Management, Sri Lanka

4. Literature Review of Outcome Based Curriculum on Midwifery Education in Pandemic Situation, Solution or Challenge by Evi Susanti and Ayu Nurdiyana from Prima Nusantara Health Institute, Indonesia

5. Bangladeshi Students’ Feedback on Career Preparation Initiatives of Media Studies and Journalism Schools by Jude William Genilo, Sarkar Barbaq Quarmal, Abdul Kabil Khan and Nandita Tabassum Khan from University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Bangladesh

Session 2 – Classroom 2: Sub-theme 2: Internationalization and Information of Quality Assurance: Moderator: Ms Jasmine Kan, Lead QA, EDUVALUE, Singapore

1. Internationalisation of Quality Assurance by Patrick Pheasant and Petra Lechte from NEAS, Australia

2. International Joint Accreditation among Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand by Kazuyo Hara, Ying-Li Chou and Somyot Cheejaeng from Japan University Accreditation Association, Japan

3. Practice and Exploration of Information Technology Innovation in Higher Education Evaluation - a Case Study of Evaluation of Bachelor's Degree Authorization in a University of Shanghai by Pingping Liu, Kaizhen Hu and Cunyao Fan from Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China (Pre-recorded Video Presentation)

4. Exploration on the Information Technology Innovation and New Organizational System Construction Path of Virtual Teaching and Research Section by Chenwei Xiao and Feng, Xiumeng from Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China (Pre-recorded Video Presentation)

5.5. Establishing QA for Erasmus+ Project Management by Alexandra Zvezdova, Olga Safonkina and Evgeniya Korneva from

	<p>Certification Agency Russian Register, Russia</p>
<p>Session 3 – Classroom 1: Sub-theme 3: The Role of the Governments. Moderator: Ms. Umankulova Onolkan, APQN seventh Board Director, Chair of the Accreditation Council of the Agency for Quality Assurance in the field of education “EdNet”,Kyrgyzstan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of Privatization Policies and Public Sector Size on Economic Growth: A Panel Data Analysis by Muhammad Saeed from TMUC Pakistan, Pakistan 2. Talent Cultivation Mode for Integration of Industry and Education Based on ‘Triple Helix Model’ Theory by Zhu Jun and Zhang Wenzhong from Shanghai Publishing and Printing College, China (Pre-recorded Video Presentation) 3. Good Quality Education a Foundation for Dynamic and Equitable Societies by Makesh Kumar Balakumar and Saravana Selvakumar Ramasamy from G Venkataswamy Naidu College, India 4. Governance and Management of Indian Higher Education by Chandrashekar H.V. from National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India (Pre-recorded Video Presentation) 5. Continuous Quality Enhancement of Higher Education in Bhutan: A Post Accreditation Measure by Nima Lham Lha from Quality Assurance and Accreditation Division, Department of Adult and Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Bhutan 	<p>Session 4 – Classroom 2: Sub-theme 4: Quality Assurance of Outcome-Based Teaching and Learning: Moderator: Associate Prof. Alan Go, Lead Researcher, EV Academy, Singapore</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Enhancing the Learning Ability of the Higher Educational Students and Ensuring the Outcome-Based Teaching and Learning After the Pandemic by Saravana Selvakumar Ramasamy, Makesh Kumar Balakumar and Mahalakshmi Subramanian from G. Venkataswamy Naidu College, India 2.A Study on Online Teaching of the "Artificial Intelligence" Course Using Outcomes-Based Teaching and Learning (OBTL) Framework by Zhiyuan Sun from Shanghai Publishing and Printing College, China (Pre-recorded Video Presentation) 3.Study on Quality Assurance of Higher Education and Outcome-Based Education in Bangladesh by Sheikh Anwar Hossain from Gono Bishwabidyalay, Savar Dhaka, Bangladesh 4.Impact assessment of Outcome-Based Education (OBE) Paradigm in universities of Bangladesh by Masuma Habib, Golam Mohammad Mostakim from Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh
<p>Session 5 – Classroom 1: Sub-theme 5: Digitalization of Quality Assurance: Moderator: Ms. Umankulova Onolkan, APQN seventh Board Director, Chair of the Accreditation Council of the Agency for Quality Assurance in the field of education “EdNet”,Kyrgyzstan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digitalization of Quality Assurance at the Lahore School of Economics by Amberin Tanveer Syeda Anna Amjad Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan 2. Reflections on School-Running Level Evaluation of Branch Campuses of Shanghai Open University by Yingjie Xu and Xiumeng Feng from Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China (Pre-recorded 	<p>Session 6 – Classroom 2: Sub-theme 6: External Quality Assurance in a Changing Era: Moderator: Dr. Batdulam Sukhbaatar, APQN seventh Board Director, Senior Officer of Research and development at the Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation, Mongolia and Dornod School of the National University of Mongolia</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Conceptual Framework: HEIs and QA Practices during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges, Adaptation and Way Forward from the Malaysian Perspectives by Muhammad Hasfarizal Kamaludin, Fairul Nahar and Baharudin from Malaysian Qualifications Agency,

<p>Video Presentation)</p> <p>3. Education Evaluation: Opportunities Challenges and Paths of High-quality Development from the Perspective of Digital Transformation by Le Zhou and Feng Xiumeng from Shanghai Polytechnic University, China (Pre-recorded Video Presentation)</p> <p>4. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Resources Mobilization of State Universities and Colleges in Region 3 Marlon Gamido from Tarlac State University , Philippines</p> <p>5. The significance of internal quality assurance in the context of the third cycle of Japan's statutory accreditation system by Syun Tutiya form National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Japan</p>	<p>Malaysia (Pre-recorded Video Presentation)</p> <p>2. Challenge and Countermeasures Faced by Standards of Majors Evaluation in Colleges and universities in Shanghai by Lingfei Zhang Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China (Pre-recorded Video Presentation)</p> <p>3. Performance of Higher Education Institutions in Bhutan: An exploratory study of the Institutional Self-Assessment Report (ISAR) and Accreditors' Report (AR) by Sangye Choden, Kezang Sherab, Dolma Choden Roder, Nar Bahadur Raika, Sonam Dendup, Norbu Wangdi, Sushma Pradhan from QAAD, DAHE, MoE, Bhutan</p> <p>4. Students' Perspective on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Mongolia by Batdulam Sukhbaatar, Soyolmaa Bavuudorj, Boroldoi Enkhbaatar, Yanjmaa Ochirbat and Oyunchimeg Battumur from Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation, Mongolia (Pre-recorded Video Presentation)</p>
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After lunch on Day 2 of AAC, Keynote Speaker 2, Dr Wang Libing, Chief, Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education spoke on the topic “The Future of Higher Education: Inspirations from the 3rd World Higher Education Conference”.



The final Sub-theme 5, the Role of the Government saw the following papers presented:

1. Redefining the Role of Government Intervention in Private Education Quality Standards – Singapore Context by Alan Go from EV Academy, Singapore

2. Aotearoa New Zealand’s Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE): Changing Roles for Government and Private Sector in Technical and Vocational Education and

Training by Eve McMahon, Amy Davis and Terry Neal, New Zealand Qualifications Authority, New Zealand

3. Application of Module Approach in the Education Evaluation Projects-Take the Performance Evaluation of Phase I Construction and Demonstration of Phase II Construction Scheme of Shanghai New Type Research Institute as an Example by Le Fang, Xiumeng FENG and Pingping Liu from Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China

Closing of APQN 2022 AAC and AGM

After the afternoon tea-break, Prof. Galina Motova, APQN Vice-President, Deputy-director of National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia Chaired the APQN AGM covering the following matters:

Part 1: AGM

1.Secretary Report (including welcome to new members in 2022) from APQN Secretary/Treasurer by Ms Pingping Liu (Video Presentation)

2.Report from APQN fifth and sixth President by Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang

3.Thanks to the sixth Board and awarding the Certificates by the seventh President, Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika

4.Introduce the seventh Board Directors and awarding certificates by the sixth President and Vice President: Dr. Jianxin Zhang and Dr. Galina Motova

5.Inaugural Speech by the seventh President, Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika

Part 2: Closing Session

1.Announcement of the next host of 2023 AAC and Presentation by the next host, American International University Bangladesh, Dr. Farheen Hassan, Professor, Director, Undergraduate Program (BBA), Faculty of Business Administration (FBA)

2.Closing Remarks by the Chair of the Programme Committee: APQN President, Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang

3.Closing Remarks by the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee: Mr. Jun Barry Aw Yong, CEO, EDUVALUE Singapore

4.Comments, feedback, acknowledgment from the participants

Award of APQN Board Director Certificate to incoming and outgoing board members

The Keynote speakers Dr Tariq Al-Sindi and Dr Wang Libing were invited to give the APQN Board Director Certificate to incoming and outgoing board members present



at APQN 2022 AAC and AGM. Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika, the incoming seventh APQN President and Specialist (Advisor) to the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Division, Department of Adult and Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Bhutan, welcome all incoming Board of Directors and showed his deep appreciations to Dr. Jianxin Zhang, sixth APQN President for her great leadership and the good work of outgoing directors.

Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika subsequently chaired the 2nd Board Meeting in 2022 as new APQN President and discussed sustainable development of APQN with new Board of Directors.

Day 4: Post-Conference Event City Tour

The are 20 delegates who participated in joining a half-day City Tour of Singapore – Heritage Tour on 27 Nov 2022 from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. provided with English-speaking guide. Delegates will visit two conservation areas on this tour: Little India and Kampong Gelam. With excellent photo opportunities, guests will learn about the various groups of immigrants who have settled in these areas, including Chinese, Indians, Arabs, Malays, and others.



(Reported by: Alan Go, Lead Researcher, EV Academy (part of EDUVALUE); Photographer: Goderic Tia Photos@Copyright to EDUVALUE Pte Ltd)

Release of the book entitled "APQN Research on the COVID Impact"

At the open ceremony of 2022 APQN Academic Conference at Life-long Learning Institute in Singapore, APQN book entitled "APQN Research on the COVID Impact on the Quality of Higher Education" has been released to the public.

Jianxin Zhang (APQN President), Galina Motavo (Vice President), Mr. Jun Barry Aw Yong (Local host), together with Dr Wang Libing (Chief, Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education) released this book.



In the past 2-and-half years, APQN carried on many actions during the COVID pandemic, including 4 surveys, 7 interviews, 1 online forum, 3 international online conferences, 1 online-teaching standard and other researches. The current book is the result of most of APQN researches and projects COVID-19.

The book consists of 10 chapters including 4 parts: Part I is the research of chapters 1-3, which describes the impacts of COVID outbreak, such as "Survey of the COVID Impact on the HEIs", "Survey of the COVID Impact on QAAs" and "Survey on the Effectiveness of Online Teaching in the HEIs". Part II is the research of chapters 4-7 which narrates the uncertainty and challenges during the of COVID-19, such as "Review of APQN 2020 Online Forum", "APQN Board Interviews on HE Quality in COVID Crisis", "Qualitative Research on Effectiveness of Online Course during COVID-19" and "Academic Review of the 12th Higher Education International Conference". Part III is the research of chapters 8-10 which shows the results, such as "Meta-Review to APQR", "APQN Standard for Online-Teaching QA" and "COVID Response Mechanism". Part IV is annex 1-6 which provides more details to the researches carried on during the pandemic, such as 4 surveys, 7 interviews, and "APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance" issued globally on May 30, 2021.

