



# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT





APQN Annual Report 2014

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©Asia–Pacific Quality Network  
Trading as APQN

Secretariat:

No. 202, South Shaanxi Road

Shanghai 200031

CHINA

Tel: +86 21 5403 2285

Fax: +86 21 5467 0198

Email: [administrator@apqn.org](mailto:administrator@apqn.org)

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



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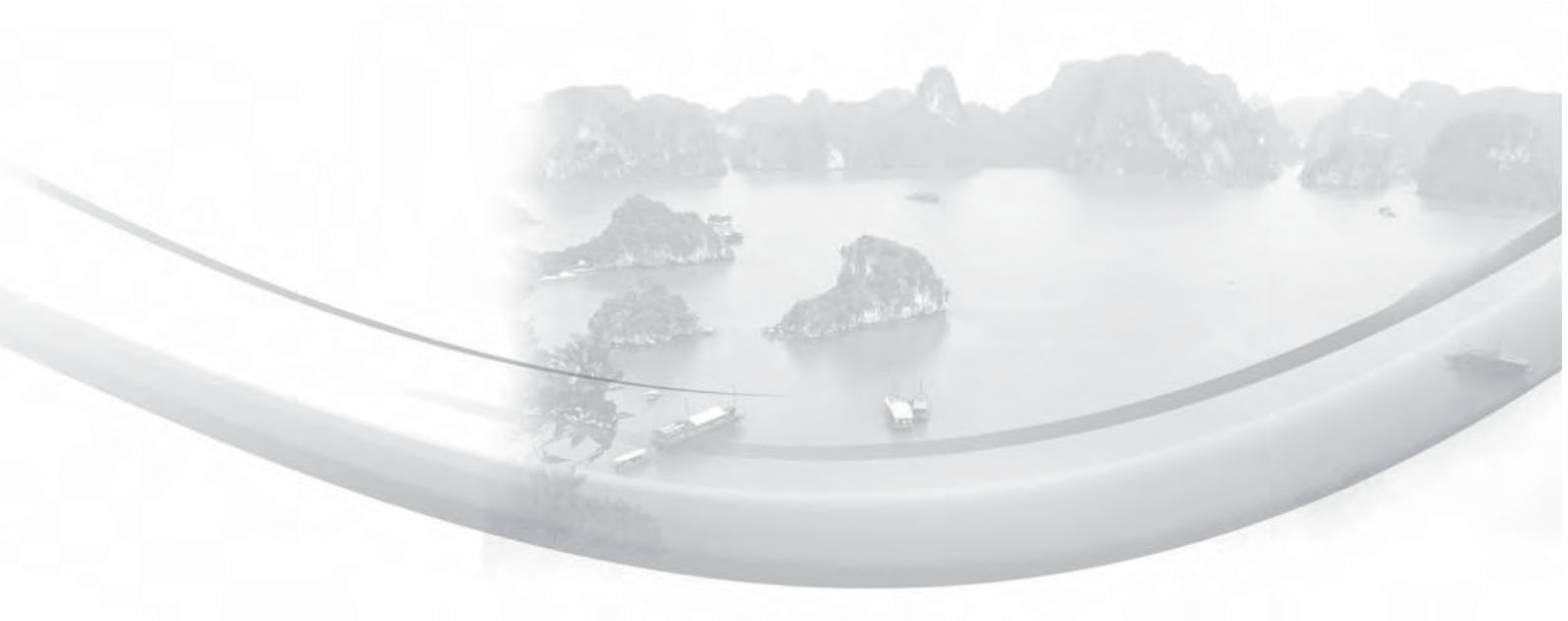
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**THE NETWORK**

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

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## THE NETWORK

### OUR VISION

To be a self-sustaining Network, a first point of reference for advice or support, efficient in its operations and open in its information sharing.

### OUR VALUES

APQN is:

- ◆ committed to quality higher education,
- ◆ supportive of quality agencies in the region.

### OUR METHODS

APQN achieves its purposes through a range of methods, including:

- ◆ dissemination of information through newsletters, documents, journals and books, whether in paper-based or electronic form,
- ◆ training and development through seminars, workshops, conferences and staff movement,
- ◆ developing and utilizing databases and other resources from other organizations,
- ◆ other appropriate means as determined by the General Council or the Board.



## OUR OBJECTIVES

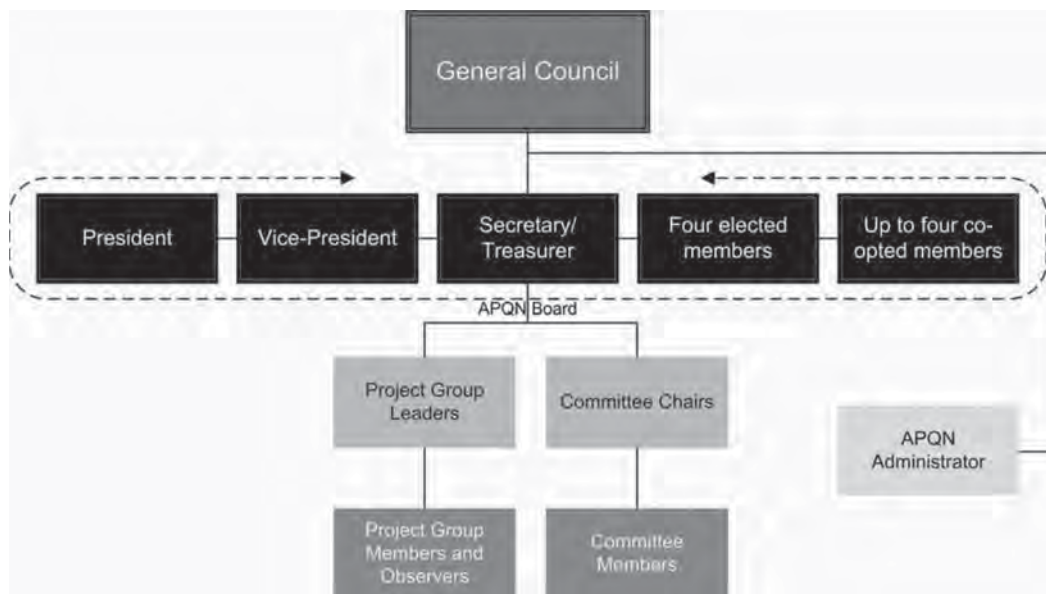
The purposes of APQN are:

- ◆ to promote good practice in the maintenance and improvement of quality in higher education in the Asia–Pacific region,
- ◆ to facilitate research in the region into the practice of quality management in higher education and its effectiveness in improving the quality of higher education in the region,
- ◆ to provide advice and expertise to assist the development of new quality assurance agencies in the region,
- ◆ to facilitate links between quality assurance agencies and acceptance of each others’ decisions and judgments,
- ◆ to assist members of APQN to determine standards of institutions operating across national borders,
- ◆ to permit better–informed international recognition of qualifications throughout the region,
- ◆ to assist in the development and use of credit transfer schemes,
- ◆ to enhance the mobility of students between institutions both within and across national borders,
- ◆ to enable members of APQN to be alert to dubious accrediting practices and organizations where appropriate, represent the region and promote the interests of the region, e.g. vis–à–vis other networks and international organizations.

