

APQNews

June 30, 2018



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Issue 17

APQN Mission Statement

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

APQN Values:

To be committed to quality higher education and supportive of quality agencies in the region

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 17th issue of APQNews (2018) !

The first important event is 2018 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Nagpur in India on March 22-25. 131 participants from 21 countries or territories had over 20 sessions to discuss the main theme of "Capacity Building for Next- Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education", APQN quality award ceremony, Indian cultural show, excursion tour to Sevagram Ashram where Mahatma Gandhiji(1869-1948) settled down.... What a spectacle!

The current issue provides detailed information on the QA developments from the QAAs and HEIs from the Asia-Pacific Region. It is encouraging to see the efforts invested both by external QAAs and internal HEIs to improve their respective systems, with the aim to enhance credibility and relevance of provisions (e.g. NACC, HEEACT, Russian Register and NCPA) as well as the workshops on APQR and APQL to enhance both external and internal QA in HE. It also highlights the enhancement activities carried out by our members (e.g. AACUP, HKCAAVQ).

As always, we are happy to share valuable information on current and upcoming quality assurance events. Among the major ones, are 2019 AAC and AGM to be hosted by University Grants Commission in Sri Lanka on March 28-31, 2019, and the 3rd Global Summit to be co-held by APQN and BAN-PT in Bali, Indonesia on August 27-29, 2018. "Innovation and Developments in Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance" will be held on 20-22 November 2018 at Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) in Macao, China. You are warmly welcomed to share your QA experiences!

Last but not the least, I cordially invite all of you to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews (Issue 18). Please kindly e-mail them to Chief Editor and APQN Administrator at: 948661302@qq.com & apqnsecretariat@163.com.

Best regards,

Jianxin Zhang
The 5th President of APQN



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KEY SPEECH

President Opening Remark at 2019 AAC in India

Distinguished guests, dear APQN members, dear colleagues, dear everyone sitting in the hall, good evening! Welcome to 2018 APAN Academic Conference (AAC)! Welcome to APQN big family! On behalf of APQN Board, I declare that the 2018 APQN Academic Conference begins. (Applause)

This year has gone really quickly in the blink of an eye. 2017 is the second year for APQN 5th Board in the presidency. With the great contribution and support of all APQN members, APQN has made obvious achievements. Out of a busy schedule packed with both internal and external events, I have the honor to present 2017 President Annual Report to share with 208 members of APQN General Council, the encouraging endeavors and advancements of APQN.



I. All in a Year's Work in 2017

In 2017, APQN entered its 14-year-old blooming age, showing its vibrant, vigorous tendency of sustainable development. This very year, 2017 AAC & AGM was co-hosted by NCPA on 25-28 May in Moscow in Russia; "APQN Procedure Manual (version 3)" was completed & released in November; the International Conference on "New Developments of Teaching & Learning Quality Assurance" was jointly organized by MPI & APQN on 22-23 November in Macao; "Russian Register" (RR) & NCPA in the Russian Federation have been approved for inclusion on APQR; APQN published "APQNews (Issue 15)", "APQNews (Issue 16)" and Higher Education Evaluation & Development (HEED); "the 30th Annual National Conference of AACUP", UNESCO-ICHEI's "Regional Conference on Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Asia-Pacific" in Shenzhen, "INQAHE-APQN Survey on the Landscape of IQA & EQA", "Application for Erasmus-plus-Programme of INTEGRA", "Faculty & Staff: Creating Universities for Students" hosted by NIAD-QE in Tokyo, "the 4th Training Workshop of Program Evaluators" by NAEAC in Pakistan...APQN will also enter its new year in which strength & weakness co-exist; opportunity & threat go hand in hand. APQN will work harder for our mission. APQN is sure to achieve the ideal of sustainable development.

II. APQN's Goal and Tasks in 2018

In order to realize APQN's mission and goal, in 2018, APQN will focus on the following "1 Mission", "2 Values", "3 Visions", "4 Principles" and "5 Tasks":

"1 Mission": to enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region through strengthening the work of quality assurance organizations and extending the cooperation between them.

"2 Values": 1) to be committed to quality higher education; and 2) to be supportive of quality organizations in the region.

"3 Visions": 1) to be a self-sustaining Network; 2) to be a first point of reference for advice or support, efficient in its operations; and 3) to be open in its information sharing.

"4 Principles": 1) Procedure-based; 2) Capacity Building; 3) Self-reliance & Information-sharing; 4) Sustainable Development for final goal.

"5 Tasks": 1) to establish ongoing financial viability and stability, such as exploring additional funding sources externally which can include donation, commissioned work, and sponsorship of events or publications by governments, agencies/organizations, philanthropists and other relative stakeholders; 2) to populate and maintain the website database and make information accessible to all, such as canvassing its members to identify relevant requirements for quality assurance, e.g. APQN Quality Register (APQR) and APQN Quality Label (APQL); 3) to facilitate the Global summit such as what NAAC and HEEACT did in 2016 and 2017, to co-host Quality Assurance Forum just like that in Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI), to launch research projects just as Self-funding project of "APQN Sustainable Development, to co-train external assessors just like that of NAEAC in Pakistan; 4) to strengthen relations with other international, regional and national networks/organizations within and outside the Region, such as promoting the communication with more international, regional and national quality assurance and networks/organizations, such as INQAAHE, ENQA ANQAHE, AQAN, CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation) and others; and 5) to broaden the base of services to its members to ensure visibility and sustainability of network activities, such as strengthening ongoing initiatives of APQR, Quality Information Portal, HEED Journal and so on.

By completing the activities mentioned above, APQN can achieve the following objectives specified in "APQN Constitution": 1) to promote good QA practice; 2) to facilitate QA research; 3) to provide advice and expertise to assist the development of new quality assurance agencies in the region; 3) to facilitate QA links; 4) to assist APQN members; 5) to permit better-informed international recognition; 6) to assist in HE internationalization; 7) to enhance student mobility; and 7) to establish effective working relationships.

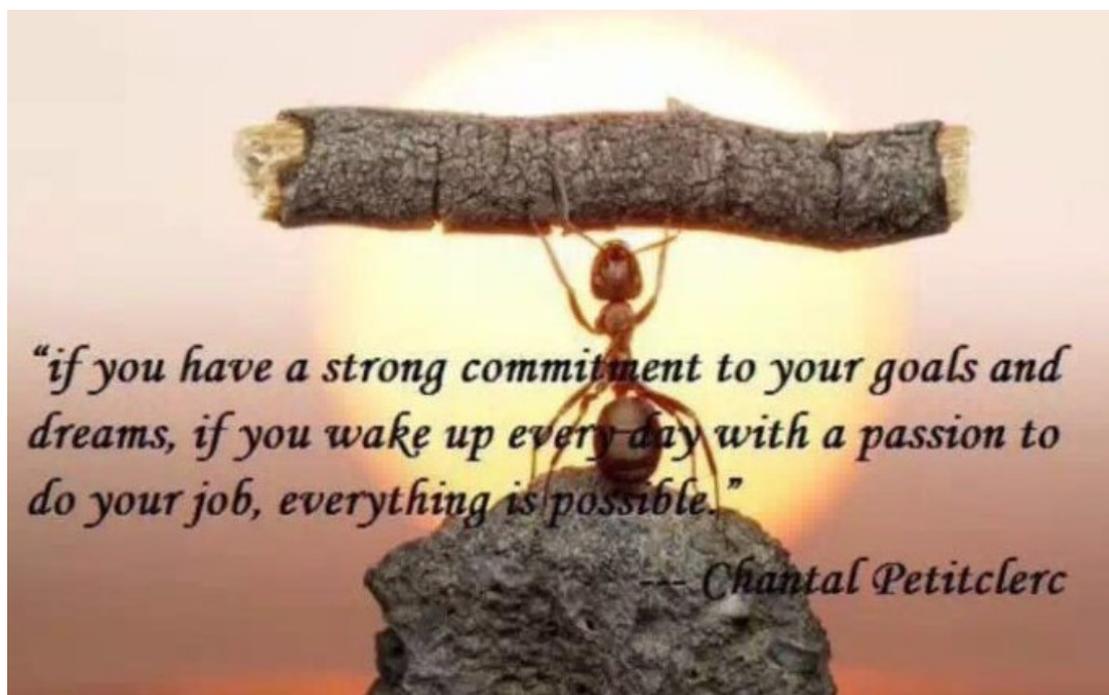
III. Concluding Words

There is no doubt that in the upcoming New Year, APQN will face more difficulties and challenges, but will also face new opportunities. Strength and weakness co-exist; opportunity and threat go hand in hand. Based on the solid foundation of APQN's 14-year development, together with all members, APQN will work harder for our mission "To enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them". APQN is sure to achieve the ideal of sustainable development.

I firmly believe, through the joint-efforts of 208 members in APQN this big harmonious family, APQN is bound to achieve the ideal of sustainable development. Under the guidance of the core value concept "dissolving boundaries for a quality region", with the pioneering spirits and unremitting efforts of all APQN people, APQN will certainly "move from one success to another success".

I end the report with gratitude for all those who made APQN vibrant and sustainable development possible, with high expectation for the successful administration in 2018, and with renewed appreciation for the passion and devotion so many of you have for this remarkable QA non-profit and non-government organization!

APQN President: Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang on March 22, 2018



Address by Principal of Shri Shivaji Science College



At the outset I would like to thank Asia Pacific Quality Network for identifying potential in us to host such a prestigious 2018 APQN Academic Conference. The coincidence of hosting this conference is a sheer remembrance for us.

Dr. Jagannath Patil who hails from Maharashtra happens to be Immediate past president of APQN. This made our state, Maharashtra to be proud of it. While he was in city for Principals Forum Conference during 9-10 August 2017, he made a visit to our college. After seeing ambience and infrastructure, his mind prompted him to shoulder the responsibility of hosting this prestigious conference. As we always in a mode of accepting challenge, we agreed to his suggestion promptly. We surpassed all the hurdles those were coming in our way, and the result is that we are all sharing the same ambience.

Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Science College, Congress Nagar, Nagpur has already been recognized at all levels in country as well as outside by brain drain. Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati's Science College, Congress Nagar, Nagpur which was established in 1967 is built to impart moral and liberal education to the educationally backward community of Vidarbha region.

The college is a premier institution of higher learning in central India which is affiliated to Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University. Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati's Science College, Congress Nagar, Nagpur has completed 50 years of its glorious existence and is today one of the prestigious and biggest single faculty Science College in the region with a variety of courses at degree level with post-graduation courses in different disciplines.

Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati's Science College, Congress Nagar, Nagpur has gone through tremendous transformation over the past five decades and the outcome has been truly magical as it has churned out eminent people consisting of Ministers, MLA, MP, IAS Officers, Scientists, Lawyers, Doctors, Engineers, Vice Chancellor and University Professor from among the under privileged community from the Vidarbha region.

The vision of our college is "To lead from darkness to light", to create human resources through qualitative, societal, progressive and affordable education. Head of the institution and stalwart academicians have always been pioneering spirit for

the growth of this institution. Their contribution in the field of education was duly acknowledged by RTM Nagpur University and State Government.

The Mission of the college is to provide students with an environment for all-round development of their intellectual, physical, aesthetic and social potential. Our goal is to discover and develop the academic and intellectual skills of the students, to encourage attitude of integrity, hard work, honesty, fairness, tolerance in students and to inculcate passion for excellence through information and communication so that they can give their best to the society based on human values.

The college is accredited with CGPA of 3.51 on four point scale at A+ Grade, highest in the region by NAAC Bengaluru and conferred with College with Potential for Excellence.

Dhanwate National College (DNC) was founded by a faction of public-spirited citizens who recognized the need for huge prospects for University Education. It was started at Wardha in 1935 as Wasudeo Arts College and later shifted to Nagpur in 1942 renamed as National College. Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati, took over the management of this college in 1949. In the year 1951, Late Shrimant Dadasaheb Dhanwate donated generously to the society after which it was once again renamed as Dhanwate National College.