You can download it at APQN website at <https://www.apqn.org/library/aac-proceedings>

(Written by Jianxin Zhang, APQN President as well as the chief-editor)

APQN Annual General Meeting

The APQN Annual General Meeting took place in Singapore on November 26, 2022. It was chaired by Prof. Galina Motova, APQN Vice-President, Deputy-director of National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia



The meeting began with the report of the APQN Secretariat made by Liu Pingpin, Xu Yingjie, Fang Le, and Fan Cunyao. The Secretariat is currently administered by the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (China). The report specifically emphasized an increase in the number of Network members from 222 in March 2019 to 268 as of today. Nowadays, the 268 APQN members come from 47 countries. There are 51 full members, 20 intermediate members, 17 associate members (agencies outside the Asia-Pacific), 14 observers, and 165 institutional members. There is also one individual member. The Secretariat stressed that accreditation agencies in the region and around the world are highly interested in the APQN membership.

The fifth and sixth APQN President, Professor Dr. Jianxin Zhang, reported on two terms of chairing the APQN Board. During the past six years, particularly as a result of the vigorous efforts and initiatives of Dr. Jianxin Zhang and the dedicated work of the Board, APQN has achieved strong financial stability and attracted the attention of numerous stakeholders, including quality assurance agencies, HEIs, and partner organizations. Every year, the Network gains more members and expands the scope of its political influence in the area. Many events have been held during this period, including Annual Academic Conferences, General Meetings, Summits, and International Forums. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the borders were closed and communication was limited, APQN continued its activity and held conferences in an online format. The research into the influence of COVID on teaching and learning and the effectiveness of quality assurance agencies was carried out. The following papers were published: Anthology 2019, Anthology 2021, and "APQN Research on the COVID Impact on the Quality of Higher Education." APQR and APQL projects aimed at the external review of agencies and HEIs are being implemented. The electronic edition of APQNews is published twice a year, and the Annual Report is published every year.

Professor Dr. Jianxin Zhang commended the Board for their productive collaboration and wished the newly elected Board success in their efforts to promote the Network's sustainability.

The sixth Board members were awarded certificates. The election results of the new seventh Board were declared and finalized during the General Meeting. The new Board includes the following members: President: Nar Bahadur Raika from Bhutan,

Vice President: Galina Motova from Russia, Secretary/Treasurer: Liu Pingping from China and Board Directors: (1) Ex-Officio as Immediate Past President, Jianxin Zhang from China; (2) Ex-officio as APQR Chair, Jagannath Patil from India; (3) Elected Jun Barry Aw Yong from Singapore; (4) Elected Srinivasa Chandramouliswar Sharma from India; (5) Elected Umankulova Onolkan from Kyrgyzstan; and (6) Elected Timur Kanapyanov from Kazakhstan.



Dr. Tariq Al-Sindi, the Chief Executive of the Education and Training Quality Authority of Bahrain, the Secretary General of the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) and an Executive Board member at the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAHE) awarded certificates to the new Board members.

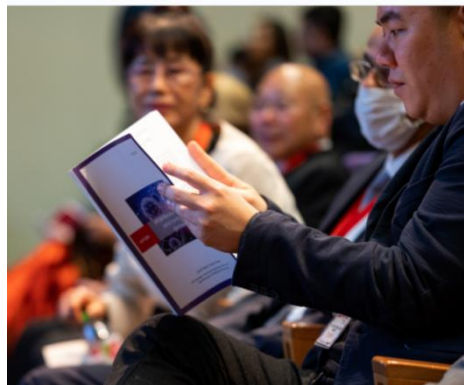
The key highlight of the General Meeting was the inauguration address made by the seventh President, Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika. In his speech, he expressed gratitude to the sixth Board, emphasized the achievements accomplished, highlighted the effective work of the conference organizer, EDUVALUE (Singapore), and thanked the members of the Network for the great honour of electing him as the President of one of the most reputable and influential quality assurance networks in the region.

Assuming full responsibility for APQN further progress, he stated the following: “As I take on this large responsibility, I propose to move the Network further guided by the 3 Cs – Constitution, Collaboration, Continuity, and Sustainability.” Mr. Raika also noted how much the world has changed recently and that the Network needs to adapt to these changes. “We will adopt, adapt, and adjust to the needs of the volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world for continuity of the practices and change, thereby making them current and relevant. Meanwhile, we will look ahead to the future, take into account development trends, and support new ideas and innovations in quality assurance. We will not work as if we have inherited the Network from the sixth Board of Directors but as if we have borrowed it from our future Boards to make it sustainable.”



The General Meeting was held after the APQN Annual Academic Conference, where the venue and date of the next AAC were announced: November 2023, Bangladesh. In addition, it was suggested that a quality assurance summit be held in the Philippines.

The year 2023 is particularly noteworthy for all the network members since it marks APQN 20th anniversary.



(Written by Galina Motova, APQN Vice-President)

PRESIDENT REPORT

Prologue

Dear Board directors, dear members in APQN big family, a very good afternoon!

Welcome you to AGM!

On behalf of APQN Board Directors, Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jagannath Patil, Deepthi Bandara, Farida Nurmanbetova and Barry Aw Yong, Here I present "APQN President Report" for you to approval.



6 years ago (2016), in Fiji known as the "heaven on earth", I was elected APQN fifth President, taking over the baton of "APQN Long March" from 4th president, Dr. Jagannath Patil. Since then, I have shouldered APQN responsibility as the parent of this international family.

In 2019, I was once again honored to be elected as the sixth president. Together with all the Board directors and members, we spent the difficult time under the great challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, we are happy to welcome APQN seventh Board. On behalf of the fifth and sixth Board, let's warmly welcome and congratulate the new Board directors!

In my inaugural speech 6 years ago, I said: "*I will faithfully perform the duties of APQN President*". I also raised a question: "*Everyone in APQN, especially myself, should not ask what APQN can do for us, but what I can do for APQN?*" Today is the time to answer that question and to check whether the Board has fulfilled the promise and implemented the tasks or not.

Based on "APQN Constitution" "APQN Procedure Manual", 2 APQN Strategic Plans (2016-2019; 2019-2022), 13 Issues of APQNews (Issue 14-26), 5 APQN Annual Reports (2016-2021), on behalf of APQN fifth and sixth Board, here President Report will presented in 10 aspects: (1) APQN organization construction; (2) Human resource development; (3) Regulation and system construction; (4) Academic development; (5) COVID Pandemic response mechanism; (6) Construction of external QA mechanism; (7) Construction of internal QA mechanism; (8) Publications; (9) Financial status; (10) Spirit legacy.

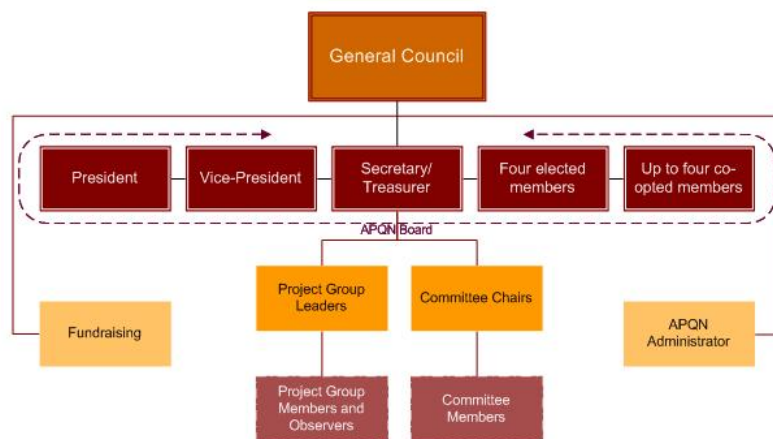
I. APQN Organization Construction: Mission and Framework

1. APQN Governing body

APQN governing bodies and authorities are the General Council and the Board. The General Council is comprised of Full Members, Intermediate Members, Associate Members, Institutional Members and Individual Members.

APQN Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer(ex-officio), immediate Past President(ex-officio), and four other elected directors, and other directors whom the Board may decide to co-opt, to a maximum of four co-opted directors on the Board.

Fig. 1 APQN Administration framework



APQN Board may establish committees, such as the Executive Committee, Membership Committee, the Finance Committee, the Office Bearers, etc. According to APQN projects and tasks, the Board can appoint Project Group Leaders who, if not already directors of the Board, may be co-opted as directors of the Board to a maximum of two co-opted Project Group Leaders as outlined.

2. APQN mission, value, vision, principle and ultimate goal

APQN mission is 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 value is to be committed to the quality of higher education, and supportive of both internal and external quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region.

APQN vision is to promote quality culture; to be a self-sustaining non-government and non-profit organization; and to be the first point of reference, efficient in its operations and sharing information among members.

APQN principles are: (1) procedure-based; (2) capacity building; (3) self-reliance and information-sharing; and (4) sustainable development for final goal.

APQN ultimate goal is "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region".

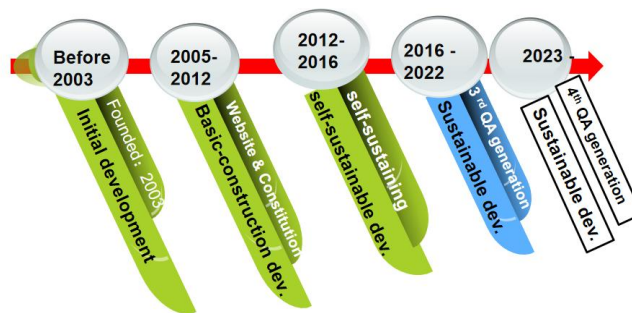
3.APQN History Development

On a sunny day 19 years ago (January,2003) in Hong Kong, China, a small core group of QA persons (Peter Cheung of HKCAA, David Woodhouse of AUQA, and VS Prasad of NAAC) with a common wish for excellence in quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region had a meeting... and here APQN came into being!

Time flies! 19 years had passed by before we realized it. After the 19-year development, APQN has become the largest and the most influential international, non-governmental, non-profit organization in the Asia-Pacific Region with 268 members from 47 countries/territories.

In the past 19 years, APQN has gone through 4 development stages: (1) Before 2003, it is initiative development stage focusing on APQN goal, mission, vision, etc. (2) from 2005-2012, it is basic-construction development stage, focusing on website, constitution, etc.; (3) from 2012-2016, it is self-sustainable development stage, focusing on APQN survival because of the cease of grand-support; (4) from 2016 to 2022, it is self-sustainable development stage, focusing on third generation of quality assurance. From 2022, APQN will enter new development stage, focusing on fourth generation of quality assurance.

Fig. 2: APQN history development stage



Founded in 2003, APQN has been focusing on higher education QA, insisting the mission of "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 Mission Statement, 2015) to carry out international cooperation within the Asia-Pacific Region.

II. Human resource development

In the field of human resource, APQN has been continuously working hard on three aspects: Board Directors, APQN members and 3.Consultant Database.

1.APQN Board Directors

In the past 6 years, APQN has two terms of Board: the fifth and sixth Board.

At the fifth Board, there are 9 Board Directors in total: Jianxin Zhang (President), Angela Hou Yung-chi (Vice President), Li Yaogang and Pingping Liu (Secretary/Treasurer), and Directors: Jagannath Patil (Ex-Officio as Immediate Past President), Manuel Corpus, Zita Mohd Fahmi (dropped out), Galina Motova, Malini Nair-Prasad and Deepthi C. Bandara(2018-2019).

Fig. 3: The fifth Board Directors (2016-2019)



At the sixth Board, there are 8 Board Directors in total: Jianxin Zhang (President), Galina Motova (Vice President), Liu Pingping (Secretary/Treasurer), and Directors: Jagannath Pati, Deepthi C. Bandara, I-Jung Grace Lu(2019-2020), Farida Nurmanbetova, Jun Barry Aw Yong(2020-2022).