## OUR MISSION

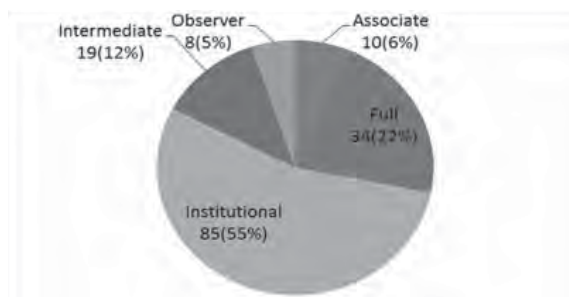
To enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them.

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



# MEMBERS-GENERAL COUNCIL

APQN NOW BOASTS:



This brings the total number of members across all categories of membership to 156 from 38 countries or territories. Among them, 17 members were successfully approved as new members of the Network during the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2014. Among the new members, there are 2 Full members, 1 Intermediate member, 13 institutional members and 1 Observer.

Vietnam Vocational Training Accreditation (VVTAA), Vietnam has replaced Directorate of Vocational Training (DVT), Vietnam to be the Intermediate member. Korean Council for University College Education (KCCE), South Korea has been approved to update its membership status from Intermediate into Full member.

## LIST OF APQN MEMBERS OF ALL CATEGORIES

No.	Country /Territory	Agency	APQN Status
1	Australia	National ELT Accreditation Scheme Ltd	Full
2	Australia	The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)	Full
3	Australia	The Office of the Australian Qualifications Framework Council (AQFC)	Associate
4	Bangladesh	American International University	Institutional
5	Bangladesh	University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh	Institutional
6	Bangladesh	International Culture University	Institutional
7	Bangladesh	International University of Business Agriculture and Technology(IUBAT)	Institutional
8	Bangladesh	University Grants Commission	Associate



No.	Country /Territory	Agency	APQN Status
9	Bhutan	Quality Assurance & Accreditation Division, Department of Adult & Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Bhutan	Intermediate
10	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council (BDNAC)	Intermediate
11	Cambodia	Accreditation Committee of Cambodia	Full
12	Cambodia	International University	Institutional
13	Cambodia	Build Bright University	Institutional
14	Cambodia	Phnom Penh International University (PPIU)	Institutional
15	China	Shanghai Educational Evaluation Institute	Full
16	China	Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center	Full
17	China	Higher Education Evaluation Center of Ministry of Education (HEEC)	Full
18	China	Evaluation Center of Chinese Education Quality (ECCEQ)	Full
19	China	China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center	Full
20	China	Beijing Education Evaluation Institute*	Full
21	China	Shanghai University of International Business and Economics	Institutional
22	Chinese Taipei	Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan	Full
23	Chinese Taipei	Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association	Full
24	Chinese Taipei	Fu Jen Catholic University	Institutional
25	Croatia	Agency for Science and Higher Education	Observer
26	Fiji	Secretariat for the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment	Intermediate
27	Fiji	University of the South Pacific	Institutional
28	Fiji	Fiji National University	Institutional
29	Fiji	Higher Education Commission	Associate
30	Germany	ASIIN e.V.	Observer
31	Hong Kong, China	Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications	Full
32	Hong Kong, China	Joint Quality Review Committee Limited	Full

No.	Country /Territory	Agency	APQN Status
33	Hong Kong, China	University Grants Committee	Full
34	Hong Kong, China	Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education	Associate
35	Hong Kong, China	Vocational Training Council	Associate
36	India	National Assessment and Accreditation Council	Full
37	India	School of Management, Sambhram Academy of Management Studies	Institutional
38	India	Dhanwate National College	Institutional
39	India	Govt. College of Education, M.A.Road, Srinagar, J&K	Institutional
40	India	SSESA's Science College	Institutional
41	India	MIER College of Education	Institutional
42	India	Camp Education Society's Dr. Arvind B Telang College of Arts, Science & Commerce	Institutional
43	India	Annamacharya Institute of Technology and Sciences	Institutional
44	India	Chettinad Academy of Research & Education	Institutional
45	India	Arts, Science and Commerce College	Institutional
46	India	K.L.E.Society Basavaprabhu Kore Arts, Science and Commerce College, Chikodi	Institutional
47	India	Kamla Nehru Mahavidyalaya*	Institutional
48	Indonesia	National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education	Full
49	Iran	The University of Tehran	Institutional
50	Japan	Japan University Accreditation Association	Full
51	Japan	National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation	Full
52	Japan	Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation*	Full
53	Kazakhstan	Independent Kazakhstan Quality Assurance Agency in Education	Intermediate
54	Kazakhstan	Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating	Intermediate
55	Korea, South	Korean Council for University Education(KCUE)	Full
56	Korea, South	Korean Council For University College Education(KCCE)	Full