- Dhanwate National College has been accredited with CGPA of 3.25 on four point scale at 'A' Grade by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council), Bangalore.
- The College has been bestowed upon the status of “College with Potential for Excellence” by UGC (University Grants Commission), New Delhi.
- Recognized Centre for Higher Learning & Research for Ph.D. Degree in Arts, Commerce and Social Sciences by RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur
- Dhanwate National College is also proud to be working out solutions towards constructively bridge the gap between the academic and industry competency of students.
- Both colleges are Institutional Member of APQN.

As a teacher, I know firsthand the importance of a quality education. There can be no great courage where there is no confidence or assurance, and half the battle is in the conviction that we can do what we undertake.

I am happy to acknowledge APQN for deliberating critical issues in higher education. Such new initiatives are necessary to make stake holders active partners in bringing innovations.

I hope that the conference will generate the excitement of contemporary thoughts among the participants.

It will provide a platform for exchange of best technology and tools across the globe in creating awareness among all concerned stakeholders.

I wish the conference a great success!

Dr Devendra Burghate, Principal of SSESASC

Address by President of Shri Shivaji Education Society

Good Morning, my reverence to Dr. Bhausahab Deshmukh, the founder President of Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati, Hon'ble Chief Guest Prof. Jianxin Zhang, President of Asia Pacific Quality Network, Hon'ble Dr. Pankaj Chande, Ex. V. C., Kavikulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Ramtek, Hon'ble Dr. Jagannath Patil, Immediate Past President, Prof. Sid Nair (Mauritius), Prof. Mohan de Siva (Srilanka), APQN Delegates from various countries and India, Dr. D. K. Burghate, Principal, Science College, Dr. B.B. Taywade, former Principal, Dhanwate National College, Dr. P.S. Changole, Officiating Principal, Dhanwate National College, Coordinators, IQAC and Delegates, I welcome one and all in the green orange city Nagpur!



It is a matter of pride for India and for Shri Shivaji Education Society in Vidarbha Region to host Asia Pacific Quality Network Annual Conference. Our society is second largest Education Society in India and it gives me pleasure to deliver Presidential speech in one of the leading Science College and Dhanwate National College, Nagpur.

From its humble beginning as a Degree College of Science in 1967, SCIENCE COLLEGE recently celebrated the 50th glorious year of its academic life of quality and excellence, dedication to the cause of education.

Yes, it is a time to celebrate, to introspect, to consolidate and to plan for its future.

SCIENCE COLLEGE and DHANWATE NATIONAL COLLEGE inherited quality, and established as Model Institutions in the Central India strictly adhering to stated Vision, Mission and Objectives. It is catering to the needs of the masses in society of all strata relentlessly over these years. The beneficiaries of these institutions can be found around the world.

Before I turn to society, I would like to recall the great contributions of a number of stalwarts, past and present, who with their untiring effort and infallible diligence

to make this institution what it is today.

The Great Visionary Educationist and social reformer Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was the first Union Agriculture Minister of Independent India. The Shri Shivaji Education Society was founded in 1932 by Dr. Panjabrao alias Bhausaheb Deshmukh.

The son of farmer was researcher of Oxford University, Scholar in Sanskrit and published his thesis on Origin and Development of Vedic Literature. This great thinker worked as member in Constitution Assembly of India.

Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati runs 300 odd educational institutions all over Vidarbha Region. The society also has its own goals and objectives to face new challenges in life.

There is well known Chinese proverb which tells us *“If you plan for one year, plant rice, if you plan for ten years, plant a tree, if you plan for hundred years, educate people”* (“十年树木, 百年树人”). For this noble purpose of invoking the intellectual power of the youths, our founder made collective efforts by mobilizing academic and socio-political support of the well-wishers and lovers of education and in this context these institutions came into existence.

The APQN conference theme is *“Capacity Building for Next Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education”*. It requires transformation. *“Nothing gets transformed in your life until your mind is transformed”*. Such transformation is a continuous process. Our future is created by what we do today, not tomorrow.

It’s my honor to mention the quote of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh On the occasion of Silver Jubilee of Shri Shivaji Education Society in the presence of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Ex. Vice President of India, ensures the mission and vision of education system.

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh alias Bhausaheb said,

“Let other Universities devote their moneys and energies to the production of only supermen. Let my university and Lokvidyapeeth strive to make useful patriotic men and women out of ignorance, filth, poverty and misery in the heavy darkness of rural India”.

APQN as such, has worked for 15 years improving higher education quality in the Asia-Pacific Region ever since 2003. All these years, the leadership of APQN is committed to quality higher education and supportive of quality assurance agencies in the region.

Notable numbers of projects were completed and the achievements were remarkable. All these made APQN a legacy for all of us to inherit. Today it is the largest and most influential non-profit international organization in the field of higher education quality assurance in Asia-Pacific Region.

As I see a plethora of brains and powers from all over the world, there will be an

opportunity to one and all in the field of education as policy makers to meet, Vice Chancellor, Directors in the field of education.

As an educator, I understand the profound effect of good teachers and a quality education have on the lives of our young people. The right to a quality education is, I believe, the perfect path to bridge the gap between different cultures and to reconcile various civilizations. Without such a right, the values of liberty, justice and equality will have no meaning. Ignorance is by far the biggest danger and threat to humankind.

I have said it on several occasions, several times from this platform that providing a quality education for students is highest priority. Inspired by a vision of our founder President, we dedicate ourselves to the cause of quality and excellence in education to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the young men and women to reach the zenith of achievement.

One of the hallmarks of higher education and of democracy is the ability to converse with people to create global perspective for making use of their talent for good of society. If at least one of these hallmarks is established then that will be a success of this kind of gathering.

I congratulate APQN who made us most privileged in hosting this event. I also congratulate Principal Dr. Baban Taywade of Dhanwate National College and Principal D. K. Burghate of Shri Shivaji Science College who had taken the initiatives and efforts for hosting this conference.

To widen the mental and intellectual horizon this conference will also provide an impetus to policy makers in the arena of Higher Education, who are looking for an area to do so. Those who had already initiated, it would provide a good opportunity for interaction with the experts.

I extend my best wishes to the conference for the journey of quality assurance in higher education and betterment of the world.

Shri Harshavardhan P Deshmukh
Former Minister, President of Shri Shivaji Education Society, India

Invitation Speech by 2019 Host UGC Chairman in Sri Lanka



President of APQN Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, Vice President Prof. Angela Yung Chi, Respected Secretary and other Members of the Board, Dear Colleagues, May I first thank the APQN for giving me the opportunity to address this august audience. At the very outset, may I most respectfully invite all of you to visit our small island nation in the Indian Ocean for APQN 2019.

Why should you visit Sri Lanka? What can we offer you? Is it going to be a memorable visit to you and your family? Can we offer the quality settings to the expectations of the APQN

Board for this important conference?

Well. The ancient travelers named her the Pearl of the Indian Ocean. The beautiful beaches that surround the island and the density of blue whale population that does not leave her shores may have impressed them. My experiences with what we see only few miles off the southern coast of Sri Lanka I hope you will enjoy one day. Lonely planet classifies the southern beaches as some of the best in the world. The beaches in eastern Sri Lanka are not second. They attract expert surfers from all over the world and globally well known for their best surfing experiences.

With large herds of elephants frequenting the giant lakes built by our ancient kings in the North Central province of the island and the highest density of leopards per square mile anywhere on the planet, with a rich cultural heritage dating back for nearly 2000 years, fascinating ritual pageantries in which hundreds of decorated elephants parade the streets in the historic hill station, Kandy and many other UNESCO protected heritage sites to visit such as the world famous rock fortress Sigiriya where we are expecting to take you all for the conference excursion, the Sri Pada mountain climb venerated by all religions but most importantly Ladies and Gentleman, together with all these, the peace and tranquility Sri Lanka is enjoying today, it is not surprising to witness the record tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka.

Respected delegates,

Apart from these beautiful beaches, abundant wild and marine life and rich cultural heritage, could Sri Lanka provide the expected standards and quality settings to hold this important conference?

Sri Lanka today is a middle-income country. Our adult literacy rate is 92.6%, the best in South Asia. Like in the UK We have a free National Health Service and quality private health care facilities. Our Public Health Indices, a yardstick of the quality of Health Care in any country, maternal Mortality Peri-natal Mortality and infant mortality rates are the best in South Asia. We have eradicated malaria from

the shores of the island.

All this is thanks to the universal free education, Higher Education and health care policy, which the islanders had been enjoying since 1948.

Being a commonwealth nation, English is spoken by most Sri Lankans including many in the villages. You will not get lost in Sri Lanka! The friendly smiling Sri Lankan hospitality is well known in the world.

We are also cruising ahead with E Governance. Information technology is becoming the tool for contact in Sri Lanka today.

Sri Lanka was the first county in South Asia to introduce mobile phones in 1989, first to roll 3G network in 2004 and first in the region to unveil 4G network 6 years ago.

Today Sri Lanka has a stable democratic government committed to good governance. In 2015, Sri Lanka was invited as the 69th country to sign for the concept; open government partnership reiterating her commitment for transparency, accountability and good governance.

The Island is going through a paradigm shift in the sphere of Higher education with the new policy of the state to increase access to free state sponsored Higher Education together with regulated expansion of the Non State Higher Education facilities in the island.

What about the present status of Quality assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education?

We have a QA and Accreditation system which had been in existence since 2005. Presently, it is implemented by the Directorate for QAA at the UGC. But we are about to set a major mile stone in the QAA system in the island.

The legislative steps are under way to establish an Independent QAA Agency for higher Education shortly as part the good governance concept of the government. Therefore, it is most timely to have the APQN conference in Sri Lanka in 2019 together with INQAAHE Conference which is scheduled to be held in March 2019.

Madam President

We are deeply honored and appreciate the invitation to host APQN 2019 in Sri Lanka.

Has Sri Lanka got the experiences and expertise to hold APQN?

Well. During last few years Sri Lanka has conducted many large international events. The Meeting of the Heads of Commonwealth of Nations with more than 1000 participants: the CHOGAM, the World Youth Conference and SAARC Games to mention a few successful global events we have recently conducted.

In 2017, Sri Lanka was the host country to celebrate international Wesak day, the most auspicious day for all Buddhists in the world, during which more than 1000 international delegates visited the island.

Sri Lanka is an easy destination to arrive. We have over the counter and on -line visa facility for delegates from many countries and Immunization is not required to come to Sri Lanka.

We have a good easily accessible road network and Transport system in the capital Colombo with excellent 5 and 4 star Hotels in Colombo and many budget hotels. But more so, if you wish to extend your stay to visit hill country where famous Ceylon tea is grown you will enjoy the pleasure of staying in excellent hotels, some blended with nature, visit our White Water Rafting facilities and the famous tropical rain forest Sinharaja another protected site, enjoy the secrets of the famous natural Sri Lankan gems. The famous Sri Lankan Red Spinel proudly decorates the center piece of queen's crown not to mention the famous blue sapphire once worn by late lady Diana.

The road network out of Colombo to these sites are well developed and you can reach hill county by road in 3 hours not to mention the fascinating experiences of luxury train rides to hill stations. Our flagship Venue, BMICH has all required facilities for the APQN 2019.

Respected delegates, these are few reasons why you may consider visiting our beautiful island for APQN 2019. Sri Lanka warmly invites you!

**Prof. Mohan de Silva MS, FRCS Edin, FCSSL
Chairman of University Grants commission, Sri Lanka**

Opening Speech for 2018 AAC by Keynote Speaker



Good morning ladies and gentleman. Let me first thank the organizing committee for the invite to this conference in Nagpur, India.

Today's topic relates to an important international forum – Capacity Building – in this case for the Next- Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

As I talk here, the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) in Mauritius which is the apex regulatory body is conducting an enhancing capacity workshop on online teaching and learning. We instituted such capacity building workshops realizing that there is a gap we have recognized in the HE system there that needs addressing. The feedback from the HE Sector has been positive and we can see small but incremental changes in the teaching and learning domain.

Capacity Building in higher education can be defined as the process of recognizing, developing and strengthening the skills, abilities, processes and resources that organizations need to adapt in a fast-evolving delivery of educational need.