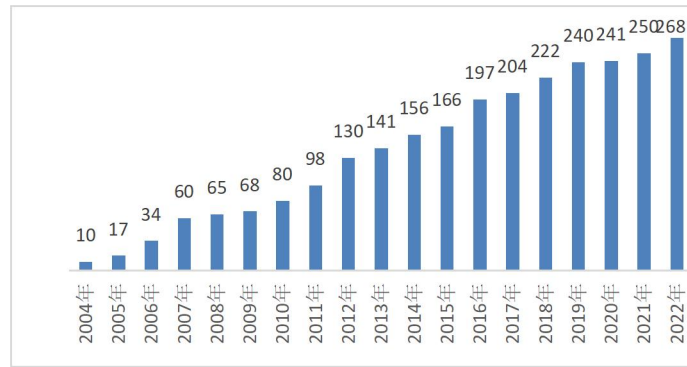
Fig. 4: The sixth Board Directors(2019-2020)



2.APQN Members

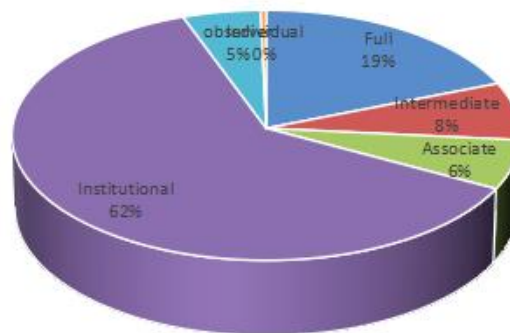
As of November 25, 2022 APQN has 268 members from 47 countries/ territories.

Fig.5: The growing number of APQN Members



Among them, there are five categories: Full members, Intermediate members, Associate members, Institutional members and Individual Members. Institutional members cover 62% of the total number, which means that internal quality assurance is getting more and more important in Asia-Pacific Region.

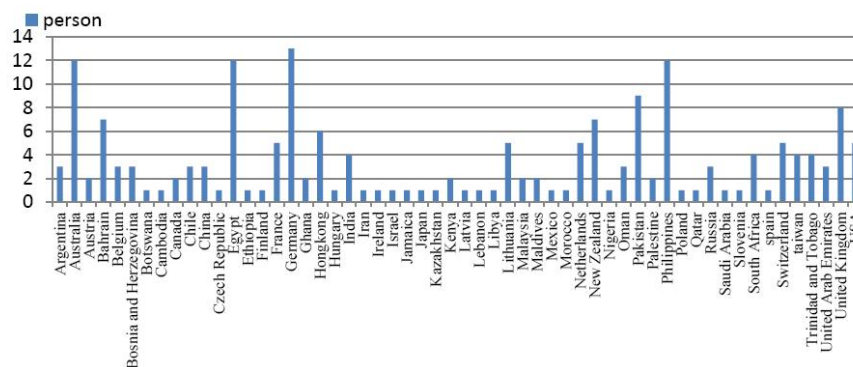
Fig. 6: Category percentage of APQN members



3. Consultant Database

In 2016, the consultant database is composed of 188 consultants from 56 countries. 47% consultants are from developed countries and 53% from developing countries. such as Germany, Australia, Egypt and the Philippines.

Fig. 7: The composition of APQN consultant database



In 2020, 46 new Consultants were added to Consultant Database, there are 234 consultants.

III.Regulation and system construction

In the filed of regulation and system construction, APQN has covered 5 important aspects: (1) completing "APQN Procedure Manual"; (2) amendments of "APQN Constitution"; (3) making 2 "Strategic Plans" (2016-2019; 2019-2022); (4) establishing "9-Ones system"; (5) holding 5 AGMs.

1. Completing "APQN Procedure Manual"

Since its inception in 2003, APQN has released 2 versions of the Manual: (1) Version 1 with 8 chapters was released in 2007; (2) Version 2 with only 1 chapter on Finance was released in 2011, supplementary to Version 1.

In the past decade, APQN got financial support from World Bank and UNESCO, but since 2012, the found was ceased, and APQN stepped into a self-sustaining era. Naturally many procedures are of no use.

In 2016, at the first Board meeting of the fifth Board in Fiji, the Board considered that it's high time for APQN to revise the Manual. The Board approved that Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang as the group leader to revise APQN Procedure Manual with the financial support of "the Self-fundraising Project: APQN Sustainable Development" donated by Mr. Zhang Jianping, CEO of Wuxi Shenzheng International Logistics Co. Ltd., China.

Based on APQN Procedures Manual (version 1) in 2007 and Finance Manual (Version 2) in 2011, referencing INQAAHE General Procedures Manual (version 17) in 2013, "APQN Procedure Manual (Version 3)" with 12 chapters has been revised and updated by Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang with the help of Ms. Xinna Zhang, Angela Hou Yung-chi. The Manual was endorsed by APQN Board in September, 2017 . In October 31, 2017, APQN released "APQN Procedure Manual (version 3)" to the public in the website (<http://www.apqn.org/about-apqn/apqn-brochures>). At the open ceremony of 2018 APQN Academic Conference held in Nagpur, India, APQN Board Directors together with distinguished guests, keynote speakers officially released the Manual.

Fig. 8: Formal Releasing of APQN Procedure Manual in 2018 in India



As we all know, the Manual acts as guidance for APQN, lays guidelines for its functioning, gives astonishingly positive results in its functioning in the area it

belongs to. The implementation of the Manual has made APQN working smooth, question free and transparent which is the need of the sustainable development of APQN.

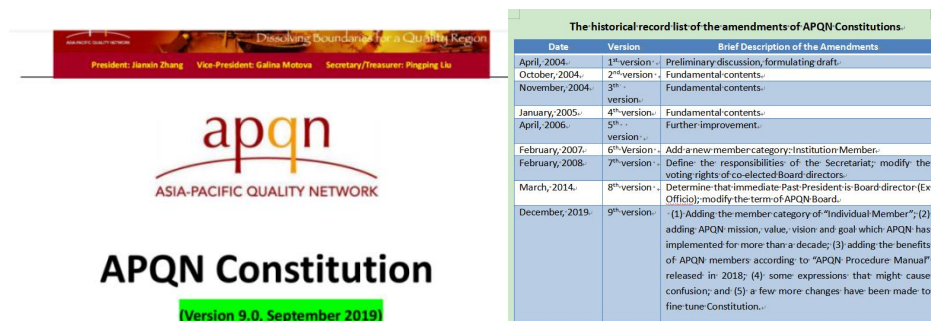
2. Amendments of "APQN Constitution"

According to the decisions of the first Board meeting of the sixth Board held on March 30, 2019, it's high time for APQN to amend APQN Constitution (v. 9.0), which was amended five years ago.

Approved by the sixth Board, 1 9-step procedure was made as the schedule of the Amendments of APQN Constitution. In September, the amendment has been completed, including the 5 aspects: (1) Adding the member category of "Individual Member"; (2) adding APQN mission, value, vision and goal which APQN has implemented for more than a decade; (3) adding the benefits of APQN members according to "APQN Procedure Manual" released in 2018; (4) some expressions that might cause confusion; and (5) a few more changes have been made to fine tune Constitution.

APQN Constitution is of great significance to APQN: it is not only the foundation of APQN, but also the soul of APQN. By the end of 2019, APQN had amended it (9 version), such as adding individual membership category.

Fig. 9: 2. Amendments of "APQN Constitution" in 2019



3. Making 2 "APQN Strategic Plans" (2016-2019; 2019-2022)

APQN Strategic Plan is as the guidance for the new general council in the next three years. In order to realize the final goal of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region", the fifth and sixth Board of APQN made the APQN Strategic Plan (2016-2019; 2019-2022).

The Board took on the persistent mission with new attitude and new perspectives. The five principles of the Strategic Plan are: (1) target-orientated principle; (2) project-orientated principle; (3) SMART Project principle (specific, meaningful, agreed-upon, results-oriented and tractable); (4) Win-Win Principle; and (5) principle of sustainable development. The five key words are "procedure-base, capacity-building, self-reliance, information-sharing and sustainable development".

2 APQN Strategic Plans (2019-2022) focus on completing 7 goals and actions

along with 9 targets in the next three years.

Table 1: 7 goals and 9 targets in APQN Strategic Plan

APQN Strategic Plan	
7 Goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish ongoing financial viability and stability 2. Develop the website to provide a platform for the communication for all members 3. Populate and maintain the consultant database and make information accessible to all 4. Ensure APQN annual conference efficiently and effectively 5. Complete the research projects facilitate the requests, support and advice for training or others 6. Strengthen relations with other international, regional and national networks/organizations within and outside the Region 7. Broaden the base of services to its members to ensure visibility and sustainability of network activities
9 Targets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise more funds by seeking sponsorship, support and in-kind contributions from all kinds of relative stakeholders. 2. Ensure all countries/territories in the region have access to an accreditation agency – national or regional, establish Qualification Framework. 3. Conduct capacity building workshops on evaluators on a user pay principle. 4. Asia-Pacific Quality Register(APQR) to be implemented in 2019 -2020. 5. APQN Quality Label (APQL) to be implemented in 2019 -2022. 6. Continue to publish the series of AAC anthologies, APQN Annual Report and APQNews. 7. Continue to establish QA Consultant Database. 8. Continue to establish Quality Information Portal along with on-line forum. 9. Continue to establish mutual relationship with other international, regional and national QA networks/organizations.

Fig. 10: APQN Strategic Plans(2016-2019) and APQN Strategic Plans (2019-2022)



**Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region:
APQN Strategic Plan (2016-2019)**

The Fifth Board Council of APQN
July 4, 2016

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) is a non-profit, non-government network/organization focusing on the quality of higher education, the provision of the education and training for quality assurance agencies (QAAs) in the Asia and the Pacific region that contains over half the world's population. APQN was founded in Hong Kong in January 2003, incorporated as an association in December 2004 in the State of Victoria, Australia, and registered as a non-profit organization in June 2011 in Shanghai, China.

APQN's mission is "to enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies (QAAs) and extending the cooperation between them". For the past 13 years, under the leadership of APQN pioneers and four previous Presidents - Mr. Peter T Cheung, Ms. Concepcion Pijano, Dr. Antony Stella, and Dr. Jagannath Paril, APQN has been committed to pursue excellent quality of higher education and very supportive to QAAs in the region. APQN has been dedicated to the following tasks: 1) dissemination of information through newsletters, documents, journals and books; 2) train and development through seminars, workshops, conferences and staff movement; 3) reference to the databases and other resources of INQAAHE and other organizations; and 4) other appropriate tasks as determined by the General Council or the Board. As of March 1, 2016, APQN has 166 members representing 38 countries/territories. Today APQN is the largest and most influential international organization in the field of higher education quality assurance in Asia-Pacific Region. The pioneers have made extraordinary improvement and made APQN legacy.



**Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region:
APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022)**

The Sixth Board of APQN
May 30, 2019

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) is a non-profit, non-government network/organization focusing on the quality of higher education in the Asia and the Pacific region that contains over half the world's population. APQN's mission is "to be committed to the quality of higher education and supportive of quality organizations in the region", with the final goal is "to dissolve boundaries for a quality region". APQN promote education quality and capacity-building for both the quality assurance agencies (QAAs) and the higher education institutions (HEIs).

Founded in 2003, under the leadership of APQN founders, pioneers and 5 Presidents, the 16-year efforts gave APQN the vitality of sustainable development and left APQN the spiritual legacy: 1) the spirit of dedication; 2) the spirit of sharing; 3) the spirit of serving; 4) the spirit of innovation; and 5) the spirit of sustainable development.

As of March 30, 2019, APQN has 212 members representing 42 countries/territories. Today APQN is the largest and most influential international organization in the field of higher education quality assurance in Asia-Pacific Region.