No.	Country /Territory	Agency	APQN Status
57	Kuwait	Private Universities Council	Observer
58	Laos	Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education	Associate
59	Macao,China	Macao University of Science and Technology	Institutional
60	Macao,China	Macao Polytechnic Institute*	Institutional
61	Macao,China	Tertiary Education Services Office	Associate
62	Malaysia	Malaysian Qualifications Agency	Full
63	Malaysia	Finance Accreditation Agency	Intermediate
64	Maldives	Maldives Qualifications Authority	Intermediate
65	Maldives	Institute for Academic Development, Villa College	Institutional
66	Mongolia	Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation	Full
67	Mongolia	University of the Humanities	Institutional
68	Mongolia	Health Sciences University of Mongolia	Institutional
69	Mongolia	Ikh Zasag International University	Institutional
70	Nepal	University Grants Commission of Nepal	Intermediate
71	New Zealand	New Zealand Qualifications Authority	Full
72	New Zealand	Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities	Full
73	Pakistan	Higher Education Commission	Intermediate
74	Pakistan	National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education	Intermediate
75	Pakistan	National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council	Intermediate
76	Pakistan	National Business Education Accreditation Council	Intermediate
77	Pakistan	Allama Iqbal Open University	Institutional
78	Pakistan	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Agricultural University, Peshawar-Pakistan	Institutional
79	Pakistan	University of Management and Technology (UMT)	Institutional
80	Pakistan	University of Karachi	Institutional
81	Pakistan	University of the Punjab, Lahore	Institutional
82	Pakistan	National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)	Institutional
83	Pakistan	Mehran University of Engineering & Technology	Institutional
84	Pakistan	NED University of Engineering & Technology	Institutional

No.	Country /Territory	Agency	APQN Status
85	Pakistan	Fatima Jinnah Women University	Institutional
86	Pakistan	Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University	Institutional
87	Pakistan	Sukkur institute of Business Administration	Institutional
88	Pakistan	Shaheed benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar	Institutional
89	Pakistan	University of Science & Technology, Bannu	Institutional
90	Pakistan	Quality Enhancement Cell, Kohat University of Science & Technology	Institutional
91	Pakistan	The University of Faisalabad	Institutional
92	Pakistan	Riphah International University	Institutional
93	Pakistan	Institute of Space Technology	Institutional
94	Pakistan	Institute of Business Management	Institutional
95	Pakistan	University of Engineering & Technology, Taxila	Institutional
96	Pakistan	National Textile University	Institutional
97	Pakistan	Institute of Management Sciences	Institutional
98	Pakistan	Ziauddin University	Institutional
99	Pakistan	Air University Islamabad Pakistan	Institutional
100	Pakistan	Quality Assurance Directorate, Bahria University	Institutional
101	Pakistan	Beaconhouse National University	Institutional
102	Pakistan	Islamia College Peshawar (Chartered University)	Institutional
103	Pakistan	SBK Women University Quetta Pakistan	Institutional
104	Pakistan	Abasyn University	Institutional
105	Pakistan	University of Lahore	Institutional
106	Pakistan	COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT)	Institutional
107	Pakistan	Preston University	Institutional
108	Pakistan	Quality Enhancement Cell, National University of Modern Languages	Institutional
109	Pakistan	Iqra University	Institutional
110	Pakistan	University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir	Institutional
111	Pakistan	Greenwich University Karachi	Institutional
112	Pakistan	Institute of Business & Technology-Biztek Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC)	Institutional

No.	Country /Territory	Agency	APQN Status
113	Pakistan	Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science & Technology (SZABIST)	Institutional
114	Pakistan	University of Peshawar	Institutional
115	Pakistan	Indus University	Institutional
116	Pakistan	Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan	Institutional
117	Pakistan	Lahore College for Women University, Pakistan	Institutional
118	Pakistan	Balochistan University of Engineering & Technology, Khuzdar*	Institutional
119	Pakistan	Khadim Ali Shah Institute of Technology (Pvt) Ltd*	Institutional
120	Pakistan	Lahore School of Economics*	Institutional
121	Pakistan	New Ports Institute of Communication and Economics(NICE) *	Institutional
122	Pakistan	University of Central Punjab*	Institutional
123	Pakistan	Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University*	Institutional
124	Pakistan	National Testing Service-Pakistan (NTS)	Associate
125	Philippines	Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities	Full
126	Philippines	Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines Inc.	Full
127	Philippines	Asia Theological Association*	Intermediate
128	Philippines	International Distance Education Accreditation League, Inc.	Associate
129	Russia	The National Accreditation Agency of the Russian Federation	Full
130	Russia	The Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and Career Development	Full
131	Russia	National Center of Public Accreditation (NCPA)	Full
132	Russia	Association for Engineering Education of Russia	Full
133	Russia	Kazan Federal University*	Institutional
134	Russia	Altai State University *	Institutional
135	Samoa	Samoa Qualifications Authority	Full
136	Saudi Arabia	Jazan University*	Observer
137	Singapore	Council for Private Education	Intermediate
138	Sri Lanka	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of Sri Lanka	Intermediate
139	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology	Institutional

<b>No.</b>	<b>Country /Territory</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>APQN Status</b>
140	Sri Lanka	South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine (Pvt) Ltd.	Institutional
141	Sri Lanka	Horizon College of Business & Technology*	Institutional
142	Thailand	Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment	Full
143	Thailand	Office of the Education Council	Associate
144	Thailand	ASEAN University Network	Observer
145	Thailand	Asian Forum on Business Education	Observer
146	Timor Leste	National Agency for Academic Assessment and Accreditation (NAAAA)	Intermediate
147	Tonga	Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board	Intermediate
148	United Kingdom	The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education	Observer
149	United Kingdom	UK National Recognition Information Centre(UK NARIC)	Observer
150	Vanuatu	Vanuatu National Training Council	Intermediate
151	Vietnam	General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation	Full
152	Vietnam	Vietnam Vocational Training Accreditation (VVTAA)	Intermediate
153	Vietnam	Hanoi National University of Education (HNUE)	Institutional
154	Vietnam	Institute for Education Quality Assurance of Vietnam National University, Hanoi	Institutional
155	Vietnam	Center for Educational Testing and Quality Assessment, Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City	Institutional
156	Vietnam	Center for Quality Assurance, Foreign Trade University	Institutional

# THE BOARD



APQN President  
Dr. Jagannath Patil (Elected)  
INDIA



APQN Vice President  
Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi (Elected)  
CHINESE TAIPEI



APQN Secretary/Treasurer  
Prof. Li Yaogang (Ex officio)  
CHINA



APQN Board Member  
Dr. Jan Cameron (Elected)  
NEW ZEALAND



APQN Board Member  
Prof. Pornrunroj Channarong (Elected)  
THAILAND



APQN Board Member  
Prof. Jianxin Zhang (Elected)  
CHINA



APQN Board Member  
Ms. Zia Batool (Elected)  
PAKISTAN



APQN Board Member  
Prof. Colin Peiris (Co-opted)  
SRI LANKA



APQN Board Member  
Dr. Erika Soboleva (Co-opted)  
RUSSIA

# BOARD ACTIVITY

## APQN PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES IN INQAAHE FORUM AT TALLINN



program accreditation in Asia Pacific.