I believe enhancing capacity has 4 levels: a) First and foremost, at the individual level, the skills one needs to deliver specific outcomes in our work no matter in what area one works in; b) organizational capacity, what is required by the organization to deliver their outcomes; c) external organizations such as quality agencies having the right skills to evaluate the relevant bodies i.e. in this case the quality dimension of teaching and learning in a fast changing HE landscape; d) external organizations ensuring that capacity learnt in one area is shared among others so as to develop international practices.

This conference is without doubt timely for the sector and will provide us an opportunity to share our experiences and knowledge as well explore new avenues to enhance capacity. This gathering gives us a solid platform to further strengthen our understanding of educational quality in an international setting as well as enhance cooperation among us to ensure that the most important stakeholders, students have the best experience in their journey towards employment in a global economy.

Prof. Sid Nair, TEC Director, Mauritius

Closing Remarks by the Chair of the Local Host

The proceedings of an event started with 1st Board Meeting on 22nd March where in All APQN Board Members along with Local Host Principal Dr. D K Burghate and Dr. D W Deshkar participated to discuss the preparatory level of conference.



The local host gave detailed information regarding the preparation made viz. Printing of Bulletin, Annual Report, Certificates, Memento of Award Ceremony etc. An inquiry about registration of National as well as International Delegates Arrangement of Registration Desk, Transportation, Lodging and boarding information was provided to APQN Members during the meeting. The President and other APQN Members appreciated the work done by Local organizing committee.

Actual proceeding of conference was started with an inauguration function in the morning of 23rd March. During Inaugural Function, the Executive Members of Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati and Local Organizing Committee Members seated on dais.

Myself (Principal Dr. D.K. Burghate) gave introductory remarks about the conference. The present president of APQN Prof. Jianxin Zhang explained the qualities, events and importance of APQN with reference to higher education. Dr. Jagannath Patil in his speech said how the importance of APQN can be disseminated into institutions who are really involved in percolating policies taken by policy makers of this country. Dr. Pankaj Chande, former VC in his remarks threw light on importance of higher education. Hon'ble Shri Harshwardhan Deshmukh who presided over the function said about the utility of opportunity given by 2018 APQN AAC.

The Key note address was delivered by Prof Sid Nair from Mauritius. Who deliberated issues on Capacity Building.

In the afternoon two plenary sessions were held. In first, the topic was Capacity Building of National Quality Assurance Agencies, Two speakers namely, Dr. Huang Baoyin from China and Dr. Deepti Bandara from Sri Lanka presented their work.

In Second, the topic was International, Regional and National Quality Assurance Issues were discussed by Dr. Oxana Matveena from Russia and Dr. Manual T Corpus

from Philippines . A video clip of Dr. Nora was played.

In after noon there were two parallel sessions. The first session was titled as Capacity Building of QAAs and HEIs. Dr. Toru Takenaka from Japan, Dr. Vesna Dodikovic from Croasia and Dr. Dewilrawaty from Indonesia spoke on the issues.

The second session was workshop conducted by Dr. Jagannath Patil on APQN Quality Register (APQR).

In another parallel session three speakers spoke on Capacity Building in Institutional and Professional Accreditation. The speakers were Dr. Chun-Chi from Chinese Taipei, Dr. Jing Tian from China and third one was Ms. Malini Nair from Fiji.

In the evening a Musical APQN Quality Award Ceremony was organized. In which various Awards in three categories were given viz. 1) APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA, 2) APQN Award of Staff Capacity Building and 3) Successful Hosting of APQN Academic Conference.

On the second Day i.e. 24th March two plenary sessions were conducted. In first plenary session there were three speakers spoke on the topic Management Capacity between Programme Accreditation and Institutional Audit. The speakers were: 1) Prof. Sun Tutiya from Japan 2) Ms. Asikin Yahya from Malaysia and 3) Dr. S Sisugiyono from Indonesia

In the plenary session three speakers spoke on the topic – Emerging Issues in Indian Higher Education and Accreditation. The speakers were Dr. D W Deshkar, Dr. Jagannath Patil and Dr. V S Chatpalli.

In parallel session there were four speakers spoke on the topic – Capacity Building in International, Region and national Quality Assurance. Dr. Ping Chuan Hsu from Chinese Taipei, Dr. OH from South Coria, Mr. Sam C K HO from Hong Kong China, Dr. Vera Silaeva from Russia.

In afternoon plenary session there were three speakers spoke on topic Capacity Building of Information and Transnationals Education. The speakers were Li Yan and Sun Ying from China, Dr. Fabrizo Trifiro from UK, Dr. Angela Yung Chi Hou from Chinese Taipei.

In this prestigious event there were in all 131 delegates participated from 21 countries or territories.

We have tried our level best to provide trouble free facilities to all the Hon'ble guests. However if any mistake or shortcomings while implementing the facilities are sighted then we request you to kindly excuse them.

I am very much thankful for APQN President Prof. Jianxin Zhang from China, particularly Dr. Jagannath Patil, and other board Members for showing faith in us while organizing the event.

Dr. D K Burghate, Local Host Principal

THE BOARD & GENERAL COUNCIL

The 1st Board Meeting in 2018 Held in Nagpur

On March 22, 2018, the 1st APQN Board Meeting was held at Le Meridian Hotel in Nagpur, India. There are 9 participants made up of Board Members, special guests from the host of 2018 AAC and 2019 AAC.



The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President.

First of all, brief report from the local organizer of 2018 AAC and AGM by Chairman, D K Burghate) and D W Deshkar. Second, brief report from President Jianxin Zhang, the Chair of Programme Committee. Third, brief introduction of the host of 2019 AAC by Prof Deepthi C. Bandara, Director of QAAC from UGC, Sri Lanka.

After the three special guests left the meeting, the Board member discussed five proposed 2018-2019 projects / initiatives, such as “Information Portal”, “Call for EoI to Host 2019-2022 APQN Secretariat”, etc. At 19:00, the first Board meeting ended.

At last, the Board members separately reported what they have done in 2017. APQN has 208 members from 40 countries, 11 new comers. APQN did 8 projects, such as publishing “APQN Procedure Manuel” and “2017 Proceedings”. It is certain that APQN has achieved great progress in 2017.



(Written by Jianxin Zhang)

The 2nd Board Meeting Discussed APQN Strategic Plan

On March 24, 2018, the 2nd APQN Board Meeting was held at Le Meridian Hotel in Nagpur, India. 6 Board Members attended it. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President.



First of all, according to the experience of 2018 AAC, the Board discussed the Improvement of the change of future AAC. Second, as for the follow-up of 2018 AAC, the local host should transfer six items (such as PPTs) to APQN as soon as possible. Third, as for 2019 AAC, the board reached such agreement as “AAC” is “APQN Academic Conference”, the dates of 2019 AAC are fixed on March 28 - 30, 2019. Forth, the meeting assigned each Board member’ specific tasks for 2019 AAC. Fifth, as for “Call for Nominations for Board Members 2019-2020”, it is decided that at the beginning of September APQN will distribute the notice. Sixth, the Board accepts the Secretariat and President’s proposal of “Process of Reviewing the Applicants of APQN New Members”. Last but not the least, a proposed task assignment of Board members for the sustainable development of APQN. It is suggested that all the Board members should follow APQN Calendar which has been approved on-line discussion 15 days ago, to finish the task. Delay without reason is unacceptable.

At 18:30, the 2nd Board meeting ended with satisfaction!

(Written by Jianxin Zhang)

APQN Membership Mutations

APQN warmly welcomes the following new members from Jan 1st, 2017 to April 15, 2018:

No.	Agency	Website	Membership status	Countries or ter.
1	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Directorate (QAAD), Ministry of Higher Education (MoE), Afghanistan	http://www.mohe.gov.af	Intermediate	Afghanistan
2	Tongji University	https://www.tongji.edu.cn /	Full	China
3	The Bhopal School of Social Sciences	http://www.bsssbhopal.edu.in	Institutional	India
4	Goswami Ganesh Dutta Sanatan Dharma College	http://www.ggdsd.ac.in	Institutional	India
5	Indonesian Accreditation Agency For Higher Education In Health (IAAHEH/ LAM-PTKes)	http://www.lamptkes.org	Institutional	Indonesia
6	Independent Kazakhstan Center of Accreditation" (IKCA)	https://iqaa.kz/	Full	Kazakhstan
7	Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)	http://iaar.kz	Full	Kazakhstan
8	CECOS University of IT & Emerging Sciences Peshawar	http://www.cecos.edu.pk/qec	Institutional	Pakistan
9	Government College Women University, Sialkot	http://www.gcwus.edu.pk/home	Institutional	Pakistan
10	The Millennium University College	http://www.tmuc.edu.pk/	Institutional	Pakistan
11	National School of Business Management (NSBM)	http://www.nsbm.lk	Institutional	Sri Lanka
12	Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA)	www.fibaa.org	Observer	Germany
13	Herat University	https://hu.edu.af/en	Full	<u>Afghanistan</u>
14	Balkh University	https://ba.edu.af	Institutional	<u>Afghanistan</u>
15	Kardan University	www.kardan.edu.af	Intermediate	<u>Afghanistan</u>
16	Shaheed Prof. Rabani Education University	www.sreu.edu.af	Institutional	<u>Afghanistan</u>
17	The Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQA)	ecaqa.web.almamed.kz	Full	Kazakhstan

Warmly welcome to APQN big family!

(Written by Lingfei Zhang)

Change of APQN Secretary

On May 31, 2018, Prof. Li Yaogang, the past secretary of APQN, went back to his scientific research in Donghua University as his own willing.

Great thanks to Prof. Li Yaogang who has served for APQN in the past 5 years and has done great contribution to APQN!



According to “APQN procedures Manual”, the Chief Executive of the hosting organization will be the Secretary/Treasurer of APQN and one member of APQN Board ex-officio.” Since Li Yaogang does not belong to SEEI and cannot be APQN Secretariat any more. After careful consideration, SEEI and APQN have appointed Ms. Pingping Liu as APQN Secretary/Treasurer from June 1, 2018.

Ms. Liu Pingping is the Vice President of SEEI, China. She obtained her masters degree in English Language and Literature at the College of Foreign Languages, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST). Prior to SEEI, She worked as teaching staff at Engineering college of Yangzhou University in Jiangsu Province and then at Senior Middle School. She was an administrative officer in charge of foreign affairs and international exchanges at Shanghai Publishing and Printing College. Since 2010-2017, she worked as the Director of Administration Office in SEEI. She has published several papers as well in the field of education and evaluation research.



Ms. Pingping Liu is grateful for the appointment of APQN Secretary and she is willing to try her best for APQN’s sustainable development.

(Written by Zhang Lingfei)

2018 AAC

2018 APQN Academic Conference Held in India

The 2018 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and AGM were held from March 22-25, 2018 in Nagpur, India. The Conference was hosted by Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Science College and Dhanwate National College, Nagpur. The Main Theme of the Conference "*Capacity Building for Next- Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education*" covered a wide range of important issues which were distributed under 4 sub-themes: (1)Internal Quality Assurance of Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs); (2)Quality Assurance of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs); (3)Institutional and Professional Accreditation; (4)International, Regional and National Quality Assurance.

The conference was attended by 131 participants from 21 countries or territories that represented QAAs, HEIs and educational authorities of different countries.

Day One

On the previous day of the conference i.e. Thursday, March 22, 2018 a Registration counter was set for 2018 AAC at Entrance Lobby by Local Organizer. Later on, during noon session at 16:00 pm the Finance Committee Meeting was convened "*2017 Finance Report and 2018 Budget*" in DAFFODIL. The session was Chaired by Prof. Angela Hou Yung-Chi, APQN Vice-President; Executive Director of Higher education evaluation & accreditation council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei.

It was followed by the 1st Board Meeting "*2017 Report and Preparation of 2018 AAC & AGM*" at the same venue. The participants were all APQN Board Members & representatives from the local host and 2019 host. The session was chaired by Prof.