The sixth Board began its term on March 30, 2019 in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. To realize the mission of "being a self-sustaining network, the first point of reference for advice or support, efficient in its operations and open in its information sharing", this Strategic Plan is made as the guideline for the new general council in the next three years (2019-2022).

The sixth Board will take on the persistent mission with new attitude and new perspectives. The five principles of the sixth Board are: 1) target-orientated principle; 2) project-orientated principle; 3) SMART Project principle (specific, meaningful, agreed-upon, multi-oriented and traceable); 4) Win-Win Principle; and 5) principle of sustainable development. The five key words are "procedure-based, capacity-building, self-reliance, information-sharing and sustainable development". APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022) will complete the following seven goals and actions along with ten targets in the next three years.

4. Establishing "9-ones system"

Based on "APQN Procedure Manual", we made APQN annual routine work as "9-One system" in order to systematically and continuously promote the development of higher education QA:

- 1) Once a year, holding an AAC (international academic conference) to all (5 sessions)
- 2) Once a year, holding an AGM (annual general meeting) of the General Council (5 times)
- 3) Once a year, holding a quality award ceremony (5 sessions)
- 4) Once a year, holding the "Global Summit " to QA experts (3 sessions)
- 5) Once a year, MPI-APQN holding international conference on "teaching QA" in Macao (6 sessions)
- 6) Once a year, publishing an APQN Annual Report (6 issues)
- 7) Once a year, publishing an academic anthology of selected papers (5 volumes)
- 8) Once a year, publishing APQNews twice a year(12 issues)
- 9) Twice a year, holding QA online forum (2 sessions)

It is based on the "9- One system", we made APQN calendar at the beginning of each year, while at the end of each month we made monthly calendar to inform all APQN Board Directors to keep in mind what APQN has done last month and what APQN will do next month. By this way, APQN can systematically function very well without delaying or missing the tasks should be done.

5. Holding 5 Annual General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the important annual meeting of the General Council (GC). The governing bodies and authorities of APQN are the General Council and the Board. The GC is composed of Full Members, Intermediate Members, Associate Members and Institutional Members.

According to "APQN Constitution", APQN must hold Annual General Meeting(AGM) once a year. Since 2017, APQN held 6 AGMs (table 2). In the year of 2020, there was no AGM because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all the conferences, meetings and activities stopped in the whole globe .

Table 2: The year and venue list of Annual General Meetings (2017-2022)

Year	Venue	Theme
2017	Mosco, Russia	APQN General Meeting in 2017
2018	Nagpur, India	APQN General Meeting in 2018
2019	Colombo, Sri Lanka	APQN General Meeting in 2019
2021	Singapore	APQN General Meeting in 2021(online)
2022	Singapore	APQN General Meeting in 2022

Fig. 11: Group photos of 5 AGMs

2017, Russia



2018, India



2019, Sri Lanka



2021, Singapore online



2022, Singapore



IV. Academic development

In the field of academic development, APQN held 5 Academic Conferences, 3 Global Summit, 2 Online Forums, 5 Quality Award Ceremonies and 7 MPI-APQN international conferences.

1. Holding 5 APQN Academic Conferences

APQN Academic Conference (AAC) is a major event of the year and it is an opportunity for members to update themselves on the latest trends in quality assurance and liaise with their colleagues in the region, which coincides with the AGM.

From 2017 to 2022, APQN held 5 AACs in 4 countries: Russia, India, Sri Lanka and Singapore. The most important keyword is "quality assurance". In 2020, because of COVID, just like other networks in the global, APQN had to cancel AAC, and in 2021 APQN had to hold online AACs.

Table 3: The list of AAC year, venue, theme and host (2017-2022)

Year	Venue	Theme	Host
2017	Mosco, Russia	New Horizons: Dissolve Boundaries for a Quality Region	NACPA
2018	Nagpur, India	Capacity Building (CB) for Next- Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education	SSESASC
2019	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: Insight into the Future	UGC
2021	Singapore	COVID-19 Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region (online)	EDUVALUE
2022	Singapore	Quality Assurance for Higher Education under Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond in Asia-Pacific Region	EDUVALUE

Fig. 12: Group photos of 5 AACs
2017, Russia



2018, India



2019, Sri Lanka



2021, Singapore online

**APQN 2021 Webinar
Panel of International
Speakers**



2022, Singapore



2. Holding 3 Global Summit

APQN Global Summit is one of the main annual events for discussing and advancing quality assurance in higher education throughout the Asia- Pacific region.

Since September, 2016, 3 Global Summits on Quality Assurance have been held in 3 countries/territories. The most prominent one is the "Global Summit on Quality Higher Education: Sharing values and fostering trust beyond borders" held in Bengaluru, India.

Fig. 13: Group photo of the 3 global summits



"Bengaluru Statement for 2016 on Next-Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education" was the culmination of the global summit and is counted as the major landmark in the International history of higher education quality assurance.

Table 4: The year, venue, theme and organizer list of 3 global summit

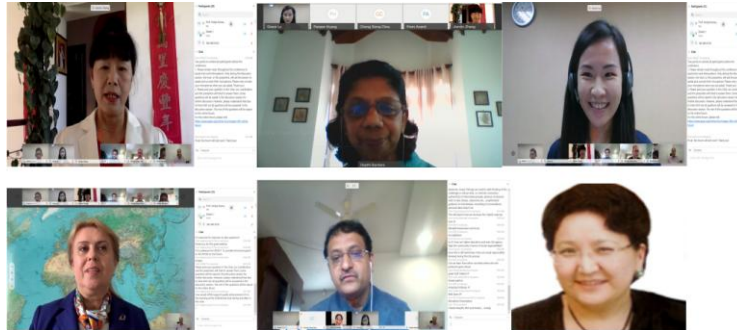
Year	Venue	Theme	Organizer
2016	Bengaluru, India	Sharing Values and Fostering Trust beyond Borders (Bengaluru Statement)	NAAC
2017	Chinese Taipei	Regional Cooperation and Harmonization: ASEAN Countries and East Asia in Quality Assurance of Higher Education	HEEACT
2018	Bali, Indonesia	Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0 - Issues and Challenges,	NAAHE
Total	3 cities		3

3. Holding 2 Online Forums

On-line forum is conducted twice every two year. 2 Online Forums have been conducted, The theme of the seventh forum is "Capacity Building of Quality Assurance Agencies and Universities: Professionalism and Effectiveness" while the

eighth is " Influence of COVID on Quality Assurance: The new normal of Higher Education 4.0" held on July 27, 2020.

Fig. 14: Group photo of the eighth online forum



The forum was focused on six themes: (1) Governments as a key player for higher education quality assurance under the impact of COVID-19; (2) The new normal of internationalization of quality assurance; (3) Quality assurance of outcome-based teaching and learning: the influence of COVID-19; (4) Digitization of quality assurance: will this be the new normal for quality assurance? (5) Innovations in HE accreditation in an era of disruptive technologies; (6) Reflections on new normal and strategies for quality assurance in emerging out of COVID-19pandemic. The success of the online forum gave APQN great confidence: APQN would shoulder its responsibility and take the online forum as an opportunity to further enhance the Quality of Higher Education in Asia-Pacific region.

Table 5: The year, theme and chair of 2 online forums

Year	Theme	Chair
2018	Capacity Building of Quality Assurance Agencies and Universities: Professionalism and Effectiveness	Angela, Jianxin and Deepthi
2020	Influence of COVID-19 on Quality Assurance: The new normal of Higher Education 4.0 "	I-Jung Grace Lu

4. Holding 4 Quality Award Ceremonies

APQN Quality Award is the first international quality assurance award in the Asia-Pacific region, which can encourage members that have done outstanding work individually, institutionally, nationally as well as internationally in quality assurance in higher education.

Since 2017, 4 Quality award ceremonies have been held in 4 countries: Russia, India, Sri Lanka and Singapore. 22 winners both within and outside the Asia-Pacific Region got the awards in QA field.

Table 6: Summary list of the ceremonies of APQN Quality Awards

Year	Ceremony Venue	Award Categories	Winner
2017	Moscow, Russia	4	6
2018	Nagpur, India	3	6
2019	Colombo, Sri Lanka	5	5
2022	Singapore	3	5
Total	4 cities	14	22

Fig. 15: Group photo of 4 Quality Award Ceremonies

2017, Russia



2018, India



2019, Sri Lanka



2022, Singapore



6. Holding 7 MPI-APQN international conferences

Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) and APQN have been jointly organizing international conferences on quality of teaching and learning quality in higher education in Macao since 2015.

In the past 7 years, MPI-APQN successful held 7 international conference. Nearly 200 scholars and experts coming from countries or regions such as the United Kingdom, Portugal, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Sri Lanka, Fiji, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Chinese Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao, spoke or presented their latest research, attracting the participation of hundreds of academics, QA experts, and higher education students in the Asia-Pacific Region. MPI has published "6 Proceedings"

Table 7: The year and theme of 7 MPI-APQN international conferences

Year	Theme
2016	The New Frontiers of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher Education
2017	The New Developments of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher

	Education
2018	Innovation and Developments in Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance
2019	Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in International Contexts
2020	Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era
2021	Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era
2022	Online Teaching and Sustainable Quality Assurance: Challenges and Perspectives

Fig. 16: Group photo of MPI-APQN international conferences



V. COVID Response Mechanism

1. APQN 13 innovative actions to guarantee education quality assurance under the COVID pandemic

In the past 3 years, the COVID Pandemic attacked all the global human being in a

threatening and horrible manner. It is an unprecedented scenario in the world history of education.

During the COVID pandemic, APQN conducted 13 actions, including 4 surveys, interviews to 7 Board Directors, 1 online forum, 3 international online conferences, 1 online-teaching standard, 2 books and other researches(table 8).

Table 8: APQN 13 innovative actions to guarantee education quality assurance under the COVID pandemic

#	Time	Innovative actions	Beneficiaries	Impacts
1	Marc h-May, 2020	APQN global survey on the COVID impact in higher education institutions(HEIs)	The survey covered the respondents from 47 countries/territories around the World.	Final Report of APQN Survey Research on the COVID-19 Impact in Higher Education Institutions (Annex 1: 47 pages)
2	April-June, 2020	APQN survey on the COVID impact in quality assurance agencies(QAAs)	The survey was sent to 71 QAAs – APQN members, as well as 30 QAAs from Europe	Results of APQN survey on the influence of COVID-19 on Quality Assurance Agencies (Annex 2: 11 pages)
3	June-July, 2020	Interviews with APQN Board Directors on COVID impact on HE quality	7 Board Directors were interviewed on quality of higher education in the COVID-19 Crisis from April 20 to May 20, 2020.	APQN Board Interviews on HE Quality in COVID-19 Crisis (Annex 3:15 pages)
4	July 28, 2020	APQN 8th online forum entitled "Influence of COVID on higher education quality assurance: the new normal of higher education 4.0	32 representatives from 9 countries and regions around the world participated in the online forum through the Webex.	Review Report of APQN 2020 online forum entitled the COVID-19 impact on the quality assurance of higher education (Annex 4: 11 pages)
5	July, 2020	Survey on Effectiveness of On-line Teaching	4650 respondents from 23 provinces/regions replied the survey	Survey Report of the effectiveness of online teaching in the HEIs (Annex 5: 10 pages)
6	Nov.2 5-26, 2020	MPI-APQN 12th International Conference on Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher Education under the Pandemic	The conference featured four keynote speakers and 22 presentations divided into six parallel sessions.	Academic Review of the 12th Higher Education International Conference (Annex 6: 13 pages)
7	June to December, 2020	Qualitative Research on Effectiveness of Online Course during the COVID-19 Pandemic	54 on-the-job graduate students majoring in Education Administration at Yunnan University, China	Qualitative Research on Effectiveness of Online Course during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Annex 7: pages)
8	May 31, 2021	APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance	The Standard was released to the whole world on May 31, 2021. 268 APQN members directly got the “Standard” from APQN Secretariat.	8-1: APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance(11 pages); 8-2: APQNews (Issue 23); Releasing APQN Standard (p.12-13) (Annex 8-1 & 8-2:)
9	Nov. 22, 2021	MPI-APQN 13th International Conference on Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era	Over 30 experts from England, Portugal, Australia, Japan, Turkey, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, cross-straits, Hong Kong and	(1)MPI-APQN 13 th International Conference was Held; (2) Speech at MPI-APQN 13 th Higher Education International Conference