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

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

## NEW CO-OPTED MEMBER FOR THE BOARD

On the first Board meeting of 2014 in Hanoi, Vietnam, Dr. Erika Soboleva from Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career Development (AKKORK) has been co-opted to be the Board member. Welcome! Dr. Erika Soboleva has worked for the International Office of AKKORK since 2009, which is the first independent agency in Russia in the sphere of education quality review and quality assurance. Erika's research interests lies in the areas of quality evaluation and quality assurance in education, e-learning quality evaluation, quality criteria, quality assurance systems in different countries and their comparison. Erika has published several works on quality assurance in renowned Russian journal in education "Vysheebrazovanie v Rossii" ("Higher education in Russia"), in several books of abstracts from APQN, INQAAHE 2011–2012, 3rd ISQM and Online Educa Berlin 2010 conferences. In addition, Erika holds a post of Board Member of International Networks for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**



## Rise of Asia and Spirit of Networking

I am passionate about the cause of Asia-Pacific. In Hanoi Conference, I highlighted my thoughts on Asia-Pacific and emphasised that values of greater Asia-Pacific can benefit not only the region but entire world. Hanoi conference was the place where I outlined greater Asian dream of higher education. The membership of APQN responded positively.

We received over whelming support for two constitutional changes which aimed at

providing extended term to board to ensure sustenance of various initiatives and projects launched by us recently. I am proud to see that with modest figure of about 30 in 2005, our membership base has now crossed figure of 150 in January 2015 and we are still receiving many applications.



### Collaboration:

Success of Hanoi conference has boosted our moral and last year saw good progress of various projects by APQN within and outside the region.

Asia-Europe exchange programme in collaboration with European Consortium of Accreditation (ECA) has been well received in both Asia & Europe.

APQN is actively involved as a partner in QACHE project in collaboration with ENQA & ANQAHE. Asia regional seminar on QACHE at Macau hosted gracefully by GAES was great example of spirit of collaboration among Asian, European and Arab region partners in quality assurance. I must appreciate great efforts by Fang le and APQN secretariat in moving this forward.



## **APQR & APQIP:**

Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR), the dream project on which I have been working since 2013, is finally a reality. The concluding session of stakeholder consultation at Macau has finally given birth to APQR since January 2015.

The first meeting of APQR Council will be held in Kunming on 17 April 2015. Presence of UNESCO and other regional representatives adds to the credibility of APQR.

Asia Pacific Quality Information Portal (APQIP), another brain child of mine, is taking shape and ready for inauguration during Kunming conference, thanks to support by Prof. Colin, Karina Uffert, Samanthi, Savitha and colleagues.

## **Projects in Progress:**

APQN Quality label and QA Certificate programme are another two projects in pipeline and we would see the activities in coming few months with initiatives from colleagues on APQN Board.

We have also taken an important decision to publish proceedings of APQN annual conferences as a part of publication series. 2012 APQN conference publication is due for release in April 2015 and other publications would follow soon.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of APQN Quality Award has received good response and membership is waiting for announcement of new Quality Champions with fingers crossed.

## **Global Recognition and Collaboration:**

The work done by us at APQN has been globally admired and recognised. As APQN president, I was invited on various global platforms such as UNESCO, European Commission and many such fora, where I had an opportunity to advance the cause of Asia in particular and developing world in general.

I succeeded in reviving our partnership with INQAAHE on global database of consultants and reviewers. Expansion of database is underway at the moment. Our new partnership with ECA and ENQA stand testimony to our spirit of collaboration.



## Rise of Asia:

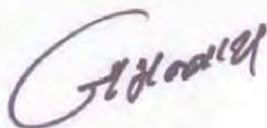
The ultimate taste of our work done at APQN was recent election of INQAAHE, our global network for quality assurance bodies. A good number of my friends in APQN persuaded me to accept the nomination to run for INQAAHE elections, as they wanted to see similar transformation seen by APQN in last 4 years. And the result is here. In the history of INQAAHE of over 24 years, colleagues all over the world voted me to become the first Asian to be the President of INQAAHE.

I do not believe this as my success. I owe it to spirit of Asia, I owe it to consistent work done by all colleagues at APQN and I would describe this historic win as strong indication of rise of Asia on global higher education quality scenario.

## Spirit of Networking:

And we together now owe a much better and much different networking system to higher education fraternity of the world. The system which will be based on spirit of collaboration, system driven on bridges of technology& social media and the system based on trust and mutual respect.

For the first time in QA history APQN and INQAAHE has same President. We celebrate this on a very positive note of collaborative spirit and announce with delight that Fiji Higher Education commission has kindly agreed to host both INQAAHE forum and APQN conference 2016 as back to back events. The new era of networking among networks has begun and I hope it will stay longer for good of QA community.



Dr JagannathPatil  
APQN President

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT


Driven by global forces in higher education, Asian national quality assurance agencies are now being challenged to demonstrate that the quality of their own operations meets externally determined as well as international standards. In recent years, the International Network of Quality assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), and the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) have published guidelines or principles of best practice for the self-review of quality assurance agencies. The ASEAN University Network (AUN) has also

published guidelines for quality assurance to assist quality agencies "inside and outside ASEAN in relation to harmonization of quality assurance frameworks and development of professionals in quality assurance".

One study shows that 80% of APQN full members have a self-evaluation or internal quality assurance mechanism in place. Cyclical review mainly ranges from a one-year to a four-year timetable. Some agencies have adopted APQN's principles for internal review, and several applied both the INQAAHE and APQN guidelines as one of the references for self-assessment. Compared to internal review, more than half of the agencies have been reviewed externally, either by government or by a recognition authority. It is obvious that most Asian quality assurance agencies have developed internal quality assurance mechanisms, particularly by reacting to internal and external recommendations for improvement, having interviews or surveys from expert reviewers or evaluated institutions, and collecting feedback from the staff and council, or board members. When it comes to external reviews, many APQN full members expressed their interest in using the principles and guidelines of international networks to prove their accountability, although the effectiveness and objectivity of these international evaluations remains a major concern.