Jianxin Zhang, APQN President, Chief Expert of Yunnan Higher Evaluation Center (YHEEC), China. After initial introduction the pre preparation action plan was discussed, i.e. arrangement of various sessions, dining arrangement, musical award ceremony, corresponding certificates, mementoes, printing of booklet of participants, "*2017 APQN Annual Report*", "*APQN Procedures Manual*", special certificates, 2018 AAC program and AGM agenda, souvenir etc. The work was appreciated by Hon'ble APQN President and other respectable board members.

Later on, APQR Council Meeting was called to order “APQR Report in 2017 and Plan for 2018”. It was attended by the Members of APQR Council and Chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQR Chairperson, and former APQN President, advisor of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India. Various issues were discussed and concluded with a happy note.

Day Two

At the official opening ceremony of the Conference, i.e. March 23, 2018, at Jubilee the delegates were welcomed by Hon’ble Principal Dr. D K Burghate, SSES Amravati’s Science College and Hon’ble Principal Dr. B B Taywade, SSES Amravati’s Dhanwate National College, Nagpur.

The event began with lighting traditional lamp to mark auspicious beginning of the event by all Hon’ble guests, President of Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati, Honorable Shri Harshvardhan P Deshmukh, Chief Guest - Hon’ble Prof. Jianxin Zhang, President, Asia Pacific Quality Network, Guest of Honor - Hon’ble Dr. Jagannath Patil, Immediate Past President, Asia Pacific Quality Network and Advisor, NAAC, India - Hon’ble Dr. Pankaj Chande, Ex-VC Kavikulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Ramtek, Dr. Sid Nair, TEC Director, Mauritius, Key note Speaker and Executive Members of Shri Shivaji Education Society Shri Dilip Ingole, Shri Hemant Kalmegh, Shri Sheshrao S Khade and Dr. V G Thakare.



The respectable guests were escorted on the dais. The ceremony was divided into three parts: In the Opening Address segment, a privilege speech by Dr. D W Deshkar expressed gratitude towards helping hands during the event organization amidst many hurdles and challenges, ups and downs, sorrows and ultimately happiness after seeing blissful morning adorned by thoughtful beauties of the world.

Dr. D K Burghate, Principal of SSESASC delivered introductory remarks. In his speech appreciation, trust by APQN to host such a prestigious event and joy of welcoming the respectable delegates was overflowing. It was followed by floral welcome which includes Shawl, Shrifal (Coconut) and memento (Spinning Wheel), of all the guests. The president of the function Honorable Shri Harshvardhan P Deshmukh was welcomed by Principal Dr. D K Burghate. The chief guest of the function Hon’ble Prof. Jianxin Zhang was welcomed by convener of the function Dr. D W Deshkar. Principal Dr. B. B. Taywade welcomed Honorable Dr. Jagannath Patil. Officiating Principal Dr. P S Changole welcomed Honorable Dr. Pankaj Chande and Dr. R. D. Bhelkar welcomed Dr. Sid Nair. There was an opening Speech by Sid Nair,

who categorically threw light on higher education. There were welcome remarks by Dr. Jagannath Patil.



In second segment, *“Welcome Remarks and Theme Address”*. The Conference was officially pronounced open by the Honorable Prof. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President. She addressed the gathering with her mesmerizing words. In the beginning she acknowledged all the guests and delegates. Later on disseminated information about the theme and conference followed by working of APQN in relation to capacity building. She emphasized the importance of this Conference for capacity building and quality assurance in higher education; identified current issues, key challenges, APQN practices and indicated the way forward through information sharing, capacity building, co-operation and networking.

“APQN Procedure Manual” was released by Prof. Jianxin Zhang followed by release of the publication of *“APQN 2017 Proceedings”* by Dr. Galina Motova lastly release of 2 Volumes of HEED in 2017 by Prof. Angela Hou Yung-Chi.



In the last segment there were Presidential remarks by the Chair: Former Minister Shri Harshavardhan Deshmukh, President, Shri Shivaji Education Society, India. In his speech he narrated growth of the institution and thanked APQN for giving opportunity to host such a prestigious once in a life time conference here in this city. He acknowledged everyone who contributed in elevating this Institution as one of the leaders in imparting education to masses. He further said *“It’s my honor to mention the quote of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh On the occasion of*



Silver Jubilee of Shri Shivaji Education Society in the presence of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Ex. Vice President of India, ensures the mission and vision of education system.

“Let other Universities devote their moneys and energies to the production of only supermen. Let my university and Lokvidyapeeth strive to make useful patriotic men and women out of ignorance, filth, poverty and misery in the heavy darkness of rural India”.

A formal vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Mrs. Pratibha D. Burghate. The whole morning segment of inauguration ceremony was navigated smoothly by Dr. Mrs. Punita Tiwari. Before closing morning segment, a group photo session was organized.



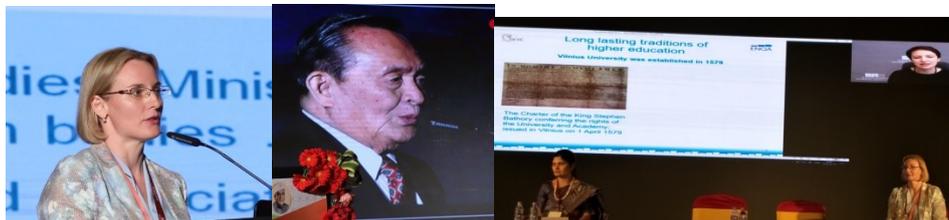
In the following session after tea break a Keynote Speech was delivered by Prof. Sid Nair, Executive Director of Tertiary Education Commission, Mauritius at Jubilee, on the topic *“Capacity Building: The Changing Landscape of Higher Education – A Need to Change?”*. The session was chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQR Chairperson and former APQN President, advisor of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India. His speech aimed at: (1) Challenges facing higher education to equip graduates of the 21st Century and beyond; (2) Impending changes on the quality assurance front to meet those challenges and; (3) Capacity building challenges facing QA for effectively driving the new HE system.



In the Plenary Session 1 on *“Capacity Building of National Quality Assurance Agencies”* there were two speeches: (1) *“China's University Disciplines Evaluation in the Context of “World-class Universities & World-class Disciplines”* by Huang

Baoyin, Director-General of China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC), China; (2) *“An Insight into the Conduct of Successful Program Reviews – the Sri Lankan Experience”* by Prof. Dr. Deepthi C. Bandara, Director of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka. The session was chaired by Mohan de Silva, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), Senior Professor of University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka.

In the second Plenary Session 2 on *“International, Regional and National Quality Assurance”* was chaired by Dr. Manuel Corpus (APQN Board member, Founding President of AACUP). There were again two speeches: (1) *“The Development of Institutional and Professional Accreditation in Russia”* by Dr. Oxana Matveeva, Deputy Head of the Accreditation Office of the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia; (2) *“Capability-Building Best Practices, and What Else Went Wrong”* by Dr. Manuel T. Corpus, APQN Board Member & Founding President and Executive Director of AACUP; Dr. Maria, Glenda O. De Lara, AACUP Board Member, Graduate Faculty of Phil Normal University, Philippines. A video clip of *“Challenges for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area”* by Ms. Nora Skaburskienė, Vice-President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC) in Vilnius, Lithuania was aired.



In yet another Parallel Sessions 1-2, Session 1 on Sub-them 1-2 *“Capacity Building of QAAs & HEIs”* three speakers deliberated the thoughts in their respective interests: (1) *“Competence-Based Learning Outcome: More Effective Quality Assurance and More International Harmonization of Higher Education”* by Toru Takenaka, Director of the Research Department, the National Institution of Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Japan; (2) *“Agency for Science and Higher Education Internal QA System”* by Vesna Dodiković Jurković, Jasmina Havranek, Emita Blagdan, Croatia; (3) *“Indonesia Accreditation for Higher Education In Health (IAHEH): Support the Inter-professional Clinical Practice”* by Dr. Dewilrawaty, secretary of Indonesia Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health (IAAHEH), Indonesia. The session was chaired by Noor Ahmad Darwish, program director for Higher Education Development Program in the Ministry of Higher Education, Afghanistan.



At the same time Session 2 on Workshop of APQN Quality Register (APQR) was organized at SENATE. The session was chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil.



In Parallel Sessions 3-4, Session 3 on Sub-them 3 *“Capacity Building in*

Institutional & Professional Accreditation three speakers shared their views on topic of their interest: (1) ***“Institutional Accreditation Mechanism and Future Challenges”*** by Dr. Chun-chi Chih, Chinese Taipei, (2) ***“World-Class Universities and Subjects Evaluation: Methods and Results -Based on the evaluation practice of Research Centre for China Science Evaluation”*** by Prof. Qiu Junping, Dr. Jing Tian, Hangzhou Dianzi University, China; (3) ***“Educational Effectiveness; Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) Accomplishing its Goals”*** by Ms. Malini Nair, Fiji. The session was chaired by Ms. Malini Nair (APQN Board Member).

In the evening APQN Quality Award Ceremony was held at Jubilee. It was a colorful musical evening. Various performances showcasing the inherited culture were presented. At the ceremony, APQN President Prof. Jianxin Zhang announced nominators in 4 categories and granted awards to the winning agencies and persons.

“APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA” was granted to: (1) Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (HEEC), China; (2) National institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher education (NIAD-QE), Japan; (3) Korean Council for University Education (KCUE), Korea; (4) National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia.

“APQN Award of Staff Capacity Building” was granted to: Higher education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei.

“Successful Hosting APQN Academic Conference” was granted to Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Science College and b) Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Dhanwate National College, Nagpur, India.

“The Certificates of Acceptance onto APQR” was granted to Certification Association "Russian Register" (RR) and National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia.





Day Three

On the morning of March 24, 2018 a Plenary Session 3 on "*Management Capacity between Program Accreditation and Institutional Audit*". The Panel Speakers were: (1) Prof. Syun Tutiya, Research Department, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Japan on '*The Obvious Answer to the Question, Which Comes "First", Programs or Institutions?*'; (2) Ms. AsikinYahya, Norasikinbinti Yahya Director Malaysia Quality Assurance Training Centre (MQATC), MQA, Malaysia on "*Role of Program Accreditation in QA at institutional level*"; (3) Dr. S.SiSugiyono, Board Member, BAN-PT, Indonesia on "*How does BAN PT manage institutional and program accreditation in an effective way?*"

The Chair and Commentator was Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi APQN Vice-President; Executive Director of Higher education evaluation & accreditation council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei.



In Plenary Session 4 the discussion topic was "*Emerging issues in Indian higher education and accreditation*". The Panel Speakers were: (1) Dr. Jagannath Patil, former APQN President, Advisor of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India and Prof. V S Chatpalli, Adviser, NAAC, "*India on Paradigm Shift in Indian Higher Education Accreditation*"; (2) Dr. D W Deshkar and Dr. D K Burghate, Principal of SSES Amt's Science College, Congress Nagar, India entitled "*Higher Education in India: Issues and Concerns*". The indicators for discussion were: value for money, value to society, knowledge transfer, mobility between university and industry, quality of graduates, employability of graduates and other. Enhancing international competitiveness, visibility and credibility of HE enhancing quality of HE and relevance for the country's development based on innovations. These goals can be met through systemic cooperation between universities and enterprises, up-to-date curricula based on learning outcomes, up-to-date quality assurance tools based on Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the Higher Education Area, up-to-date competences of the teaching staff, innovative learning environment, and competitive sector systems for independent accreditation of curricula. The Chair and Commentator was Prof. B A Chopade, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. BAM University, Aurangabad, India.



In Parallel Sessions 5-6, Session 5 is *"International Capacity Building"* with Sub-them 4: *"Capacity Building in International, Regional & National QA"*. The deliberations were: (1) *"Transparency and Social Responsibility of Higher Education Institutions in Terms of Quality Assurance Information: Taiwan's Experience"* by Ping-Chuan Hsu, Chinese Taipei; (2) *"Quality Assurance of Higher Education Institutions in South Korea"* by Dr.