			Macao presented their papers.	(Annex 9:10 pages)
10	Nov. 25, 2021	AAC on COVID Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region	350 persons have registered from Bangladesh, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, and other countries/territories.	10-1: 2021 AAC and AGM is a Great Success (p.11-17) 10.2: Overview of 2021 AAC on COVID-19 Response Mechanism (Annex 10:-1 & 10-2: 16 pages)
11	June, 2022	Anthology of selected papers of 2021 AAC (online) in Singapore under COVID Pandemic	The selected papers of 45 authors have been published.	Annex 11-1: Digital Publishing of APQN 2019 and 2021 Anthologies (p.17-21) Annex 11-2: Annex 11-2 APQN_Anthology of 2021 AAC on COVID-19 Response Mechanism (225 pages) (Annex 11: 330 pages)
12	June, 2022	APQN Research on the COVID Impact on the HE Quality	The book was up-load to APQN website for free download for all in the world. The book was officially released at 2022 AAC to 120 participants in Singapore. 14 authors published their research on COVID-19 Impact on quality assurance in higher education.	Annex 12-1: Publication of "APQN Research on the COVID Impact on the Quality of Higher Education (Pp.14-16) Annex 12-2: Book entitled "APQN Research on the COVID Impact on the HE Quality (245 pages) Annex 12-3: Releasing the book on APQN Research on the COVID-19 Impact (p.35) (Annex 12: 25 pages)
13	Nov., 2022	APQN academic conference "Quality Assurance for Higher Education under COVID Pandemic & Beyond in Asia-Pacific Region"	The 4-day event saw about 120 delegates from educational QA organizations, regulatory bodies, and universities from 27 countries/territories. In total, we had 11 sessions, 5 meetings, 2 keynotes, 1 ceremony. 79 papers on COVID- Impact were submitted.	REPORT of APQN 2022 AAC & AGM (Annex 13:16: pages)

2. APQN Research on the COVID Impact on the HE Quality

Based on the actions taken above, APQN published one book entitled "APQN Research on the COVID Impact on the HE Quality in the Asia-Pacific Region", which includes most of APQN actions under COVID-19. The book consists of 10 chapters in 4 parts:

Part I is the researches of chapter 1-3, which describes the impacts at COVID-19 outbreak, such as "Survey of the COVID-19 Impact on the HEIs", "Survey of the COVID-19 Impact on QAAs" and "Survey on the Effectiveness of Online Teaching in the HEIs".

Part II is the researches of chapter 4-7 which narrates the uncertainty and challenges during the of COVID-19, such as "Review of APQN 2020 Online Forum", "APQN Board Interviews on HE Quality in COVID-19 Crisis", "Qualitative Research on

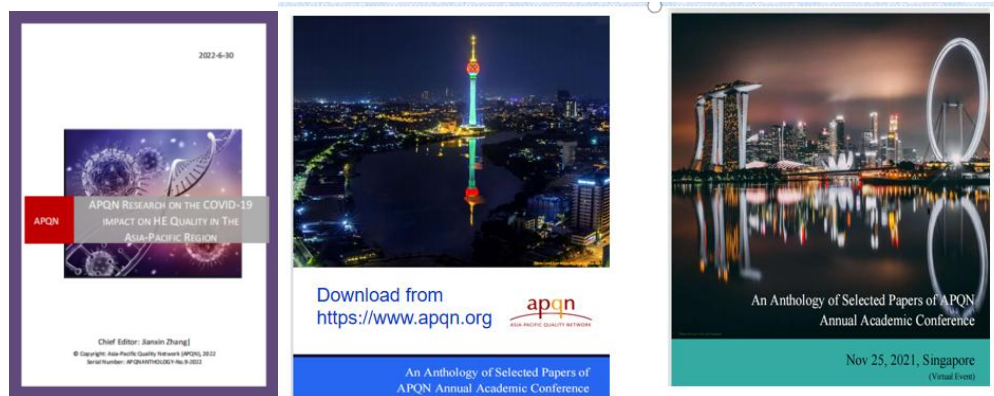
Effectiveness of Online Course during COVID-19" and "Academic Review of the 12th Higher Education International Conference".

Part III is the researches of chapter 8-10 which shows the results, such as "Meta-Review to APQR", "APQN Standard for Online-Teaching QA" and "COVID-19 Response Mechanism".

Part IV is annex 1-6 which provides more information in detail during COVID-19, such as 4 surveys, 7 interviews, and "APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance" issued globally on May 30, 2021.

The book and the 2 anthologies can be downloaded from APQN website: <https://www.apqn.org>.

Fig. 17: Three books published during the COVID pandemic



3. APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance

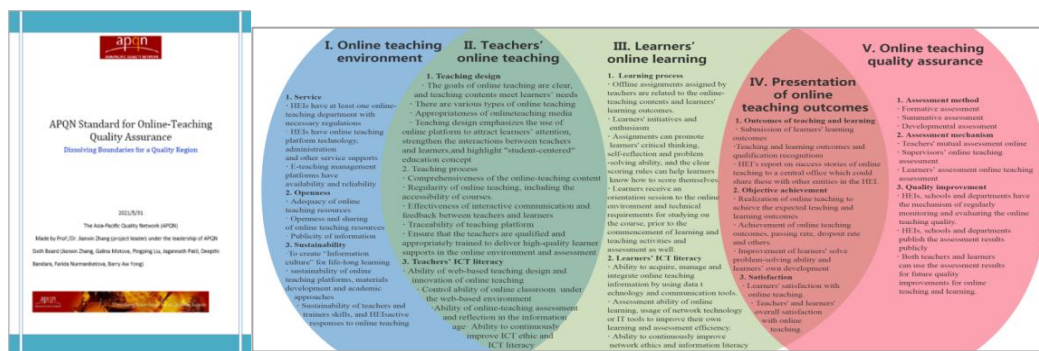
Since campus lockdown restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, online teaching has emerged onto the global higher education stage as a leading means of “adjusting to new environments”. The results of “APQN survey on COVID-19 impact” conducted in 2020, showed that 68% of the respondents are “not satisfied” with online teaching.

At APQN 8th forum entitled “Influence of COVID-19 on Higher Education Quality Assurance” held on July 28, 2020, an urgent demand made APQN decide to develop APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance.

Based on the survey and the key elements of standard for online-teaching quality assurance were developed by Delphi Method, “APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance” was released in June, 2021.

APQN standard consist of 5 criteria, 14 indicators and 46 observation points. The 5 criteria are (1) Online teaching environment; (2) Teachers’ online teaching; (3) Learners’ online learning; (4) Presentation of online teaching outcomes; and (5) Online- teaching quality assurance. The Standard can be downloaded from APQN website.

Fig. 18: The framework of “APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance”



VI. Construction of external quality assurance: APQR

Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR) is a Register of external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs) that demonstrated certain thresholds of maturity.

After the "quantity era", today HE has entered into the "quality era" and as "the gate keepers of quality", EQAAs are playing more and more important roles, the social status and responsibility become more and more prominent. How to guarantee the quality of the QAAs?

Since 2015, APQR began its official journey to review Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC). Since 2017, 9 QAAs have been accepted onto APQR.

Table 9: The list of 10 QAAs accepted onto APQR

#	Country	Name of the Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs)	Review Time
1	Fiji	Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC)	2015
2	Russia	Russian Register (RR)	2017
3	Russia	National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA)	2017
4	Indonesia	Indonesian review Agency for Higher Education in Health (IAAHEH)	2018
5	Kazakhstan	Eurasian Centre for review and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care (ECAQA) in Kazakhstan	2019
6	Mongolia	Mongolian National Council for Education review (MNCEA)	2019
7	Kazakhstan	Independent Agency for Review and Rating (IAR) in Kazakhstan	2019
8	Malaysia	Finance review Agency (FAA) in Malaysia	2020
9	Samoa	Samoa Qualifications Authority	2022
10	Kyrgyz	EdNet Agency on Quality Assurance in Education	2022

VII. Construction of internal quality assurance : APQL

Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL) as regional/international accreditation was

launched in January, 2014. The overall objective is to support, develop, improve and enhance excellent internationalization or student learning outcomes (SLOs) in higher education institutions (HEIs) and programs in the Asia-Pacific region.

In April, 2019, the expert APQL review panel visited Symbiosis International (Deemed University), (SIU), India. This is the first review of the internationalization processes.

SIU is one of the few exceptional universities that has embarked on this international journey for the heartfelt cause of enabling and empowering international students in India. SIU is the first university in India to be conferred this prestigious label and this is fitting as they are the pioneers in the field of internationalization for higher education.

Fig. 19: The APQL review panel reviewed SIU in India



VIII. Publications

As for publications, APQN has published 5 Academic Anthologies, 12 Issues of APQNews and 5 APQN Annual Reports.

1. 4 Academic Anthologies

Sharing means selflessness, generosity and global perspective that reflects the conduct and morality of APQN. APQN is an organization of shared information, experiences, theories, and practices of quality assurance.

In order to stick to the Spirit of Sharing, since 2012 APQN has published a series of Academic Anthologies after AACs each year. The anthologies are focused on the fixed theme each year.

From 2016-2022, APQN has published 4 anthologies for selected papers at APQN academic conferences (AACs), including 5 themes, such as "Perspectives on Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance ", which reflect the results of current research and advancements in the sphere of quality assurance in education.

Table 10: The list of APQN academic anthologies since 2016 to 2022

Year	Chief-editor	Title	Press
------	--------------	-------	-------

2016	Jianxin Zhang and Jaganath Patil	Perspectives on Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance of Higher Education: Academic Proceeding of 2015 APQN Conference	Yunnan People Publish Press in China
2017	Galina Motova and others	New Horizons: Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region - 2017 APQN Conference and AGM	Guide of Experts in Russia
2021	Barry Aw Yong and Alan Go	An Anthology of Selected Papers of 2019 APQN Annual Academic Conference in Sri Lanka	EDUVALUE, Singapore
2021	Barry Aw Yong and Alan Go	An Anthology of Selected Papers of 2021 APQN Annual Academic Conference in Singapore	EDUVALUE, Singapore

Fig.20: 4 Academic anthologies of 4 AACs



2.13 Issues of APQNews (Issue 14-26)

APQNews is a half-year periodical newsletter on updating APQN on developments within the Network. 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.

From Dec. 2016 to 2022, APQN has published 13 issues, over 200 articles in Over 500 pages. APQNews play an excellent good role in demonstrating QA activities and communicating with APQN members. The contents of APQNews vary according to the activities and projects, but the followings are the main contents: (1) Key Speech; (2) The Board; (3) The Project; (4) The Cooperation; (5) Member News; and (6) Coming-up Events.

Fig. 21: The list of 13 APQNews (Issue 14-22)





3. 5 APQN Annual Reports

It is a must for APQN to inform what APQN has done in one year.