APQN, as the most influential QA network in Asia has made great efforts to provide a platform for all types of Asian accreditors to interact, communicate and learn with each other. Up to 2015, the number of APQN increased up to 156 from 38 countries and territory. There are 2 full members, 13 institutional members, 1 intermediate member and





1 observer joining us last year, it means, Asian QA family is growing strongly. In order to enhance quality of Asian QA community and respond to members' needs, APQN decided to launch the Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR) to serve a quality hallmark "for global stakeholders on trustworthy quality assurance agencies in Asia Pacific".

Growth in the internationalization of Asian higher education is driving the expansion of tertiary systems and institutions throughout the world. It articulates transnational education as well as cross-border collaboration and growing levels of student mobility. Following the trend, APQN made its great efforts to develop its global network with several organizations and collaborate with the various agencies in the other regions. For example, after signing an agreement with ECA in 2013, APQN has encouraged 12 agency staff to visit the QA agencies in the other region through exchange program. APQN also took part in QACHE project funded by the Erasmus Mundus programme of the European Union and coordinated by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). Through joining the project, APQN assists the members to realize current development of QA of cross-border higher education as well as to further enhance policy dialogue in different regions and countries on quality assurance of CBHE.

In 2014, in collaboration with Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan, APQN publishes an international journal titled "Higher Education Evaluation and Development" (HEED) to disseminate updated information of quality assurance within APQN members and globally. Up to present, HEED has published more than 65 English academic articles in higher education development and quality education. It can be foreseen that the impact of APQN through academic publications will be increasing rapidly, which will definitely better enhance the international visibility of Asian quality assurance system in the near future. As an Editorial-in-chief, I would like to invite all APQN members to contribute your manuscripts to HEED and exert Asian QA community's influences.

It has been more than a decade after APQN was established in 2003. Many accomplishments have been made and recognized due to all members' engagement and supports. Definitely, APQN will continue to serve an Asian voice in term of higher education quality.



Vice President, APQN

# SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to the leadership of the Board, especially the Office Bearers and the continuous support of the members and interested parties, the APQN Secretariat in 2014 has effectively and efficiently completed the routine work with lower cost and more innovation, which are valuable for the vibrant and sustainable APQN. The details for the work of the Secretariat in 2014 are following.

## 1. APQN Members and the Board


The Secretariat has devoted lots of energy to attract new members, such as approaching the prospective members in the database of APQN and the non-member participants of APQN's activities, answering queries in the process of application and timely feedback after pre-review of the application, providing support for the review of Membership Review Committee, and making follow-up for the review of the Board. The number of APQN's members in all categories has reached to 156 from 38 countries or territories with 17 new members. For the existing members, the Secretariat has updated their information and provided careful consultations.

The Secretariat has communicated frequently with the Board, especially the President and Vice President for the important issues, who are the APQN Office Bearers along with the Secretary/Treasurer. In the year of 2014, the Secretariat has provided support for two face-to-face Board meetings, including the preparation of the agenda, documents for discussion, draft of minutes and follow-up of actions

## 2. Conference and AGM

The Secretariat cooperated with Foreign Trade University (FTU) to organize the APQN 2014 Conference and AGM in Hanoi on March 7-8, 2014 with the overall theme "Higher Education Quality Assurance in a Changing World: Envisioning the future of Asia-Pacific". The Secretariat has provided the full support for the preparation and organization of the Conference. Before the conference and AGM, the Secretariat communicated with the Program Committee and the Local Organizing Committee, developed the online registration system, promoted





of the Conference, drafted the sponsorship plan for participants and selected the submitted papers. During the Conference and AGM, the Secretariat conducted the on-site coordination, provided the conference documents, and kept records of the Conference and AGM. After the Conference and AGM, the Secretariat sorted out the conference papers, PPTs and pictures and uploaded on the website, and drafted the minutes of the AGM.

The Secretariat has forwarded the Call for Eols for the 2015 Conference and AGM for several times. The Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center (YHEEC) has been approved to host the conference. The Secretariat has communicated with YHEEC frequently for the preparation of the Conference and AGM, such as confirmation of the venue and hotels, release of the Call for Contributions and open of the online registration system.

### **3. Management of Projects**

The Secretariat has concentrated fully on the management and supervision of the APQN projects, including:

- I. 2014 APQN Quality Awards,
- II. The 5th APQN Online Forum on "Role of EQA on IQA on Quality of Cross-border Higher Education",
- III. APQN Quality Label (Survey for Professional Accreditation in the Asia-Pacific Region),
- IV. Expansion of the Database of Consultants in cooperation with International Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE),
- V. Discussion on the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR),
- VI. Establishment of Asia-Pacific Quality Informational Portal,
- VII. ECA-APQN Staff Exchange Program,
- VIII. Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education (QACHE) Survey and QACHE Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar in Macao, China in cooperation with European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and Gabinete de Apoio ao Ensino Superior (GAES), Macao, China.

The Secretariat has planned the activities, drafted and released the Call for Eols, preliminarily reviewed the applications, made recommendation for the Board, conducted coordination and supervision, and provided technical support in the process and so on. In addition, the Secretariat also released the "Call for Members and Experts to Join APQN Projects" to invite interested members to join in the existing/proposed projects of common interest to APQN members and to conduct short term projects relevant to APQN's objectives. 12 proposals have been received and the review result will be released soon.

### **4. Publication and Liaison**

The Secretariat has actively taken the responsibility to collect and disseminate information among the APQN members and those interested to APQN. In the year of 2014, the Secretariat drafted, designed the APQN 2013





Annual Report, and distributed the hard copy to all members and uploaded the soft copy on the APQN website; and the Secretariat also edited and published the APQNews Issue 12, and forwarded about 25 messages to APQN members and 11 messages to the mailing list subscribers.

In the year of 2014, the Secretariat has continued the liaison and communication with the Bangkok Office of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education (ECA), Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). APQN has cooperated with INQAAHE for the expansion of Database of Consultants, with ECA for the staff exchange program, and with ENQA for the quality assurance of cross-border higher education.

APQN also has respectively signed MoU with the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), Thailand and Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career Development (AKKORK), Russia to establish the APQN's Quality Hub. In addition, APQN has signed MoU with Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) to co-publish the academic journal Higher Education Evaluation and Development (HEED).

## **5. Finance**

In February 2015, the Secretariat organized the annual audit for the 2014 Finance Statement, the audit report has showed that “the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK as at December 31, 2014, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards for Non-profit Organization.”