OH, Ye-Jin, South Korea; (3) *"Capacity Building of Peer Reviewers"* by Mr. Sam C. K. HO, Hong Kong, China; (4) *"Independent Assessment of Qualifications as an Element of the National System for External Education Quality Assurance"* by Dr. Vera Silaeva (Azaryeva), Dr. Aleksandra Zvezdova, Dr. Arkady Vladimirtsev, Dr. Irina Dolgikh, Russia. The session was chaired by Chun-Chi Chih, Associate Research Fellow Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei.

The Session 6 is Workshop 3 on *"APQN Quality Label (APQL)"* convened in SENATE, chaired by Prof. Jianxin Zhang (APQN President, APQL Project leader) &



Dr. Jagannath Patil and Dr. Galina Motova. The purpose of APQL is to establish the criterion of internationalization of higher education and to promote the international mobility in higher education. Over 20 participants are very interested in APQL and asked many questions on it. The Symbiosis International University (SIU), Pune, Maharashtra, India expressed the interest in acceptance onto APQL.

In Plenary Session 5, the focus was on *"Capacity Building of Information and Transnational Education"*. The Panel Speakers were: (1) Li Yan & Sun Ying, Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (HEECMoE), China on *"The Utilization of Information Technology in Higher Education Quality Assurance in China"*; (2) Dr. Fabrizio Trifiro, International Manager, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), United Kingdom on *"The Quality Assurance of Transnational Education: a UK Perspective"*; (3) Prof. Angela Yung Chi Hou, Executive Director of HEEACT, Chinese Taipei on *"Quality Assurance Agencies and Professional Accreditors in Asian Nations and their Roles on Qualification Recognition and Student Mobility"*. The Chair and Commentator was Dr. Galina Motova, APQN Board Member, Deputy Director of National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia.



The Conference Closing was chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil. first of all, APQN President announced the next host of 2019 AAC - University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka, on March 28-31, 2019.

Then the Presentation by the Host, Mohan de Silva, Chairman of



University Grants Commission (UGC), Senior Professor of University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka. At last APQN-UCG Agreement is signed.

Later on, a bilateral agreement between the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA) was signed at the Conference of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network in Nagpur, India. Jagannath Patil, Advisor of NAAC and Galina Motova, Deputy Director of NCPA signed it. The main purposes of this agreement are development of partnership relations in assessment and accreditation between the two countries, information and experts exchange, as well as carrying out joint projects and procedures in higher education.



Later on, a bilateral agreement between the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Education and Healthcare (ECAQA), Kazakhstan was signed. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser of NAAC and Prof. Saule Sarsenbayeva, Director General of ECAQA signed it. The main purposes of this agreement are development of partnership relations in assessment and accreditation between the two countries, information and experts exchange, as well as carrying out joint projects and procedures in higher education.



Dr. D K Burghate summarized the results of the conference and expressed gratitude to all those who assisted in holding the 2018 APQN conference, attended this remarkable event and contributed to it by making presentations and submitting research papers. Many participants took the floor and thanked APQN Board and Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Science College and Dhanwate National College, Nagpur for their hard work and enthusiasm, organizing and

holding the conference at a high level.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) was attended by APQN members only. The agenda was: (1) Welcome to new members in 2017 by awarding APQN Member Certificate & their short introductions by APQN Secretariat; (2) Report from APQN President by Prof. Jianxin Zhang; (3) Report from APQN Vice-President by Prof. Angela Hou Yung-Chi; (4) Report from APQN Secretary/Treasurer by Prof. Dr. Li Yaogang; (5) Report on APQR by Dr. Jagannath Patil; (6) Feedback on the Sustainable Development of APQN from the Participants. The session Chair was Prof. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President.

The 2nd Board Meeting focused on “APQN Strategic Plan and Agenda for 2018-2019” was called to order at Jubilee. It was well attended by all APQN Board Members and Special guest(s) from the host of 2019 AAC. The Chair was Prof. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President.



Day Four

A visit to Sewagram, Wardha for 35 odd participants was organized on March 25, 2018. When Mahatma Gandhiji (1869-1948) started his padayatra (foot march) in 1930 from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi for the Salt Satyagraha, he had decided not to return to Sabarmati till independence for India was attained. Independence was not attained at that time and Gandhi was imprisoned for more than two years. On his release he spent some time travelling. He decided to make a village in Central India his headquarters. He came to Wardha in 1934, at the invitation of Jamnalalji Bajaj. In April 1936, Gandhiji established his residence in the village Shegaon which he renamed as Sevagram, which means 'village of service'. Gandhiji was 67 years old when he came to Sevagram. From then on, Sevagram has become an inspiring place. Many decisions on important national matters and movements were taken at Sevagram. It became the central place for a number of institutions for the nation building activities devised by Gandhiji to suit the inherent strength of this country. Shegaon is a small village 8 km from Wardha town in Maharashtra and 75 km from Nagpur. In spite of many practical difficulties, Gandhiji decided to settle here. Though he did not have any intentions of keeping anybody with him except Kasturba, pressure of work necessitated more colleagues with him till Sevagram Ashram became a full-fledged institution. There were no facilities at Sevagram, not even a post or telegraph office. The letters used to be brought from Wardha. There was another village in this region named Shegaon, made famous by the residence of Saint Gajanan Maharaj. So, Gandhiji's letters used to get misdirected. Therefore

it was decided in 1940 to rename this village as SEVAGRAM or “the village of service”.



All the events: plenary meetings, keynotes, panel discussions, parallel sessions, workshop, APQN Quality Award Ceremony – made a great and lasting impression on the conference participants and inspired them to extend collaboration for capacity building and quality assurance in Higher Education.

(Written by D W Deshkar, Jianxin Zhng, etc.)



2018 APQN Annual General Meeting Held in Nagpur

The 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place post-closing ceremony of APQN Academic Conference (AAC) in the Jubilee Hall at the Le Meridian, Nagpur, India, on the 24th of March, 2018. The AGM registration began at 15:10 during the afternoon tea break. 48 members from 40 countries and territories for the AGM and were attended by 35 participants.

At 15:30 the AGM commenced by welcoming new members that joined in 2017 by awarding them with member certificate and a short introduction by the chairperson of the AGM, President of APQN, Dr. Prof Jianxin Zhang. In the second agenda, APQN president reported the activities and projects that were carried out in 2017



including ongoing projects continued in 2018. These included all in a year's work in 2017, APQN's goal and tasks in 2018 and offering thanks.

It was noted that APQN as the largest and most influential not for profit and non-governmental international and regional network in the Asia Pacific Region has 208 members as of 31st December 2017 from 40 different countries/territories. Institutional members rank the highest (120) with 58% while full members who are mostly QAAs ranks the second largest (41) covering 20%. Intermediate has 22 members covering 11% while associate has 15 members covering 7% and observer stands at 10 members in total with 4% coverage in the overall APQN membership categories.

In 2017, 11 new members joined APQN. According to Prof Li Yaogang, APQN Secretary/Treasurer report the new members that joined are as follows: (1) Quality Assurance and Accreditation Directorate (QAAD), Ministry of Higher Education (MoE), Afghanistan, (2) Tongji University, (3) The Bhopal School of Social Sciences, (4) Goswami Ganesh Dutta Sanatan Dharma College, (5) Indonesian Accreditation Agency For Higher Education In Health (IAAHEH/ LAM-PTKes), (6) Independent Kazakhstan Center of Accreditation" (IKCA), (7) Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), (8) CECOS University of IT & Emerging Sciences Peshawar, (9) Government College Women University, Sialkot, (10) The Millennium University College and (11) National School of Business Management (NSBM).

The president reported the successful completion of the 2017 APQN conference & AGM in Moscow by NCPA that was attended by 27 countries & region with a total of 114 participants with the theme "New horizons: Dissolving Boundaries for a

Quality Region". The efficacious completion of 2017 APQN awards and AGM attended by 54 participants from 31 member organization was also noted. The proceedings publication for 2017 AAC was launched during the opening ceremony of the 2018 Academic Conference & AGM in Nagpur, India.

APQN's other projects such as "staff capacity building" was also recorded and in 2017 Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) & Japan National Institution for Academic Degrees & Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) took this initiative by sharing QA practices and strengthening their relationships. The Vice President of APQN from HEEACT also highlighted their collaboration with MQA and renewed their mutual recognition during the one week exchange program participated by four colleagues from MQA. APQN also supported the 9th higher education international conference in Macao by Macao Polytechnic Institute from 22nd to 23rd November 2017 which was attended by over 30 renowned experts and scholars from U.K, Portugal, Ireland, Japan, Mauritius, Vietnam and China. A MoU was also signed between INQAAHE and APQN in Macao for partnership project agreement for external quality assurance landscape. The aim of the survey is to conduct an in-depth study on the higher education landscape & state of affairs of internal & external quality assurance in different regions all over the world; 2) to better understand the trends, challenges & needs peculiar to each region; 3) to produce a synthesis report on each of the identified regions & worldwide, in general; & 4) to produce recommendations on future investments.

APQN President, Prof. Jianxin Zhang was also invited to attend the 30th Annual National Conference of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges & Universities in the Philippines (AACCU) on March 6-8, 2018 in Manila where she presented and gave the insight of "APQN's 14-year Development, Major Projects & its Emphasis on Staff Capacity-Building".

APQN President, Prof. Jianxin Zhang also attended the UNESCO Regional Conference on QA and made a presentation on the topic "Aligning Institutional, National & Regional Strategies to Strengthen Quality Assurance: Efforts from APQN & CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG)" on May 15, 2017. UNESCO IIEP also joined hands with APQN & UNESCO Bangkok Office to organize an online course on "Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education for Southeast Asian universities" from 9th October to 15th December 2017. The 4th workshop for program evaluators organized by the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) for evaluators (PEs) in collaboration with QAA and Higher Education Commission was held from September 28-30, 2017 in Islamabad. APQN President, Prof. Jianxin Zhang attended the training workshop as a resource person representing APQN.

To ensure the smooth and quality transition of APQN procedures and activities and the need for transparent sustainable development of quality assurance in higher education, APQN Procedure Manual (Version 3) was revised & updated by the

president Prof. Jianxin Zhang (cha.1-12) & and Vice President Prof Angela Hou Yung-chi (cha.13-14). The current version 3 was uploaded to APQN website on November, 2017. The hard copies were also launched during the opening ceremony of the 2018 Academic Conference & AGM in Nagpur, India. Apart from producing annual reports, APQN President released two APQNews issue 15 & 16 in 2017 with over 50 articles to update its members on the APQN activities, news and projects.

Higher Education Evaluation & Development (HEED) is a quality English journal founded by HEEACT & has been jointly published with APQN since 2014, thus becoming APQN membership journal. Prof Angela Hou emphasized that HEED is a scholarly refereed journal aimed at encouraging research in higher education evaluation and development, raising the standard of evaluation research, and sharing outcomes of evaluation and higher education worldwide in 2017, there were 8 academic papers published with more than 3000 downloads after shifting the publishing platform to Emerald publishing. 3 of 8 papers were submitted by APQN members.

Way forward, the President of APQN highlighted and re-emphasized the boards focus for 2018 and in order to achieve APQN's goal and targets presented the APQN strategic plan for 2016-2019. The year 2018 would be more focused on capacity building with cooperation projects, staff capacity training, staff capacity building, QA capacity tools and QA consultant database to enhance the quality of higher education in Asia Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies & extending the cooperation between them through projects like Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR - for QAA) and APQN Quality Label (APQL - for HEIs). According to Vice Presidents report, HEEACT went to five universities (4 private & 1 public) to promote APQL.

The Vice President, Prof Angela Hou also highlighted the 2nd Global Summit which was held from 21st – 22nd September, 2017 was hosted by HEEACT with the theme “Regional Cooperation and Harmonization: ASEAN Countries and East Asia in Quality Assurance of Higher Education” was attended by 202 participants from higher education and 18 prominent expert and professional from different QAAs from countries like Catalonia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand. During the 2018 CHEA Annual conference on January 29th to 31st, Vice President, Prof Angela Hou also made presentation on Quality Assurance Developments in Asia & sharing APQR”.