From 2016-2021, 5 APQN Annual Reports have been published, which consists of 4 parts: (1) The Network; (2) Activities and Projects; (3) Reports by the Board Directors; (4) Finance Statement.

Fig.22: 6 APQN Annual Report (2016-2021)



VIII. Increase of Financial Status

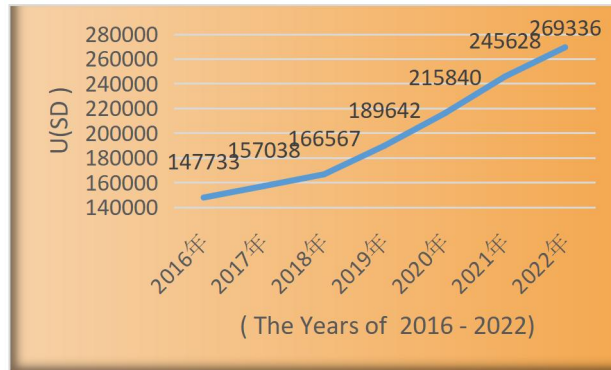
In my inaugural speech 6 years ago, I said: "APQN is a non-government, non-profit organization. I will do the gratis job without asking one cent from APQN."

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

I promise to keep APQN finance increase, no Fiscal deficit".

After 6 years, together with APQN Secretariat and all the Board Directors, today I am happy to say: "We have realized our promise". The total revenue has been steadily increasing since 2016, increasing 82.3% from 147733 in 2016 to 269336 in 2022.

Fig. 23: Increasing of APQN total revenue (2016-2022)



APQN openly published audited finance statement in "APQN Annual Report" each year. Altogether we released 6 years.

Fig. 24: APQN audited finance statement published at APQN Annual Report (2016-2022)



IX. Spirit legacy

In the past 19 years, under the leadership of former presidents: Mr. Peter PT Cheung, Ms. Concepcion Pijano, Dr. Antony Stella, Dr. Jaganath Patil, and Jianxin Zhang, APQN has achieved remarkable results. The 19 years of efforts of all APQN people have given us the following 5 spirit legacies:

1. The Spirit of Dedication. Dedication is the passion and love for the cause of education quality bonded by the affection and friendship among our members. In the call of this spirit, the Board of Directors fulfill their duties in their respective positions in their home countries while completing APQN work as a dedicated cause without compensation.

2. The Spirit of Sharing. Sharing means selflessness, generosity and a global perspective that reflects the conduct and morality of APQN. APQN is an organization of shared information, experiences, theories, and practices in quality assurance. The current and the previous APQN Boards have been working hard to create an atmosphere of mutual trust, win-win cooperation and sharing culture.

3. The Spirit of Serving. Serving means that the Board of Directors should satisfy the requirements of higher education in the changing Information Age, answer the calls for excellent quality by the stakeholders, EQAAs, HEIs and the whole society, meet their needs and fulfill the duties entrusted. Being a Board director is not a privilege, but an increased responsibility for service. To serve the members wholeheartedly, satisfy their needs and help APQN going forward.

4. The Spirit of Innovation. It is to improve and create new methods and new paths based on the needs of APQN members and the limited financial and human resources. The Board of Directors should consider APQN as their own careers, do everything possible to contribute in their areas of expertise, and constantly improve creative function of APQN.

5. The Spirit of Sustainable Development. Sustainable development is to meet the present needs of the members without compromising future needs. It contains three key concepts: (1) diversity – to understand and accept the distinctiveness of all countries/regions of the Asia-Pacific Region; (2) equality – to make sure all members enjoy the same rights as prescribed in "APQN Constitution"; and (3) harmony – to promote harmonious relationship among APQN members, other international organizations and stakeholders in the QA field.

Fig. 25: APQN 5 spirit legacies



These spirits mentioned above are the spiritual legacy of APQN over the past 13 years. The fifth Board chaired by President Jianxin Zhang pledge themselves to inherit and carry on APQN spiritual legacy-Dedication, Sharing, Serving, Innovation and Sustainable development. With our diligence, we, all members in the APQN big family, will fight for "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region", to realize the vision

of "being a self-sustaining network, efficient in its operations and open in its information sharing", and to reach the goal of "enhancing 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".

Closing Words

Founded in 2003, the 19-year-old APQN is already a vibrant young man in his best prime of life. Next year we will celebrate its 20th birthday. Today, it is like the handover of a baton for the Asia Pacific Games. We pass the baton in the hands of the seventh Board. They are: President: Nar Bahadur Raika(Elected) from Bhutan, Vice President: Galina Motova(Elected) from Russia, Secretary/Treasurer: Liu Pingping (Ex-Officio)from China, Board Directors: (1) Jianxin Zhang (Former President, Ex-Officio)from China; (2) Jun Barry Aw Yong(Elected) from Singapore; (3) Srinivasa Chandramouliswar Sharma(Elected) from India; (4) Umankulova Onolkan(Elected) from Kyrgyzstann; (5) Timur Kanapyanov (Elected) from Kazakhsta.

At this new starting point, we hope, the seventh Board directors, with new attitudes, new perspectives and new visions, enter the new roles with their greatest efforts and best performances, to repay APQN Members' trust and expectations, to promote sustainable development of APQN, and to contribute for the prosperity of APQN.

Dear sisters and brothers, in the past 6 years, we have been united as one big family, support each other, care for each other. The 10 aspects I presented above, have strongly demonstrated that we have make APQN greater. I am greatly appreciated your heart-felt trust, help and care to me. Let's give us a big applause.

In the future 3 years, I still have the same dream like my inaugural speech 6 years ago : we, 268 members from 47 countries/territories will unite like brothers and sisters, ignite our passion, and work closely hand-in-hand to achieve our common goal of high-quality education and excellent QA in the Asia Pacific region of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region".

Thank YOU, dear all!



The fifth and sixth President: Jianxin Zhang
Galina Motova (Vice President)
Liu Pingping (Secretary/Treasurer)
Jagannath Pati (ex-officio Board Director as Immediate past President)
Deepthi C. Bandara (Board Director)
Farida Nurmanbetova(Board Director)
Barry Aw Yong (Board Director)



QA ACTIVITIES

MPU-APQN jointly organized the 14th HE International Conference

The Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) and the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) jointly organized “The 14th Higher Education International Conference on Online Teaching and Sustainable Quality Assurance: Challenges and Perspectives”, held online from 29th to 30th November 2022. Over 20 experts from the UK, Belgium, Russia, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao presented their papers.



The online conference attracted 200 experts and Ph.D. candidates from all over the world to participate. They actively engaged in exchanging views and interacting freely during the conference.

Professor Im Sio Kei, Rector of MPU, delivered the opening speech, remarking how online teaching has rapidly developed into a mainstream teaching method around the world, and that standards and requirements for quality assurance in higher education have changed accordingly. MPU and APQN continued taking on the role of building a platform and cooperating for the eighth time in hosting the higher education international conference. This year, the conference focused on the themes of “digitalization”, “cross-border”, “AI application”, “information technology innovations in accreditation”, “online teaching and assessment”, coping with changes for cross-border cooperation, and different methods of assessments and standards in the post-pandemic era. The conference aimed to provide exchange opportunities and share teaching research experiences and practices for participants around the world.

Mr. Nar Bahadur Raika, newly appointed President of APQN, delivered the welcome speech, exclaiming that the conference was held at just the right time. The pandemic has brought us many lessons in adapting online and blended learning, and adapting to the use of technological gadgets, so relearning, reskilling, and upskilling are the hot topics in higher education. Higher education institutions have to work toward facilitating the transnational mobility of graduates competent enough to learn while they continue to learn. Therefore, it is time to move away from teaching knowledge and skills to helping them to maneuver through the challenges of unlearning. He looked forward to seeing all the experts sharing practical ways of enhancing teaching quality, and remarked that APQN is committed to the continued

collaboration with agencies working for the enhancement of quality higher education.

This conference invited famous experts and scholars of higher education quality assurance to deliver keynote sessions. Mr. Douglas Blackstock, President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) presented on “Quality Assurance in the Changing World of Higher Education – A Perspective from Europe”. He said that quality is best advanced when institutions, students, and stakeholders collaborate in developing expectations and sharing effective practices. Driven by the pandemic, the greater integration of digital education into traditional approaches has changed the needs and expectations of students and staff. Trends in future European quality assurance frameworks are also beginning to move towards evidence-based, critical reflection and stakeholder consultation.

Mr. Albert Chow, Executive Director of Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) presented a “Pilot Project on the Development of Applied Degree Programmes”. He explained that the HKCAAVQ conducted research and consultancy on the development of applied degrees in Hong Kong. This project is going to complete with a view of making recommendations on the policy support, incentives, and implementation details for further avocation and support of vocational and professional education and training development in Hong Kong in the years to come.

Ms. Maureen McLaughlin, Academic Registrar and Director of Student, Library and Academic Services of Northumbria University, UK, spoke about “What have we learned from learning online?”. She pointed out that the pandemic drove the higher education community more rapidly to adapt approaches to teaching and learning. The negative perceptions of online experience were explored, as were the established and evolving benefits, the challenges being addressed, and those that remain. A wider view of the total student experience should help us address the challenges and build on the positives highlighted by this monumental shift in learning delivery so that we can offer more transformational, sustainable, and carefully constructed learning opportunities for our students.

Prof. Galina Motova, Vice-President of APQN presented on “Aggregated ranking as a tool for evaluation of the quality and positioning of Asia-Pacific universities at the global level”. She pointed out that various rankings and accreditation in the world are developing rapidly in the higher education system, but the overarching objective is the same: to enhance the quality of higher education. Through research, all data can be combined into a single aggregated ranking that ultimately serves as a tool for evaluating the quality of education. A new method is also provided for determining the top institutions, namely the league analysis method, which is used to create the global aggregated university ranking. This approach may also be viewed by the general public as a thorough and unbiased assessment tool.

In this two-day conference, more than 20 scholars presented papers in five parallel sessions. Various experts and scholars discussed the current situation and the future of quality assurance in higher education, innovation and influence in education evaluation, the mechanism and effectiveness of online teaching in various disciplines, digitalization of quality assurance, and more. The participants declared that they benefited from the exchanges at this conference.

(Written by MPU, Macao)

APQN Attending the “QAA at 25th Anniversary” Online Symposium

To mark QAA's 25th anniversary in 2022, QAA invited an expert panel to a conversation about what is quality. The “QAA at 25th Anniversary” Online Symposium took place on 27 September 2022. In this live online debate, an expert panel of speakers representing networks of quality agencies based around the world unpacked what quality means from the perspective of global higher education communities.

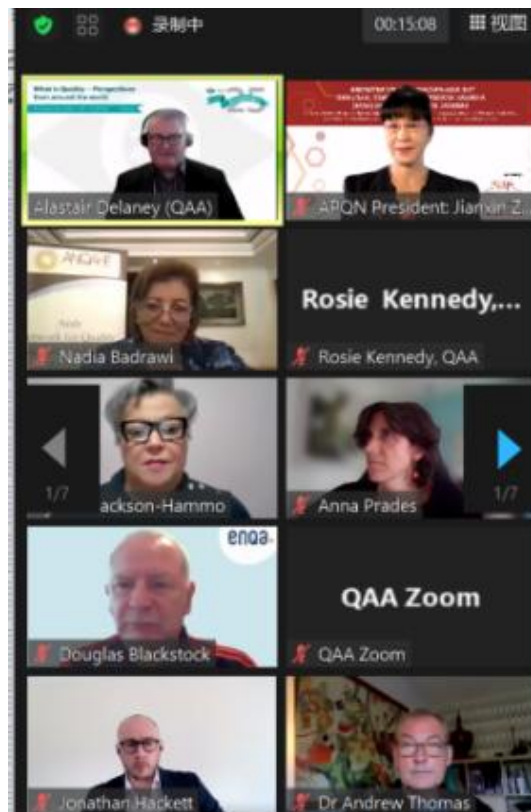


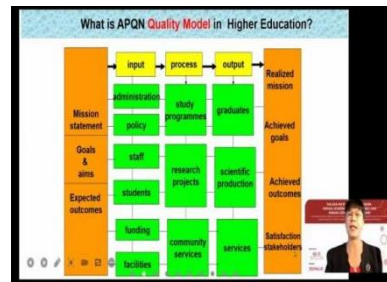
QAA at 25 - What is Quality?