The APQN 2014 annual budget drafted by the Secretariat kept the operation cost of the Secretariat to 60% of the annual income of membership fees, and added the expense item for the APQN projects. In the year 2014, the Secretariat has made great efforts for the collection of the membership fees. Up to the writing of this report, almost 80% of members have paid their 2014 membership fees, which could be attributed to the bimonthly follow-up of the Secretariat. Annual membership fees are almost the only source of income.

## **6. Plan for the Next Year**

In order to realize the mission of APQN, the Secretariat would be committed to be the clearinghouse of information and center of plan and coordination of activities in the field of education quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific region. For the year of 2015, the Secretariat has the following plan:

1. to make more promotional activities to attract more new members;



2. to stimulate the vitality of the current members for the APQN events, projects and other activities;
3. to broaden the sources of income by professional service to the international organizations, country governments, member agencies and other interested parties;
4. to strengthen the capacity—building the Secretariat staff to raise the efficiency and effectiveness.

Li Yaogang

Prof. Li Yaogang  
APQN Secretary/Treasurer





# **REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES**

**2014 APQN CONFERENCE**

**2014 APQN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**APQN 2014 QUALITY AWARDS**

**MOU: APQN & AKKORK**

**THE 5<sup>th</sup> APQN ONLINE FORUM**

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTION OF HEED**

**DISCUSSION ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY REGISTER (APQR)**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF APQN QUALITY LABEL**

**ECA-APQN STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**QACHE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR**

**EXPANSION OF THE DATABASE OF CONSULTANTS**





## 2014 APQN CONFERENCE

The APQN 2014 Conference and AGM was hosted by Foreign Trade University (FTU), Vietnam in the Crown Plaza West Hanoi on March 7–8, 2014 with the overall theme of “Higher Education Quality Assurance in a Changing World: Envisioning the future of Asia–Pacific” . There were totally 205 participants from 32 countries/territories within and beyond the Asia–Pacific region as well as the representatives from international organizations, such as UNESCO and ECA attending the great event. The participants for the conference were warmly welcomed by the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Prof. Hoang Van Chau, President of FTU, Vietnam. Dr. Jagannath Patil, President of APQN from NAAC, India made an address before the opening speech by Dr. Pham Xuan Thanh, General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation (GDETA), Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Vietnam. Dr. Antony Stella, a Commissioner at the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA), the federal quality assurance agency of the United Arab Emirates, made a keynote speech on “Developmental Areas for the Asia–Pacific Quality Network” while Mr. Colin T ü ck, the Director of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) gave a keynote on “Asia Europe Dialogue in Higher Education Quality Assurance” for the conference.

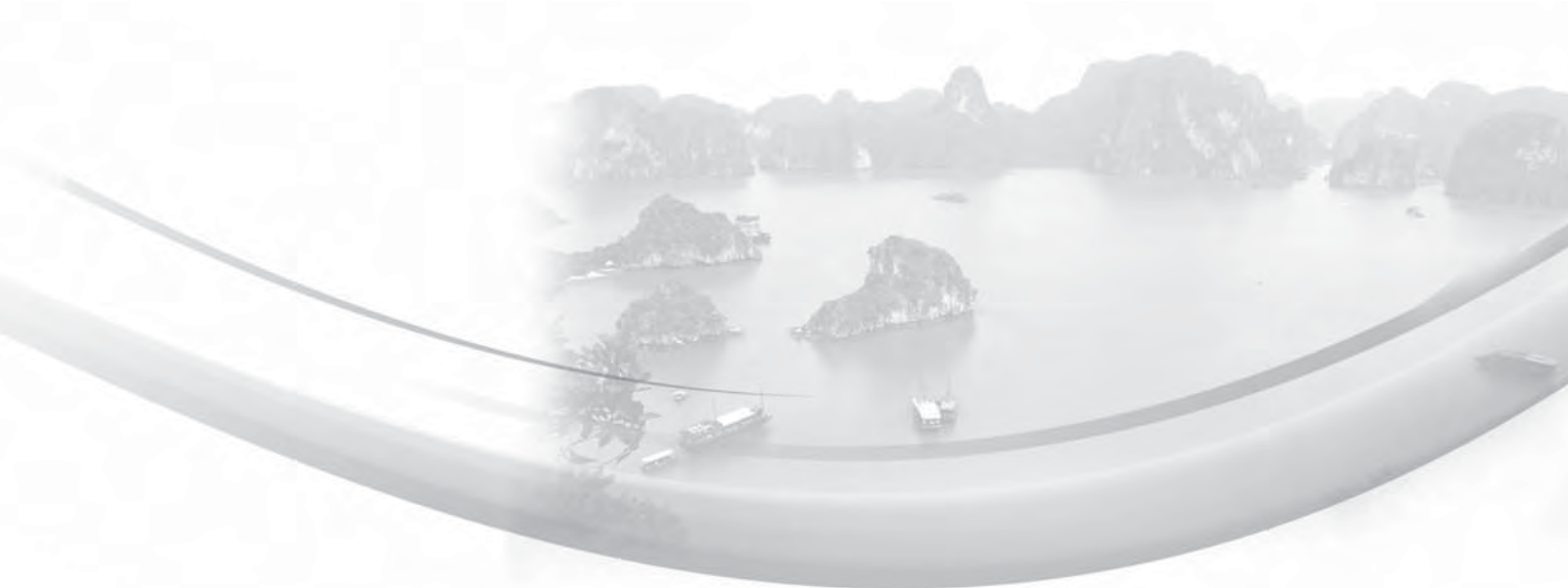
The 4 Panel Discussions respectively focused on the following topics:

- 1、 Challenges and Opportunities for Asia–Pacific: Higher Education QA in a Changing World,
- 2、 Quality Assurance across borders: different models for education/different models for Quality Assurance,
- 3、 Towards QA collaboration and exchange: locally, regionally and globally,
- 4、 and Outcome, Innovation and Development of Quality Assurance.

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

Besides, the APQN 2014 Conference also conducted 2 workshops. One was the Workshop on APQN’ s Quality Information Portal, facilitated by Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQN President and Dr. Mark Frederiks, ECA Coordinator, while the other was Workshop on Asia–Pacific Quality Register, facilitated by Mr. Colin T ü ck, EQAR. All the presentations and pictures of the Conference are available at <http://www.apqn.org/events/past/details/?id=478>









# FEEDBACK FROM THE SPONSORED PARTICIPANTS FOR 2014 APQN CONFERENCE

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

*-Ms. Kovi Aiolutepoa, SQA, Samoa*

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

I'm very glad that I had a chance to participate in such honorable conference and I want to express my gratitude to Foreign Trade University and APQN for giving me a grant.