In the effort to promote APQR, Dr. Jagannath Patil mentioned that the project started giving birth as it now fully implemented and is generating revenue for APQN. In year 2017, Russian Register and National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA) were accepted onto the APQR in May and November respectively. New interest was shown from QAAs during this year's conference which shows a positive milestone for this project.

The Vice President, Prof Angela Hou, on behalf of the APQN Secretariat and Treasure/secretary also presented the annual budget and financial accounts for

2017 as highlighted on the 2017 Annual Report and forecast for 2018. Prof Li Yaogang, APQN Secretary/Treasurer report stated that the financial performance for the year then ended is in accordance with the Accounting Standards for Non-profit Organization and is true and fair view of the financial position of APQN as of March 1, 2018. The 2017 audited financial accounts were approved by the members during the 2018 AGM in Nagpur, India.



Participants of Annual General Meeting 2018, Le Meridian, Nagpur, INDIA

Four participants from Russia, Taiwan, Malaysia and Indonesia gave positive feedback towards sustainable development of APQN as participants and thanked the host and APQN members for making the 2018 ACC & AGM a success. The AGM was concluded at 16:30 on the 24th March, 2018 at Le Meridian Hotel, Nagpur, India with a group photo.

“Through the joint-efforts of 208 members in APQN this big harmonious family, APQN is bound to achieve the ideal of “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region”
 ---- APQN President, Prof Jianxin Zhang.

(Written by MS Malini Nair, APQN Board Member)

2018 APQN Quality Award Ceremony Held in Nagpur

On March 22, 2018, the 2018 APQN Quality Award Ceremony was held in Nagpur, India. Over 100 participants attended it.

As we all know, the APQN Quality Awards is the first international quality assurance award in the Asia Pacific region, which can encourage members that have done much more outstanding work individually, institutionally, nationally as well as internationally in quality assurance in higher education. Their wonderful achievements have potential of replications in the Asia-Pacific Region for APQN's final goal of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region". Its significance has gone beyond the quality award itself. It is a platform to promote positive energy, to encourage excellence in education. It is also a good opportunity for us to catch up with old friends, to make new friends, to enjoy ourselves.

2018 APQN Quality awards include 3 categories: 1) APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA; 2) APQN Award of Staff Capacity Building and 3) Successful Hosting APQN Annual Conference. Below is the list of 2018 APQN Quality Award Winners:

APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA	1	Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (HEEC), China
	2	National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Japan
	3	Korean Council for University Education (KCUE), Korea
	4	National Centre for Public Accreditation(NCPA)
APQN Award of Staff Capacity Building	5	Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT)
Successful Hosting APQN Annual Conference	6	Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Science College Dhanwate National College

1. Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (HEEC) in China, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) in Japan and Korean Council for University Education (KCUE) in Korea were awarded "APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA".



2. National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA) was awarded “APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA”.



3. Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) was awarded “APQN Award of Staff Capacity Building”.



4. Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati’s Science College and Dhanwate National College were awarded “Successful Hosting APQN Annual Conference”.



5. "The Certificates of Acceptance onto APQR" was granted to Certification Association "Russian Register" (RR) and National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia.



All winners of APQN Quality Award had a group photo with big smiles.



(written by Jianxin Zhang)

Indian Cultural Evening at APQN Quality Award Ceremony

On the occasion of Asia Pacific Quality Network Award Ceremony, Indian Cultural Evening was hosted by KALA TRUSHNA ARTS FOUNDATION on March 23, 2018 at Le Meridien Hotel, Nagpur.

1. Invocatory Dance on Ganesha

The cultural evening began with an Invocatory dance to Lord Ganesha. This dance has religious learning which is in praise of Lord Ganesha the elephant God of wisdom. This is a Bhartanatyam dance, classical in nature which finds its roots from the southern state of Tamil Nadu and derives its name from Bharat muni, the author of Natya Shastra. It's a dance which tells a story. It was performed by Pooja Hirwade- Nationally acclaimed Bharatnatyam and Kuchipudi dancer and curator of the show.

2. LAVANI

And from the Tamil Nadu to our very own Maharashtra. A state that is famous for the dance form LAVANI. The music, the costume as well as the dance moves, are very mesmerizing. It is performed to the beats of the percussion instrument DHOLKI. It is noted for its powerful rhythm. Miss. Shraddha Hirwade regaled the audience with traditional LAVANI.

3. LYRICAL DUET

After the Classical and folk dance performances, Saumitra Mardikar and Jaidev Pahade added a twist to the show by performing Lyrical dance to Bollywood and hollywood tunes. This lyrical dancing had very powerful and inspiring lyrics.

4. DHANGAR

Audience were mesmerized with a group of performers who danced in synchronicity to represent people from the nomadic shepherd community popularly known as the Dhangars. This too is a part of Maharashtrian culture. Traditionally performed during the nine day festival of Navratri. This is a vigorous dance to worship and appease Bira deva. The participants are Shrikant Dhabadgaonkar, Ankush Kanholkar, Pranay Sawatkar and Mohnish Amrutkar.

4. DESPACITO WITH A TOUCH OF BHANGRA

From India to Espania. The song which finds its echo in all the corners of the world. A song on the lips of millions. A song which automatically triggers your feet to step up. Yes, it's none other than DESPACITO choreographed with a touch of Bhangra, a lively folk dance of Punjab. The performers are Saumitra Mardikar, Shraddha Hirwade and Jaidev pahade.

5. CLASSICAL VOCAL

Mr. Rishikesh Karmarkar. Rishikesh an exponent and a Sangeet visharad in classical vocal entertained the audience with some mesmerising tunes on a very rare musical instrument called DILRUBA.

6. SHIVA STUTI in Bharatanatyam style

This dance invoked Natraja i.e. the lord of dance who controls the five elements of nature namely earth, fire, water, sky and wind. An energetic and enchanting dance of Lord Shiva performed with grace by Gauri and Pooja Hirwade.

7. CONTEMPORARY TRIO- ALI MAULA

A beautifully choreographed contemporary dance on Ali Maula, a sufi song from the movie KURBAAN. Presented by Shraddha, Saumitra and Jaidev. A Blend of Rajasthani folk and Bollywood

From the desert state of Rajasthan which speaks of India's royalty to its culture in dance and costume we present a fusion of Bollywood and Rajasthani folk dance set in background of a Joker.

8. AAFREEN

The wonderful evening was wrapped up with a fusion of 3 dance styles i.e. lyrical, contemporary and classical dance Kuchipudi. The theme of the performance revolved around the appreciation of the beauty of woman who, we all agree is a masterpiece of God's creation. Her enigmatic being has been a subject to wonder and ponder. Pooja, Shraddha & Saumitra praised the woman's beauty as well as her creator through their dance moves.



Invocatory Dance on Ganesha



Lavani



Lyrical Duet

Dhangar



Shiva Stuti in Bharatanatyam Style

Classical Vocal

A Blend of Rajasthani folk & Bollywood



Despacito With A Touch Of Bhangra



Contemporary Trio- Ali Maula



Aafreen

(Written by the Local Host)

Meaningful Thoughts from 2018 AAC

I am Jing Tian from Chinese Academy of Science and Education Evaluation in Hangzhou Dianzi University. It is my great honor to participate 2018 AAC in India from March 22- 25, 2018. Although it is my first time to participate in APQN Conference, and it is my first time to go abroad alone, I got a strong sense of belongings when I made acquaintance to the APQN family. It's time to express my sincere gratitude to APQN's secretariat and the host's help when the conference come to a successful close, and I am safely back home with great harvest.



As far as I am concerned, my rewarding experience consists of building academic network, having personal and institutional capacity building, broadening my academic horizon and experiencing the genuine India culture.

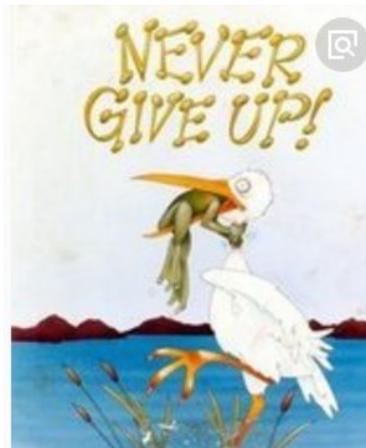
As an international professional QA organization, APQN has attracted the majority of QAAs and HEIs and exerted great influence on quality assurance and accreditation in the Asia-Pacific countries, and even in the world. With more and more professional institutions joining in APQN family, APQN will shape the landscape of QA and accreditation in the future.

As an independent and third-party HE evaluation institution, Chinese Academy of Science and Education Evaluation (CASEE) in Hangzhou Dianzi University founded in 2017, Prof. Junping Qiu is the founder and dean of CASEE, who has engaged in HE evaluation for more than 20 years, the annually published Chinese Universities and Disciplines Competitiveness Report and the World Universities and Disciplines Competitiveness Report have an extensive social influence in HE stakeholders. CASEE will continue the evaluation enterprise and contribute more in HE evaluation and quality assurance. I participate in APQN 2018 conference on behalf of CASEE, bring our latest research on world-class universities and declines evaluation to APQN peers. Moreover, I learnt other colleagues' work and research on HE evaluation and accreditation, although the dominate number of evaluations and accreditations are management-oriented and government-related, I know different countries' efforts and measure to improve HE quality. I also made acquaintance with delegates from different countries, we became friends with some of the delegates. The APQN conference provides us a precious platform for further communication and cooperation in QA issue. Like a mother, APQN raises and courages her lovely children to grow up.

I got many fresh ideas by participating the conference. It is also my first time to go to India, it is a new place for me in my cognitive map. Honestly speaking, I overcome enormous preconceived fear and private opinions on India culture after I making contact to India during this journey. Their hospitality, responsibility and genuine impressed me a lot. For instance, Dr. D W Deshkar hosted me and other Chinese delegates in his family; Dr. S. W. Anwane showed us of Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's Science College. I have a straight and authentic understanding of India HE and Indian's daily life during the visiting. It is my first time to know that people take their shoes off before they step in a sacred place, and the sacred place is not only included temple, the library, great Gandhi's museum and former home are all the sacred places. It is the first time to know Indian women have a rather higher family status, and it is not exact true that Indian women are oppressed in family and society from the movies. It is also my first time to know that girls outweigh boys in quantity and academic performance in college.

Last but not least, I cannot help to thanking APQN's timely and powerful help and guidance, for I cannot participate in the conference without your help for more than 2 months Thank you with all my heart.