The round-table discussion was chaired by QAA Chief Executive, Vicki Stott, and attended by Professor Jianxin Zhang, President of the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), Professor Nadia Badrawi, President of the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE), Cynthia Jackson-Hammond, President of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), Douglas Blackstock, President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), Anna Prades, Treasurer and Executive Committee Member of the International Network of Quality Assurance Network of Institutions for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

Five speakers presented their ideas, including APQN multiple-quality idea based on a 360-degree quality cycle, INQAAHE quality internationally, CHEA academic quality, and ENQA holistic quality.

On behalf of APQN, Professor Jianxin Zhang gave a speech entitled "What is Quality -- Perspectives from the Asia-Pacific Quality Network(APQN)". She firstly introduced APQN, the largest and most influential international non-profit NGO in the Asia-Pacific region and then she put out a series of questions: (1) What is quality?; (2) what is APQN multi-quality concept of higher education; (3) what is quality assurance; and (4) what is APQN quality model in higher education? By this way, she answered the questions accordingly, which contributed a lot of insights based on the Asia-Pacific perspective to this conference.





When it comes to what is "quality", President Zhang described "Quality is like love. When there is love, we feel it, talk about it, recognize it and know what we are talking about. But when we try to define love, we are left standing empty-handed." She pointed out, different stakeholders have different understandings of quality. In a word, "Quality is doing the right things in the right way with the right persons in the right places." In addition, President Zhang shared the multiple quality concept of APQN, showed the influence of the change process of APQN member types on its multiple quality concept, built an APQN model of higher education, and gave the example of the Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL) for internationalization to demonstrate the concept of quality assurance in higher education. In the end, President Zhang emphasized that APQN regards quality as a continuous development concept. The implementation of the specific connotation of quality needs to go through an improvement "PIRI" cycle: (plan, implementation, reflection, and improvement).

Higher education is a global concept with international partnership and collaboration proving central to the success of UK and international higher education institutions. This live round-table discussion covers different ideas from APQN in the Asia-Pacific region, ANQAHE in Arab, CHEA in the U.S., ENQA in Europe, INQAHE in the globe, and QAA in the UK. It is truly a diversified international debate on "Quality".

(Written by Siyu Zhang, Yangyang Wang, Xiangmei Zhu, Yunnan University, China)

IAAR held VI Central Asian International Forum

On October 7, 2022, the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) held the VI Central Asian International Forum on Education Quality Assurance: "Transnational Cooperation in the Global Educational Space" in Almaty in the premises of AL-Farabi Kazakh National University. The main goal of the international forum on education quality assurance is to create an international dialogue platform for discussion and exchange of best practices in the field of education in the context of digital transformation.



The plenary session of the International Forum was opened by the IAAR General Director – Dr. Alina Zhumagulova, noting the key landmarks for the development of the education system in Europe and Central Asia, aimed at improving the quality of higher education, the achievements of IAAR in conducting cross-border accreditation, as well as the interest of the international community in cooperation and exchange of the best world experience in promoting a quality culture.



(IAAR General Director – Dr. Alina Zhumagulova)

The Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Sayasat Nurbek, welcomed all the participants of the International Forum and called for a joint discussion of a further model for the development of higher education in the context of digital transformation and global change.



(Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan -Sayasat Nurbek)

More than 300 delegates took part in the work of the International Forum, including deputies of the Senate and Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as the of Majlisi Milli Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan, ministers and representatives of the Ministry of Science and Education of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan; Chairman of the IAAR Supervisory Board; President of the Association of Higher Educational Institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as heads of international European networks and associations for quality assurance in higher education: President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) - Karl Dittrich, President of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) - David Gordon; who annually participate in the International Forum and actively support the events held by IAAR.

The Panel sessions of the Forum were actively attended by: Board Member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), Director of the Quality Agency for Higher Education (AIKA) - Jolanta Silka and other heads of foreign accreditation bodies, international organizations in the field of education (Belgium, Hungary, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, Russia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Turkey, India, Latvia, Moldova), rectors of Kazakh and foreign universities, students and employers.



The holding of the International Forum allowed to identify problems and determine ways to improve the education quality in the countries of Central Asia and Europe; to increase the competitiveness of educational services; to raise the level of specialists training, demand and employment of graduates; activate academic mobility, internationalization of education and form an effective system of interaction between universities, employers, stakeholders on the basis of the balance of all participants' interests in the educational process.

The discussion platform of the VI Central Asian International Forum on Quality Assurance in Education: "Transnational Cooperation in the Global Educational Space" made it possible to exchange best practices on creating an effective education system in the context of digital transformation, summarize the results of the event.

More information on the Forum:

<https://iaar.agency/forum-page/vi-centralno-aziatskij-mezhdunarodnyj-forum-po-obespecheniyu-kachestva-obrazovaniya/en>

(Written by IAAR, Kazakhstan)

NIAD-QE held University Quality Assurance Forum 2022

The NIAD-QE University Quality Assurance Forum 2022 entitled “Connecting inside and outside of university: Toward further integration of learning styles” was held virtually on September 28, 2022, with nearly 400 participants from across Japan and beyond.

FUKUDA Hideki, Ph.D., President of NIAD-QE addressed the opening and an acknowledgement to the supporting organizations and thanked distinguished speakers and all the participants for being present.

The four distinguish speakers, Ms. Terry Neal, Chief Advisor Policy of New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), Dr. Injong Park, Adjunct Professor at Graduate School of Education, Korea University and Head of the ON Institute of Lifelong Education, Dr. Mohamad Afzhan Khan, Assistant Vice President (Open Learning), University of Cyberjaya and Former Director of accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) Centre, Open University Malaysia (OUM), and Prof. IWANAGA Masaya, Ph.D., President of the Open University of Japan (OUJ) then gave their presentations sharing their expertise and experiences.

Ms. Neal delivered a speech on a subject of flexible learning and micro-credentials in New Zealand to kick-off the forum. She introduced NZQA and NZQCF, New Zealand Qualification and Credential Framework, then the theory of micro-credential use in New Zealand, from how it had been formally introduced into the framework and quality assurance system to decrease the skills mismatch between industries and workers and enable people to learn throughout their lifetime, and to how it has been implemented at many workplaces. Ms. Neal highlighted the importance of being responsive to the needs of industries and learners, along with changing society, for scaling up the use of micro-credentials in New Zealand.

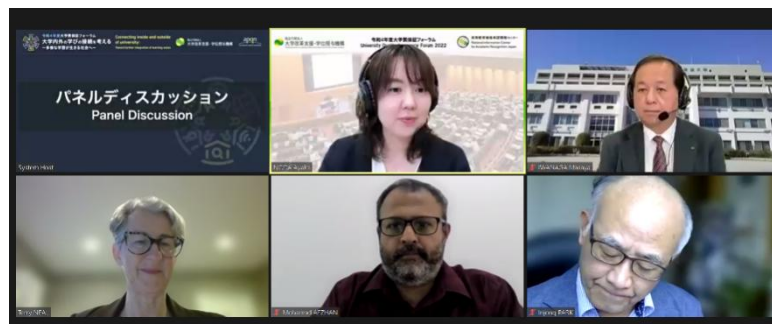
Dr. Park introduced National Institute for Lifelong Education (NILE), Korea, and its two major scheme, Academic Credit Bank System (ACBS) and Bachelor’s Degree Examination for Self-Education System (BDES) as Dr. Park himself was one of the founding members of the institute and Ex-director of the ACBS. ACBS recognizes individual learning experiences as credits that can be accumulated towards university equivalent degree. BDES enables people to earn an academic degree through a course-by-course examination with their own study resources. Dr. Park shared the long-term progress of the two systems and their quality control, and emphasized the necessity of promoting such systems that recognize diverse lifelong learning and an appropriate quality control in order for credentials to be acknowledged positively in the society.

Dr. Afzhan introduced the APEL system which grants qualifications to learners with cumulative learning and experiences through a course of assessments, and how

micro-credential is used in Malaysia to help people up-skill which also leads to enhance country's human resource development capacity. He then pointed out from the university perspective existing and possible challenges on recognizing different styles of learning. Dr. Afzhan stressed the importance of democratization of education and providing equal accessibility to learners with different barriers to learning by not only providing flexible learning but also advancing APEL system where informal and non-formal learning are officially recognized.

Prof. Iwanaga presented the overview of OUJ, introducing its education system and how it had changed the major class format over the course of the pandemic, along with the recent implementation of Internet Based Test (IBT). In the light of increasing demand for recurrent education, OUJ is also considering a use of micro-credentials to further foster lifelong learning. While OUJ has challenges to address such as equivalency to other universities' degrees and qualifications, and to continue facilitating recurrent education, Prof. Iwanaga underscored the importance of such educational reforms to timely respond to a social demand in education and human resource.

Following the four experts' presentations, moderated by Prof. NODA Ayaka, Associate Professor, Research Department of NIAD-QE, the panel discussion was centered on the topics of social perception of degrees and qualifications earned by flexible and non-traditional learning outside the universities, how we evaluate those learning and define the equivalency to conventional academic degrees, and the possible challenges for its process. Questions from the audience were also shared at the discussion, and the speakers exchanged their perspectives sharing more of the educational systems and approaches from each of their countries.



Panel discussion

The forum ended successfully with the closing remarks by Dr. MITSUSHI Mamoru, Vice-President of NIAD-QE. Presentation materials and recordings are available at:

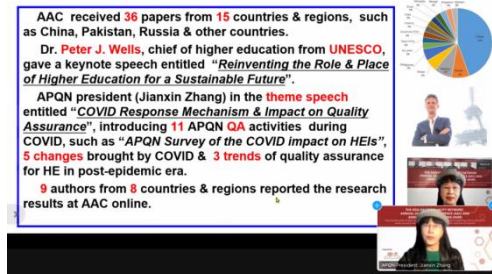
<https://www.niad.ac.jp/english/news/en2022/entry-4725.html>

(Written by International Affairs Division, NIAD-QE, Japan)

APQN Attending the Stavanger-Lingnan Research Symposium 2022

From October 30th to November 1st, 2022 the Stavanger-Lingnan Research Symposium 2022 was held in Zoom. It was co-organized by the University of Stavanger in Norway and Lingnan University in Hong Kong. With the topic: “International mobility, University Governance, and Labor Market Relevance: The Nordic and East Asian Perspectives”, there were more than 50 participants from 8 countries and regions around the world. 25 speakers presented their researches in 6 panels, including International Higher Education and Student Mobility, Education Policy and Quality Assurance, Emerging Issues in Higher Education, Student Mobility Across China’s Greater Bay Area, Graduate Employment and Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Basic Information of AAC (APQN Academic Conference)



AAC received 36 papers from 15 countries & regions, such as China, Pakistan, Russia & other countries.

Dr. Peter J. Wells, chief of higher education from UNESCO, gave a keynote speech entitled “Reinventing the Role & Place of Higher Education for a Sustainable Future”.