*-Ms. Altanchimeg Bat-Ulzii, MNCEA, Mongolia*

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

*-Ms. Samantha Wickramasinghe, QAAC, Sri Lanka*





## 2014 APQN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Board proposed changes of clause No. 36 and 39 of APQN constitution in order to ensure sustainability of APQN’ s activities and policies. The full and intermediate members casted their ballots paper either on site or via email within 21 days. The details for the tally of the returned ballots have been compiled by the Secretariat, doubly verified by the Office Bearers, and confirmed validity of process by the independent constitutional expert. With the majority voted supported the proposal, the amendments of the Constitution has been approved by the AGM according to the tally of returned ballots. As a result, the current clause No. 36 and No. 39 will be respectively changed into:

“36. The Board of APQN consists of the President, immediate Past President, Vice–President and Secretary/ Treasurer, and four other elected members, and other members whom the Board may decide to co–opt, to a maximum of four co–opted members on the Board, provided immediate past president can have only one term ex–officio, if he/she has already served 3 successive elected terms on board”

And “39. The Board is elected by the General Council for three–year periods. Re–election to the Board or any position on the Board is permitted for a maximum of three successive terms, provided that re–elections can be sought by any member after gap of at least one term.”

This result is an indication of strong faith that APQN members have in our current policies and their desire for sustainable growth of APQN.

# APQN 2014 QUALITY AWARDS



APQN Quality Awards were initiated in 2013 to mark decennial celebrations of APQN, which was intended to identify and distinguish extraordinary or prominent QA contributions and good practices that have potential of replications in the Asia–Pacific area. As feedback to APQN Quality Awards has been very encouraging, APQN Board decided that awards would continue every year. The 2014 APQN Quality Awards had four categories, i.e. APQN ‘s Best/Model Internal QA Award, Champions Award, International Cooperation in QA, Training and Support of Reviewers. Among 23 nominations for 2014 APQN Quality Awards, 9 winners were finally selected by the international jury as above. Dr. Jagannath Patil expressed his sincere congratulations to all the winners and awarded them trophies and certificates with other distinguished guests at the ceremony of APQN Quality Awards. APQN also awarded special mementos to representatives of UNESCO, European Consortium of Accreditation—ECA and Government of Australia as a token of appreciation for collaboration with APQN

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

## MOU: APQN & AKKORK

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



## THE 5<sup>th</sup> APQN ONLINE FORUM

APQN conducted the 5th online discussion forum in March and April, 2014. The forum focused on the topic of “Role of EQA on IQA on Quality of Cross-border Higher Education” . Under the topic, there were 3 sub-themes to be further discussed, namely:

- 1、 Development of IQA mechanism for Cross-border higher education,
- 2、 Responsibilities of National accreditors on quality assurance of Cross-border higher education,
- 3、 Impact of International accreditation on higher education system.



Prof. Angela Yung-Chi Hou



Prof. Muhammad Moin uddin Ali Khan



Prof. Usha Chander



Dr. Mark Fredeiks



Ms. Karina Ufert



Prof. Angela Yung–Chi Hou and Prof. Muhammad Moin uddin Ali Khan served as convenors of the forum. Three reputed experts were invited to be the facilitators for the discussion:

1. Prof. Usha Chander, Independent Consultant, and Adjunct Faculty, Asian Institute of Management, Manila Philippines (AIM),
2. Dr. Mark Fredeiks, Coordinator of the international policy department of NVAO, the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders,
3. Ms. Karina Ufert, a consultant at UNESCO on China–Africa University cooperation and Education adviser at SPARK, Dutch development agency.


This online discussion was being carried out on the Facebook, which was APQN’ s first online forum using social media as initiated by President Jagannath Patil. Altogether 38 quality assurance experts, representing 9 APQN members from 8 different countries registered to take part in this important endeavor during February and March of 2014. There are 27 messages in total shared by the facilitators and participants. Most participants were interested in sharing their views on two major issues, one is recognition and impact of international accreditors and the other is quality assurance of cross border higher education.

It is highly recommended that APQN continues to seek for an option from its member agencies on the role it can play to facilitate international accreditation. This process could strengthen the national and institutional quality assurance systems by transferring foreign practices, learning from each other’ s experience. Growing cooperation could also bring more trust into the higher education sector.

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTION OF HEED



Higher Education Evaluation and Development (HEED) is a journal founded by Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Tai–wan (HEEACT) and is jointly owned and published with Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN) from 2014. Dr. Jagannath Patil, President of APQN and Dr. Angela Yung–chi Hou, Vice President of APQN have served as the Editors–in–Chief. HEED is a scholarly refereed journal with an aim at encouraging research in higher education evaluation and development, raising standard of evaluation research, and sharing outcomes of evaluation and higher education worldwide. Papers in the fields of theoretical and narrative studies as well as the book reviews and shorter research notes are also considered. As stated, the journal welcomes high quality papers on topics



such as Quality assurance and evaluation in higher education,

research and development of higher education, and other topics related to higher education and development. The first issue of 2014 was released in July, 2014. Welcome more subscription. More information could be available from HEED 8.1 EDM–[http://www.airitipress.com/EDM/HEED-8-1-EDM\\_APQN.html](http://www.airitipress.com/EDM/HEED-8-1-EDM_APQN.html).

## 2014 APQN CONFERENCE



The APQN 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) has endorsed the proposal of the establishment of Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR) as part of its Decennial agenda. APQR would be register of external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs) that demonstrate certain thresholds of maturity. An independent external review by peers will be the backbone of the Register. While the primary purpose of the Register is to acknowledge well developed quality assurance agencies, there is an opportunity to open the review process for the institutional

members of APQN very selectively. This discussion paper on APQR has been released to call for comments in 2014.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF APQN QUALITY LABEL

Two workshops have been held on the project. The proposed system of issuance of APQN Label will ensure certain minimum standards of quality to be met across region through following basic modalities:

- It will be offered both at programme and institutional level to the interested entities.
- HEI or Programme which applies for accreditation from national agency can also opt for APQN label as an additional QA tag.
- APQN would develop minimum Criteria and standards (maximum 1–3 criteria in key areas) for internationalization that ensures global recognition of programme such as curriculum, credit transfer, employability, facilities for international students etc.



