

APQNews (Issue 32)

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Chief Editor:

Galina Motova

Editorial Committee:

Galina Motova, Taohong Chen, Jianxin Zhang, Jagannath Patil, Umankulova Onolkan and Timur Kanapyanov

2025

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



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The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

2025

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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: Galina Motova

Editorial Committee: Galina Motova, Taohong Chen, Jianxin Zhang, Jagannath Patil, Umankulova Onolkan, and Timur Kanapyanov

Administrator: Weiming Shi

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQN's President Address



Dear APQN Members,

As we stand at the edge of 2026, I extend to each of you my warmest greetings and sincere wishes for the coming 2026.

This past year has been the time of meaningful reconnections, thorough strategic planning, and effortless day and night work toward the shared goals of APQN. It is with deep pride and gratitude that I reflect on what we have done together, and with great optimism I am looking forward to the future we will continue to build.

The 2025 will be remembered as a time when the APQN community came together in Hong Kong with remarkable energy and focus. The success of the Annual Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting stands as a proof of our collective commitment. Hosted with professionalism and hospitality by The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), this event gave inspiration and encouragement to all the participants.

Under the powerful theme, “Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education,” we convened nearly 400 experts, practitioners, and educators from across our vast region and beyond. The presence of esteemed dignitaries, particularly Dr CHOI Yuk-lin, JP, Secretary for Education of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Mr JIANG He, Deputy Director General of Education Quality Evaluation Agency of the Ministry of Education of the Government of the People’s Republic of China; and Mr Teng Sio Hong, Deputy Director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) highlighted the critical role APQN plays in shaping policy and practice.

Over this year APQN strengthened its position by welcoming six new members, including the Center for Education Accreditation from Vietnam and higher education institutions from the Maldives and Pakistan. Our community now proudly encompasses 206 members across 45 countries and territories, solidifying APQN’s position as a preeminent voice for quality in the Asia-Pacific and the second-largest network of its kind in the world.

The accomplishments of 2025 are the result of sustained collaboration and dedication from every APQN member:

1. Strengthening Quality: Our core instruments - the Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR), the Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DAQAR), and the APQN Quality Label (APQL) have seen increased engagement and utility. The DAQAR, in particular, continues to be an unparalleled regional asset, now containing outcomes in the form of over 10,000 accreditation reports from 1225 higher education institutions, providing invaluable transparency and benchmarking data.

2. Advancing Knowledge: The publication of the 2024 Anthology, featuring 37 peer-reviewed articles, and the consistent release of our bi-annual APQNews, ensure the vital dissemination of ideas and best practices. The Annual Awards Ceremony in Hong Kong was a highlight, celebrating exceptional contributions in categories such as International Cooperation and the Best Model of a QAA, while the introduction of the Climate Champion Award reflected our commitment to addressing pressing global challenges.

3. Embracing a Digital Future: A major strategic milestone was the development of our completely redesigned and modernized APQN website. This initiative, undertaken to enhance user experience and facilitate dynamic interaction, reached a key phase with the presentation of its prototype in Hong Kong. This new platform is designed to be a more intuitive, resource-rich hub for all members, symbolizing our Network's forward-looking ethos.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the incessant guidance, wisdom, and tireless effort of key individuals and groups. I wish to express my profound personal and professional appreciation:

To Prof. Dr. Jianxin ZHANG and Dr. Jagannath PATIL, I extend my deepest gratitude for your invaluable support, astute assistance, and thoughtful guidance throughout the year. Your experience and insights have been a cornerstone of our strategic deliberations and operational stability.

To the APQN Board Directors, my sincere thanks for your unwavering commitment, strategic oversight, and collaborative spirit. Your committed work in reviewing submissions, holding meetings, and steering APQN through a complex global landscape is deeply respected and appreciated.

To the APQN Secretariat, I offer my heartfelt admiration and thanks. Your dedication is the engine of APQN. Your meticulous work in member communication, event coordination, application reviews, website maintenance, and daily operations is exemplary. You are the vital link that holds our global community together.

Most importantly, to every APQN member—the quality assurance agencies, higher education institutions, and professionals who form the heart of APQN. Your active participation in AAC, your feedback, your contributions to publications, your engagement in APQN activities, and your daily work to uphold quality standards are what give APQN its purpose and its impact.

The discussions in Hong Kong have made it clear that we are operating in a period

of profound transformation. The integration of Artificial Intelligence, the demand for new skills and credentials, and the imperative for deeper university-industry ecosystems are not future concepts—they are present realities. Our mandate, therefore, is to lead with both principle and adaptability.

Our key priorities for 2026 are:

1. *Hold the leadership position in ethical innovation:* We will champion the responsible integration of AI in quality assurance, exploring its role as a tool for automating routine tasks and data analysis while safeguarding the irreplaceable human elements of expert judgment, ethical reasoning, and contextual understanding.
2. *Promote meaningful collaboration:* We will move from dialogue to action in fostering industry-academia partnerships. APQN will develop resources and platforms for the fruitful dialogues to support curriculum co-creation, joint research, and pathways that enhance graduate employability and institutional relevance.
3. *Ensure sustainability:* We are committed to implementing strict risk management procedures and diversifying our funding sources. This financial and operational stability is essential to securing APQN's ability to serve members effectively for years to come.
4. *Encourage the growth:* We will heartily welcome our new members who share the mission and values of APQN and are committed to the high quality in education.
5. *Amplify our global voice:* We will proactively strengthen cooperation with INQAAHE and other networks worldwide, ensuring the Asia-Pacific perspective is strongly represented in global quality assurance initiatives.

This ambitious agenda cannot be accomplished without the energy and intellect of our entire membership. Thus, I call upon each of you to welcome this responsibility as an active architect of APQN's future.

Share your research, case studies, and challenges through our publications, webinars, and conferences. Volunteer for presentations and opinion exchange sessions. Your unique experience is our collective knowledge.

Actively use the new website, prove your compliance with APQR and upload your accreditation results in DAQAR, and also apply for the APQL. Provide candid feedback to help us refine these resources to better meet your needs.

Reach out to members in other countries for joint publications, peer learning, or guiding. Nominate worthy colleagues, agencies or institutions for awards and recognition.

Engage with the Secretariat and Board. Tell us what support you need to excel in your quality assurance mission. Let your input be the guiding light for our strategic planning.



Dear colleagues,

as we turn the page to 2026, let us move forward with a shared sense of responsibility and the feeling that anything is possible provided we contribute our time, efforts and focus to it.

The challenges before us are significant, but so is our collective expertise and commitment. Together, we will continue to ensure that APQN remains a diverse yet close-knit community and a powerful force for positive change in higher education across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy New Year filled with peace, joy, prosperity, good health, and inspiring achievements.

With great optimism for our joint and very successful future,

Dr. Galina Motova

President

Asia Pacific Quality Network