APQN president (Jianxin Zhang) in the theme speech entitled “COVID Response Mechanism & Impact on Quality Assurance”, introducing 11 APQN QA activities during COVID, such as “APQN Survey of the COVID Impact on HEIs”, 5 changes brought by COVID & 3 trends of quality assurance for HE in post-epidemic era.

9 authors from 8 countries & regions reported the research results at AAC online.

APQN President Zhang, together with Shirun Wang and Wenjing He (Graduates of Research Institute of Higher Education at Yunnan University) attended the symposium at 20: 45 Beijing time. Their topic is “New Normal” for Panel 2 Quality Assurance of Higher Education: Overview of Academic Conference on COVID-19 Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The presentation includes 5 aspects: (1)Introduction of APQN and AAC on COVID Impact; (2)Double Dilemma: Difficulties in the Asia-Pacific region; (3)Dual Measurements: Responses in the Asia-Pacific region; (4)Hand in hand: Progress in the Asia-Pacific region; (5)Conclusion.

First of all, it is the introduce APQN and AAC on COVID Impact. 2021 AAC received 36 papers from 15 countries and regions, such as China, Pakistan, Russia and other countries. Dr. Peter J. Wells, chief of higher education from UNESCO, gave a keynote speech entitled “Reinventing the Role and Place of Higher Education for a Sustainable Future”. 9 authors from 8 countries and regions reported the research results at AAC online.

Dr. Zhang introduced 11 APQN QA activities during COVID, such as “APQN Survey of the COVID impact on HEIs”, 5 changes brought by COVID and 3 trends of quality assurance for HE in post-epidemic era. Facing difficulties such as “poor qualities for online teaching” and others, APQN has contributed some researches, including 3 cases of internal experience and 2 cases of external standers. Finally, Dr. Zhang made a conclusion: “Facing the COVID Pandemic, we have a long way to go before we realize the ideal scenario of good quality assurance for HE in the Asia-Pacific Region. We are looking forward to meeting you at 2022 APQN Academic Conference in Singapore on November 25-27, 2022.”

(Written by Wenjing He, Shirun Wang from Yunnan University, China)

ULAB Receives APQN Best internal QA Award for 2022

Awardee's Words from University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

It is an honour to receive the APQN Best Internal Quality Assurance Award for 2022. We acknowledge the significance of this recognition given to organizations with extraordinary quality assurance contributions and good practices that have potential of replications in the Asia-Pacific region. ULAB will continue to strengthen its quality assurance endeavors as it expresses its deepest gratitude to APQN for its continuous support and encouragement.



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) is a private liberal arts-based university in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Founded in February 2002, permission to open was received from the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh in November 2003, pursuant to the Private University Act 1992. ULAB was formally launched at a ceremony on October 1, 2004. ULAB's vision is to become the best university in Bangladesh and a leader in South Asia. Just four years after its inception, ULAB has initiated steps towards quality assurance. The university is among the founding members of the Education Quality Assurance Foundation (EQAF) where its Vice President Kazi Anis Ahmed was appointed as Joint Secretary. In 2010, the university's application for institutional membership at the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) was approved. The following year, the university underwent the Singapore-based Shujog Impact Assessment to find out the effect of the university's work on its community. ULAB started on building its own quality assurance unit in 2015 with the appointment of Professor Jude William Genilo as Director of its Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC).

ULAB's IQAC manages and oversees policies and procedures to assure the standards of its awards and the quality of learning opportunities and to support the

enhancement of learning and teaching. It manages key quality assurance processes, including curriculum design and approval; programme self-assessment reports and improvement plans; student and stakeholder feedback systems; and periodic internal and external reviews and audits.

In January 2016, ULAB entered into an MOU with the University Grants Commission (UGC) for the three-year HEQEP project: “Establishment of IQAC at ULAB”. By June 2016, ULAB’s IQAC was equipped with its own office, facilities and staff. By the project’s end in 2019, it has conducted 47 training workshops with 1,701 participants from both academic and non-academic staff. Three manuals have been written (approved by the University Syndicate/BOT) – University Governance Manual, Course Teaching Manual and Curriculum Design Manual. Two surveys have been initiated – Organizational Needs Survey and Institutional Quality Assurance Survey. Several committees have been established – Self-Assessment Committee, Quality Assurance Committee, Curriculum Development Committee, Governance Manual Working Committee, Procurement Evaluation Committee and Assessment of Learning Manual Working Committee.

The university’s five program offering entities have completed a Self-Assessment Report, External Peer Review Report, Improvement Plan, Outcome-based Education Curriculum and Strategic Plan. The accomplishments during the UGC HEQEP Project enabled two program offering entities to gain program accreditation. The Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Department received IEB (Institute of Engineers Bangladesh) in October 2017. The Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) Department obtained accreditation from the Swiss-based Global Alliance for Communication Management and Public Relations in June 2021.



ULAB’s quality assurance activities are not limited to the UGC HEQEP Project. In September 2019, it has obtained International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 Quality Management System Certification. The university has completed three year of certification and is onto its next cycle in September 2022. Under this certification, ULAB’s IQAC has formulated its Quality Manual, Quality System and Procedure Manual and Assessment of Learning Manual. It has likewise established its Quality Management Committee and trained 15 internal auditors. In November 2022, it received the APQN Best Model Internal Quality Assurance Award as a testament to its achievements.

(Written by University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh)

UP-COMING EVENT

Welcome to 2023 AAC and AGM at AIUB, Dhaka, Bangladesh

We are delightful to declare, 2023 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and APQN General Meeting (AGM) will be hold at Dhaka, Bangladesh by American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) on Nov. 02-04, 2023.

Theme: *Innovation and Sustainable Development in Higher Education*

Four Sub-Themes:

1. Quality of Trans-formative learning (TL) and Trans-formative teaching (TT). Education can be restructured as “Trans-formative” if students are responsible, respected, valued and are included in the teaching-learning process as active and contributing members. This conference is considering “Trans-formative education” as one of the themes to highlight and identify the critical factors of this new requirement of Trans-formative education.

2. Blended Education from the perspective of 4th Industrial Revolution and the COVID Pandemic. Institutions have come to understand the value of their online capabilities, organizational management, resourcefulness and adaptability after the hard lock down due to the global effect of COVID pandemic. Thus, “Blended Education” has considered as one of the themes of the conference to re-think how mankind could use the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) to accommodate blended learning in higher education.

3. Digital Quality Assurance and Journey to Quality Enhancement. The Digital Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions is now considered as an innovative and reliable approach towards the Quality Enhancement which can be used for modernizing the governance, management and total functions of Higher Education Institutions and further enhanced to better serve the stakeholders. Hence, this conference is considering “Quality Enhancement via Digital Quality Assurance” as another sub-theme.

4. University-Industry Linkage in the background of internationalization. The power of implementation of policies in connection with university-industry collaboration have high impact in producing graduates with knowledge and employ-ability skills. Therefore, cooperation between universities and industries has been a sub-theme of the conference to emphasize the employer demand and job applicant’s knowledge and skills.

APQN Academic Conference Fee Structure 2023 at AIUB, Dhaka, Bangladesh

APQN Board Members (no more than 10):	FREE
Keynote Speakers (no more than 3):	FREE
APQN Member:	100 USD per person
Non APQN Members:	150 USD per person

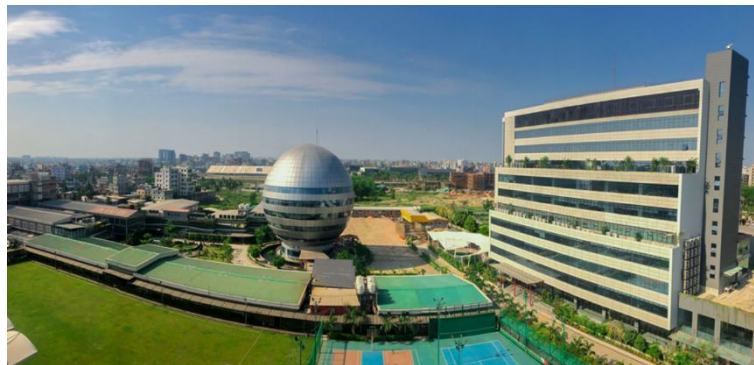
Local (Academic Members):	60 USD per person
Local (Students):	30 USD per person
Early bird registration fees:	75/100 USD

To recapitulate, AIUB, the co-host of AAC and AGM-2023, would like to provide an opportunity to all the local and international researchers to participate in this conference where they will be learning how to re-organize the existing model of higher education perspective to sustainability and innovation. AIUB expects that with the help of the Ministry of Education (MOE), Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC), Board of Accreditation for Engineering and Technical Education (BAETE), UGC and a good amount of expertise on quality assurance from the academicians and industries will participate in the event. It is highly expected that the outcome of the 2023 AAC and AGM will be a big success not only for Bangladesh but also for the Asia-Pacific region.



American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) is an institutional member of APQN since 2007 and hold an international workshop in Dhaka to introduce the concept of Quality Education among the academicians in Bangladesh. Thereafter, AIUB has participated and positively contributed to different workshops and conferences hosted by APQN in different countries. AIUB acknowledges the importance of AAC and AGM and firmly believes that such conference will be able to create a platform to exchange ideas on quality assurance and quality enhancement among the academicians across the regions. Knowledge sharing in the past conference has helped many universities and countries to enrich the quality of the academic programs which are very visible. AIUB is committed to ensure quality in higher education. Therefore, since its inception in 1994, AIUB has been working to promote Internal Quality Assurance within different academic and administrative activities. AIUB has been the first university in Bangladesh to introduce Quality Assurance Center (QAC) in 2008 and approached to Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) for international accreditation for different programs of AIUB. The Quality Assurance Center has trained the staff of the university and key personnel of University Grants Commission (UGC) on different instruments used for quality assurance in different areas.

AIUB was chosen as the best Quality Assurance Model University by APQN in 2016. Quality Assurance Unit of UGC in Bangladesh also recognized AIUB as a role model in Quality Assurance for higher education. Currently, nine programs of AIUB are accredited by Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), three programs are accredited by national professional bodies and all the programs are reviewed and evaluated by the External Peer Reviewers under the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP). AIUB has participated in APQN capacity building workshop on Quality Assurance in collaboration with Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) in Chinese Taiwan and participated in on-line fora on Quality Assurance and always positively contributed to ensure quality education. Participation of AIUB in different international projects has been a motivation for AIUB to be able to organize the APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and APQN General Meeting (AGM). AIUB has done a research project on Internal Quality Assurance of higher education with International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), UNESCO. The major objective is to document innovative and effective International Quality Assurance systems, to study their effects and to identify the factors that condition their effectiveness. Also, to internationalize the education, AIUB has worked with International Association of Universities (IAU) in a project named as Internationalization Strategy Advisory Service (ISAS). This project became a platform bringing together the institutional leaders and key officials to further expound and convey their perspectives and experiences on the internationalization issues and concerns and to continue bringing about change in the values and knowledge as universities continue to explore and implement the tenets of internationalization.



**Welcome to APQN Academic Conference 2023 at AIUB, Dhaka,
Bangladesh!**

(Written by American International University-Bangladesh)



Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQNews (Issue 26, 2022)

Call for Contribution for the Next Issue

APQNews is a half-year periodical newsletter on updating APQN development within the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN). It also gives members an opportunity to share QA activities within their organization. All members are invited to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews.

A great way to get involved with the APQN community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your APQN colleagues? Are there any upcoming quality events that you would like to release in APQNews? APQN welcomes all contributions for the next issue of APQNews! Please kindly e-mail them to Chief Editor and APQN Administrator at: apqnsecretariat@163.com.

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