- In case of new programmes and HEIs looking for QA label, the Review team will have one nominee of APQN. HEI will be assessed as per national agency criteria plus a set of minimum criteria of APQN.
- If successful, HEI/ programme can get both national accreditation and APQN label at reasonable cost.
- The APQN Label will remain valid for 5 years after which the periodic review process will be required to continue.
- Whereas for already accredited programmes and HEIs looking for value addition through APQN Label, those will be facilitated through customized Review Process based on APQN Criteria and the current accreditation or recognition status of the entity under review.
- Ultimate aim is to create an Asia Pacific wide entities, which will in collaboration with APQN, provide APQN Quality Label. This body can also be recognized regional QA body which is member of APQN.

## ECA-APQN STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM



Dr. Jagannath Patil, President of Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and Prof. Rafael van Grieken, Chairman of European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education (ECA) have jointly launched the Staff Exchange Project between the member agencies of the two organizations since August, 2014. This exchange underpins the importance of building stronger relations in QA in higher education between the Asia-Pacific and European regions.

The outline of the project is following:

1. APQN and ECA will function as an intermediate to encourage member agencies to exchange staff members for visits to member agencies in the other region.
2. Sending agencies will cover international travel cost and accommodation of staff members nominated by them. Host agencies will offer local logistical guidance and advice on accommodation. The host agency also sets up about a program of at least 1 week, taking into account the provided format and the needs of the sending agency.
3. The member agencies of APQN and ECA could nominate staff members by sending the nomination to the Secretariat of their network (APQN or ECA). 12 nominees have been received for the staff exchange program from both APQN and ECA.
4. For purposes of implementing this project, APQN and ECA call for the support of member agencies to act as host agencies. 7 member agencies from both APQN and ECA have applied to be the host.
5. The project will be implemented once the match between the hosts and nominees has been confirmed in the first quarter of 2015.

# QACHE ASIA–PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR



The Seminar on Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education (QACHE) is a sponsored project by European Commission involving APQN, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and other quality assurance bodies in higher education. The Seminar will be held on 22 and 23 January 2015, and co-organized by Tertiary Education Services (TES) Office, Macao. The event was designed to gather around 25 participants from QA agencies and other relevant actors in cross-border higher education (CBHE) in the region,

and 15 members of APQN will be invited to attend the Seminar. The purpose of the Seminar was threefold:

1. to verify and collect further information on the host perspective;
2. to inform the partner countries or potential partner countries of the state of art in QA of CBHE in Europe, by presenting the outcomes of the activities linked to the European agencies and institutions;
3. to facilitate the creation of collaborative links between APQN and European QA agencies and authorities. Other expected outcomes of the event were further policy dialogue within and between the regions, and enhanced mutual understanding of the approaches and policies to QA of CBHE.

Team of Dr. Jagannath Patil, Prof. Angela Yung-chi Hou, Ms. Savita and the Secretariat are working on QACHE Project in item in partnership with ENQA.

# EXPANSION OF THE DATABASE OF CONSULTANTS

The Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) has cooperated with the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) to enhance the database of consultants since December, 2014. Review committee process this time would be monitored by INQAAHE President Dr. Carol Bobby and APQN President Dr. Jagannath Patil, who has been leading this joint Project of APQN and INQAAHE since last few years.







The initial priority will be given to strengthening a global database for (1) general quality assurance consultants; it is also a high priority to strengthen its databases for (2) consultants in institutional quality assurance; and (3) consultants for programmatic quality assurance.

Each APQN and INQAAHE agency member is encouraged to nominate qualified candidates for each of the three categories of consultants. Examples of specializations within the categories of general QA consultancy, institutional quality assurance reviews/audits, and program review/accreditations are listed at the end of this message.

## 2015 APQN CONFERENCE AND AGM

The APQN 2015 Conference and AGM will be hosted by Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center (YHEEC), China in Kunming, China (April 17–19, 2015). The conference will be open to all registered delegates except the AGM which is for members only. The main theme of the 2015 Asia–Pacific Quality Network Conference is: “Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance of Higher Education”. The sub–themes are:

1. The quality assurance mechanism of Cross–border Higher Education (CBHE), international accreditation and international cooperation;
2. Internal quality assurance, programme accreditation, project accreditation, course accreditation etc;
3. Professional accreditation, quality labels, and rankings;
4. Quality assurance of Open Educational Resources (OERs), Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in post–traditional provisions;
5. Teacher assessment and student learning outcomes assessment;
6. Qualifications frameworks, quality assurance and quality information systems.



# REPORT ON FINANCE

## 2014 APQN REPORT ON FINANCE

Categories / Programs	Budget (USD)	Actual Amount (USD)
<b>Income</b>		
Annual Membership Fees	45,610.00	29,631.84
Initial joining fees	11,000.00	6,000.00
Interest received	700.00	611.35
Balance carried forward from 2013	181,221.05	181,221.05
Other income by fundraising or service	30,000.00	5,836.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>268,531.05</b>	<b>223,300.24</b>

<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration	1,000.00	520.00
Audit fees	1,000.00	966.68
Bank fees/TT fees	1,800.00	1,121.36
Website maintenance	7,500.00	5,324.00
Administrator Salary	18,000.00	18,067.27
Projects Carried Forward from 2013, including the QACHE Project	15,000.00	5,110.00
APQN Quality Awards 2014	1,500.00	800.00
5th APQN Online Forum	1,000.00	800.00
APQN Publications Series including Journal, conference proceedings, etc	12,000.00	4,926.67
Annual Conference Sponsorship	15,000.00	18,136.19
APQN Seminar/Workshop/Forum	4,000.00	0.00
Support for APQN Project Proposals	20,000.00	0.00
APQN Database Expansion	2,500.00	0.00
Asia Pacific Quality Register	5,000.00	0.00
Asia Pacific Quality Information Portal	5,000.00	0.00
APQN QA Collaboration and Exchange Program	10,000.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>121,300.00</b>	<b>55,772.17</b>
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>147,231.05</b>	<b>167,528.07</b>



ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

**ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

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SECRETARIAT: No. 202, South Shaanxi Road

Shanghai, China, 200031

Tel: +86 21 5403 2285

Fax: +86 21 5467 0198

Email: [administrator@apqn.org](mailto:administrator@apqn.org)