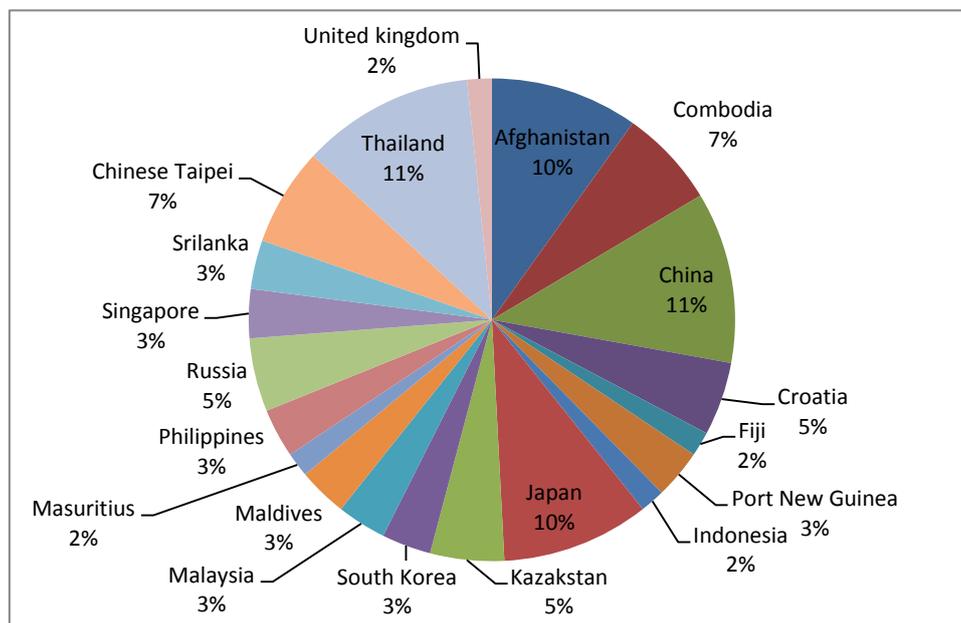
(Written by Jing Tian, CASEE in Hangzhou Dianzi University)



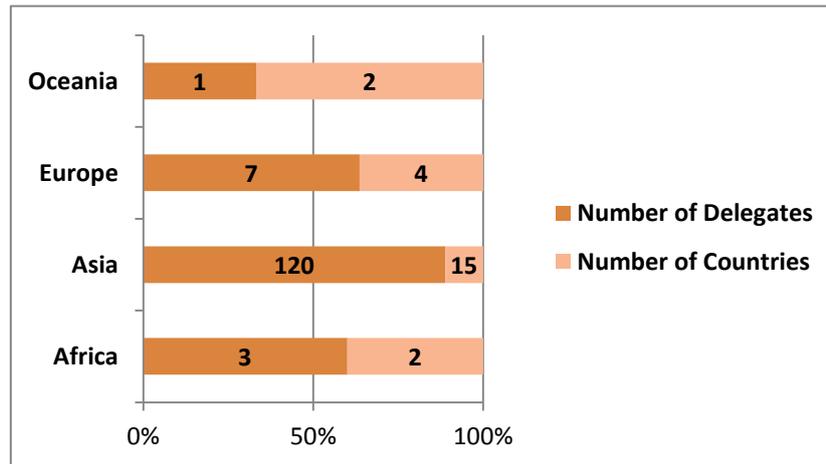
Report of Evaluation Survey of 2018 AAC in Nagpur

The 2018 APQN Annual Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) were held from March 22nd – 25th, 2018 in Hotel Le Meridian, Nagpur, India. The theme of the Conference “Capacity Building (CB) for Next- Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education” covering a range of important issues distributed under 4 sub-themes, such as Internal Quality Assurance of Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs). The Conference was co-hosted by APQN, Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati’s Science College and Dhanwate National College.

The conference was attended by 131 participants from 23 countries or territories of the Asia-Pacific Region who represented accrediting agencies (AACs), higher educational institutions(HEIs), educational authorities and other stakeholders in the sphere of higher education and quality assurance. The following figure shows the percentage of the international participants, except 70 delegates from India. Among whom, China and Thailand delegates rank No.1, covering 11%; Afghanistan and Japan rank No. 2, covering 10%; and No.3 is Chinese Taipei and Cambodia.



The 23 countries or territories cover 4 continents: Asia, Europe, Oceania and Africa. Among which the Asian delegates are the majority:



The conference included presentations of keynote speakers as well as parallel and panel sessions. Only one keynote speaker Dr. Nora Skaburskiene from Lithuania could not make it to be at conference due to her pre-assignments but a clip of her presentation was aired and other one Letuimanu’asina Emma Kruse Va’ai from Samoa due to technical difficulties at his end.

The feedback was taken from the attendees of conference in the form of questionnaire about content and organization at the end of event. The aspects on which the evaluation process was designed were: 1) the registration process; 2) the conference content; 3) the booklets of participants; 4) the arrangements of different meetings; 5) the speakers of 2 keynote speeches, 6) 5 plenary sessions with 13 presentations 7) 3 workshops; 8) 10 presenters of 6 parallel sessions; 9) the venues; 10) the facilities; 11) the logistics; 12) overall conference experience. Besides the participants were also asked to comment on some strengths/weakness of the conference, challenges faced during the conference and also to give general comments and recommendations about 2018 AAC and AGM.

The most-quoted reasons for attending the conference were enthusiasm for *“meeting new colleagues”, “opportunity for international cooperation”* as well as *“exchange of thoughts, experience, best practices and quality assurance in higher education”*.

Almost all participants were very satisfied with the content and organization of the conference and noted interesting themes, discussions during the sessions and the diversity of issues shared.

Many positive comments were expressed about the keynote speaker, the topic he presented and representative body of participants in the parallel and panel sessions. They noted that the discussions during the sessions were very informative and were based on the researches.

All participants enjoyed the venue of the conference, stay, quality of food. They expressed gratitude towards benevolent behavior, transportation provided, hospitality extended by host. The choice of The Pride hotel made by some of the

percipients is due to their convenience of all kinds.

On the whole, majority of the participants were satisfied with the Conference and had positive impressions and unforgettable experience.

“The Conference was organized perfectly and leaves long lasting impressions for the exchange of thoughts, experience, quality assurance, and best practices in higher education with international partners and experts. During the Conference many interesting themes in education quality assurance were discussed. The members of the Organizing Committee worked professionally and helped to solve any problems kindly and effectively”, said one of the participants.

(Written by D W Deshkar)



THE PROJECT

HEEACT-APQN 2017 Global Summit was a Great Success

On September 21, 2017, Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) and Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) jointly hosted the summit in Chung Yung-Fa Foundation (財團法人張榮發基金會) in the heart of Taipei. The theme is *“Regional Cooperation and Harmonization: ASEAN Countries and East Asia in Quality Assurance of Higher Education”*. It was an honor to have 18 renowned speakers, in which 14 were experts and professionals in charge of different quality assurance agencies in different countries. The summit is to gather the best knowledge and expertise in the QA practices and share the experiences in cross-border cooperation in our neighboring regions and distant ties, hoping to expand our HE horizons and ensure the quality education. More than 170 participants attended the summit.



A total of eight sessions were carried out.

First keynote speaker, the Founding Director of Commonwealth Tertiary Education Facility (CTEF) from Malaysia, Professor Dato’ Morshidi Sirat gave an high-in-demand, outstanding presentation on the topic *“Global Trends in QA and Challenges for the ASEAN QA Agencies and Universities”*, addressing the current context of cross-border HE and its quality provision, this context in Southeast Asian/ASEAN countries and the challenges, and concluding with ways to move forward.

Session 1 dived into the professional contexts of *“Quality Assurance and Qualifications Framework”*, in which Ms. Eve McMahon, Manager of Quality Assurance Division, New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQA) and Dr. Soo Sit Chuan, Senior Director of Policy and Expertise Development, Malaysian Qualifications Authority (MQA) shared their responsibilities of quality assurance in



connection with qualifications framework.

At APQN Session, Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, President of APQN and Dr. Jagannath Patil, Former President of APQN and INQA/AHE brought us the fruitful conducts and successful implementations throughout the past years.

Keynote 2, made by Director of National Accreditation Agency for Higher (Badan Akreditasi Nasional Perguruan Tinggi, BAN-PT) and Vice President, ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) from Indonesia, Prof. Dr. T. Chan Basaruddin, shared the struggles of external QA in ASEAN countries, supplemented by Secretary of AQAN Prof. Dr. Zita Mohd Fahmi on the specifications of ASEAN QA framework.

Session 2 and 3 shared the experiences of *“Regional Cooperation among QA Agencies from Southeast Asian and East Asian Perspectives”* from Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP), Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) Thailand, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) Japan, and Korean University Accreditation Council (KUAI).

Session 4, with the topic *“Cross-border Higher Education: International Faculty and Student, Postdoctoral Researcher Recruitment and Studying Abroad”*, was shared among President of National Chengchi University Prof. Dr. Edward H. Chow, President of Ming Chuan University Prof. Dr. Chuan Li, and CEO of Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Taiwan (FICHET) Prof. Dr. Jen-Sue Chen.

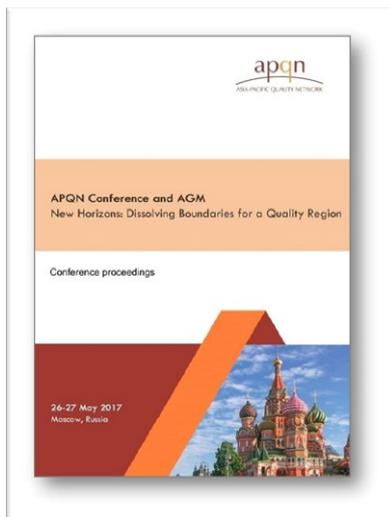
Session 5 shared the creativities behind *“Quality Assurance and International Education”* by Director and President of Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU) Dr. Marti Casadesus Fa, British University in Dubai Faculty of Education Assoc. Prof. Christopher Hill, and National Chung Cheng University Graduate Institute of Education Prof. Sheng Ju Chan.

Last but not the least, besides the sessions, HEEACT also established collaborations with the quality assurance agencies from Japan, Thailand and Indonesia by signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This is the first time HEEACT signed the agreement with *BAN-PT* Indonesia, *and the third renewal with NIAD-QE Japan and ONESQA Thailand. With similar goals in the near future, HEEACT looks forward to engage in motivating projects—joint accreditation, joint researches, and staff exchange—as a new way to collect useful resources and reaching multiple goals with these lasting partnerships.*



Publication of 2017 Proceedings

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) is committed to improving higher education quality and supporting quality assurance agencies. APQN is the only professional network that publishes the proceedings of their annual conferences, which reflect the results of current research and advancements in the sphere of quality assurance in education.



The Annual International Conference of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) “NEW HORIZONS: DISSOLVING BOUNDARIES FOR A QUALITY REGION” was held in Moscow on May 26-27, 2017. The Conference hosted by the National Centre for Public Accreditation, took place at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. 114 participants from 27 countries and regions took part in this significant event. The participants represented accrediting bodies, educational institutions and educational authorities.

The proceedings of the conference reflect the latest state of research in the field of quality assurance and quality recognition in Higher Education, strategies and methods of cross-cultural education development, progression of internal quality assurance systems, elaboration of educational programmes, education management in Higher Education, new tendencies of global education, quality assurance of transnational qualifications, accreditation of joint educational programmes and new opportunities for international collaboration of universities.

All contributions of plenary meetings, keynotes, panel discussions, parallel sessions, workshops have been summarized. The papers are grouped under three categories: Excellence in Quality Assurance, New Assessment Methodologies in Higher Education and Internal Quality Assurance at HEIs.

The Proceedings of the APQN conference have been published by the Guild of Experts in Higher Education. The Russian Guild of Experts is a professional association, which was founded in 2005 and currently includes over 1,100 members. The association holds annual international and national conferences and publishes their proceedings. The Guild of Experts as a Publisher has reviewed 32 articles and printed the collection of materials.

The proceedings are assigned ISBN 978-5-6040361-1-2.

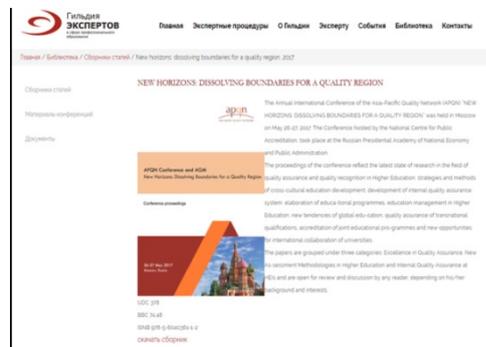
The Guild has published the APQN Proceedings on its website. But the most important thing is: the Publisher has a special agreement with Russia's Scientific Electronic

Library (eLibrary.ru).

eLibrary.ru is the biggest electronic library of scientific articles, journals, books, references and materials which was developed in 1999. Nowadays e-Library contains abstracts and full-texts of over 26 million articles, publications and journals. 1.7 million Individual researchers from 125 countries are registered in this resource. Everybody has an opportunity to get a full text of every article and the whole collection of Proceedings.

The proceedings are available in hardcopies and also can be downloaded from the website of the Guild of Experts

<https://expert-edu.ru/library/sborniki-statej/new-horizons-dissolving-boundaries-for-a-quality-region.html> and from E-library, which is the all-Russian Data Base of publications and citations and the biggest electronic library of scientific articles, journals, books, references and materials <https://elibrary.ru/item.asp?id=32535853>.



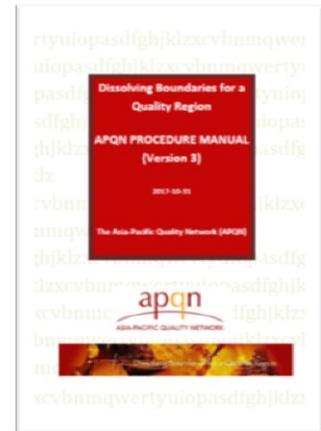
Quality assurance is a cooperative process involving all relevant stakeholders within countries. The experience gained in conference discussions and communicated through the conference proceedings could contribute to further development of quality culture and serve as the basis for quality education.

(Written by Galina Motova)

Release of “APQN Procedure Manual” in India

On March 22, 2018, “APQN Procedure Manual” was released at the open ceremony of 2018 AAC in Nagpur, India. This was witnessed by APQN Board members and over 100 participants from 40 countries and territories at the Le Meridian Hotel, Nagpur, India.

Based on APQN Procedures Manual (v. 1) in 2007 and Finance Manual (v. 2) in 2011, referencing INQAAHE General Procedures Manual (version 17) in 2013, the APQN Procedure Manual (v.3) is revised and updated by Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang (chapter 1-12) with the help of Ms. Xinna Zhang, Angela Hou Yung-chi (Chapter 13-14). The Manual was endorsed by APQN Board in September, 2017.



As we all know, the Manual acts as Rules for APQN, lays guidelines for its functioning, gives astonishingly positive results in its functioning in the area it belongs to. The Manual’s implementation can make APQN working smooth, question free and transparent which is the need of the sustainable development of APQN.



Awarding Speeches of the Winners

HEEC of China, NIAD-QE of Japan and KCUE of Korea

HEEC of China, NIAD-QE of Japan and KCUE of Korea, have conducted quality assurance activities on international cooperative academic programs “CAMPUS Asia” for more than 6 years.



NIAD-QE

Quality assurance guidelines for international cooperation were developed based on the experience gained from our joint monitoring, and a number of good practices were identified, we hope members of APQN can directly benefit from it. The success of our cooperation due to mutual understanding and close collaboration among three agencies, experts and universities.

We want to take this opportunity to thank APQN giving this award to us. We appreciate for President Zhang and members of APQN giving us great support!



We'll be trying best to contribute to further growth of our cooperation in the coming future.

National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA)

We are extremely honored to be receiving the APQN award for International Cooperation in Quality Assurance. NCPA is a quality assurance agency with a strong focus on international activities. Our Agency is a full member of several international networks, EQAR and APQR; and we make it our priority to be an active participant in the work of APQN. We do our best to promote collaboration between quality assurance bodies and disseminate good practice in the Asia Pacific Region. We are glad that our effort in international collaboration and conducting joint accreditation projects has been recognized by the APQN Board.

Winning this award would not have been possible without the contribution of our partners: the Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (China) and Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan. This award will give us a strong impetus to perform even better in the future.



2018 HEEACT-APQN Staff Capacity Building Program

Five delegates from three different countries, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Fiji came to Taipei to take part in the 2018 HEEACT-APQN Staff Capacity Building Program from 6-10 May 2018. The five participants included Dr. Nghia Hoi Nguyen and Dr. Chinh Quoc Nguyen, Director and Deputy Director respectively of the Center of Education Accreditation, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City; Prof. Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, Dean Faculty of Business Administration and Director, AIUB Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), and Mr. Md. Imranul Haque, IQAC Manager and Program Evaluator and Mr. Parneet Singh, Manager Quality Standard, Quality Standard Office of Fiji National University.

The Program is organized by HEEACT and supported by APQN. The main purposes are to: 1) enhance the capacity building of both the guest and the host organizations; and 2) strengthen the communication and cooperation of both sides.

To share HEEACT QA operations and Taiwan quality assurance system, HEEACT arranged a variety of discussions and activities, including an orientation, a joint QA seminar, discussions with HEEACT senior officers, campus tours at different universities, visiting professional QA agency, classroom observation, and finally, the last-hour farewell session to share the experiences gained. The program not only provided a platform for all participants to share its experiences and ideas on the efforts of promoting quality assurance, but also to establish in-depth cooperation in the future between APQN members.



5 delegates with President of HEEACT, Dr. Jong-Tsun Huang; Executive Director, Prof. Dr. Angela Yung-Chi Hou and Dean of QA, Dr. Allen Shaw-Ren Lin and the staff of HEEACT

THE COOPERATION

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NAAC and NCPA

On March 24, 2018 a bilateral agreement between the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA) was signed at the APQN Annual Conference (AAC) - 2018 organized by the Asia-Pacific Quality Network in Nagpur, India.

Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser of NAAC and Dr. Galina Motova, Deputy Director of NCPA signed it.

Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli, Adviser of NAAC, witnessed from NAAC and Ms. Oxana Matveeva, Deputy Head of Accreditation office, NCPA witnessed from NCPA during the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President, and Prof. Mohan de Silva, Chairman of UGC, Sri Lanka witnessed the MoU signing ceremony.

The main purposes of this agreement are development of partnership relations in assessment and accreditation between the two countries, information and experts exchange, as well as carrying out joint projects and procedures in higher education.



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NAAC and ECAQA

On March 24, 2018 a bilateral agreement between the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in



Education and Healthcare (ECAQA), Kazakhstan was signed at the APQN Annual Conference (AAC) - 2018 organized by the Asia-Pacific Quality Network in Nagpur, India. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser of NAAC and Prof. Saule Sarsenbayeva, Director General of ECAQA signed it.

Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli, Adviser of NAAC, witnessed from NAAC and Dr. Farida Nurmanbetova, Adviser of ECAQA witnessed from ECAQA during the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President, and Prof. Mohan de Silva, Chairman of UGC, Sri Lanka witnessed the MoU signing ceremony.

The main purposes of this agreement are development of partnership relations in assessment and accreditation between the two countries, information and experts exchange, as well as carrying out joint projects and procedures in higher education.

APQN-UGC Agreement Signed at 2018 AAC in India

The APQN Academic Conference (AAC) is a major event in the APQN calendar coinciding with the APQN Annual General Meeting (AGM) and providing an opportunity for members to update themselves on the latest trends in quality assurance and liaise with their colleagues in the region.



On March 24, 2018, APQN President (Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang) and UGC Chairman, Sri Lanka (Prof. Mohan de Silva) signed the “*APQN-UGC Agreement to Host the 2019 APQN Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting*” in Sri Lanka. This was witnessed by APQN Board members and over 100 participants from 40 countries and territories at the Le Meridian Hotel, Nagpur, India.

The agreement was signed between the host organizations - the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and University Grants Commission (UGC) Sri Lanka, to ensure the objectives, term and conditions of 2019 AAC and AGM. The great event will be held on March 28-31, 2019 in Colombo in Sri Lanka.

Prof. Mohan de Silva, Chairman/UGC and Senior Professor of University of Sri Jayawardenapura, made a 15-minute introductory presentation before the signing of agreement. The great need for quality education, exotic culture and beautiful scenery of Sri Lanka has greatly attracted the audience. No doubt, the host of 2019 AAC would be an ideal destination, and all participants would be looking forward to meeting in Sri Lanka!

APQN Attended the 31st AACCUP National Conference

Talk about APQN’s Capability Program? APQN President, Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, acting as the Keynote Speaker in the 31st AACCUP Annual National Conference, lectured on and illustrated APQN’s support to its Members through APQN’s Staff Capability Program. The 3-day Conference was held at Cebu City Philippines on March 7-9, 2018. The Conference was attended by 525 Key Officials; Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Deans, Senior Accreditors and Internal Quality Assurance Directors of 86 State Universities and Colleges.

The format of AAC started with the theme: “Capability-building for a Robust Quality Assurance System in Higher Education”, followed by a comparative presentation of the best practices in the world, was capped by empirical reports by two of the major and top-performing State Universities in the Philippines.

President Jianxin discussed the imperatives of Capability-Building, best practices and challenges in her Keynote speech, and participated in the panel discussion of best practices around the world: in China, Pakistan and APQN, in Timor Leste by Dr. Edmundo Viegas, Executive Director of ANAAA; and which included a presentation by Dr. Raul F. Muyong who contributed the AACCUP experience.

All the presentations were coordinated by Dr. Manuel T. Corpus, the Conference Convenor, who is also a Member of the APQN Board.



Online Course on Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education

UNESCO IIEP joins hands with APQN and UNESCO Bangkok Office to organize an online course on *“Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education for Southeast Asian universities”* from 9 October until 15 December 2017.

1. Background

The adoption of internal quality assurance (IQA) systems have become one of the most important reform initiatives undertaken at the HE level.

When designing IQA systems, HEIs are often either responding to the requirements of national QA agencies, or independently tightening control to manage the quality of their services. When developing internal quality assurance, HEIs face a number of challenges, such as choosing an appropriate focus for their IQA, integrating IQA tools into a cost effective and coherent system, taking into account the need to enhance the employability of graduates through IQA and finding an appropriate balance between centralized and decentralized structures.

2. An IIEP research project on internal quality assurance

To bridge the knowledge gap on contextual conditions of IQA, IIEP conducted an international survey to understand the main purposes, general orientations, structures, tools and processes, drivers and obstacles of IQA in HEIs worldwide. In addition, IIEP’s research covered eight in-depth university case studies with a proven record of effective IQA processes focused at quality improvements and graduate employability, and a good system in place to integrate IQA into institutional strategy and policies. The research helped to document existing IQA practices and analyze its effects as well as identify internal and external factors that contribute to IQA’s efficient functioning (<http://www.iiep.unesco.org/en/internal-quality-assurance-eight-universities-share-their-experiences-4002>).

3. From research to the development of an online course

From the knowledge base of the research project, IIEP developed an online tool, to equip persons in charge of quality management in universities with options and



good practices for the construction or development of an internal quality assurance system in their institution. More precisely, this course was designed for vice-rectors of academic affairs and quality assurance professionals.

The learning objectives of the course are the following: 1) Choose among several options for the focus and orientation of their IQA system; 2) Identify and distinguish tools and procedures for an integrated IQA system to enhance teaching and learning at their university; 3) Analyse the link between IQA and employability, and identify tools and processes through which this link can be strengthened; and 4) Design an effective and well-supported structure for IQA.

4. The participants in the course for Southeast Asian universities

The online course was offered for the first time to universities in Southeast Asia, in the period of 9 October till 15 December. 49 participants (64% women and 36% men) from five countries took part in this course. The participating countries included Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam. Participants were administrators or faculty members involved in quality management from 11 universities organized in 12 teams. Out of the 49 professionals enrolled in the course, 43 completed the course successfully, complying with a demanding set of evaluated course requirements.

5. Evaluation results

At the end of the course, an evaluation of the course showed the high level of participants' satisfaction and their appreciation of the relevance of this new capacity development tool. The course's objective was to equip participants with options and good practices for the development or improvement of an internal quality assurance system in a HEI. 90% responded "I can accomplish without help or teach others" how to define basic IQA concepts; 90% answered that 'I can accomplish or teach others' an assessment of a quality system for teaching and learning; 88% replied that 'I can accomplish or teach others' using IQA tools for employability; and 81% replied that 'I can accomplish and teach others' how to develop policies and processes to enhance IQA at the university.

When participants were asked if the knowledge gained contributed to improving their professional practice, most participants agreed on the positive effects of the course: 100% felt that the knowledge will contribute to improve their professional practice. Participants were also asked whether in the future they intended to implement any change in their organizations based on the knowledge gained in the course. 98% of the respondents felt that the course would lead to change in their organization. They highly appreciated the knowledge acquired through the course because it helped them have a deeper and comprehensive understanding of best practices cited among the international universities that will serve as a reference for benchmarking to improve IQA.

(Written by Michaela Martin)

Iranian International and National Conference on Quality Assessment

Iran, as a country in the Asia-Pacific Region, has been active in research and practice in the field of assessing higher education quality since 1995. In this regard, the first National Quality Assessment in University Systems (QAUS) was held in 2004 at the University of Tehran. Since then, the QAUS conferences have been held annually at different university venues in the country. The QAUS-2018 was the first international conference on the QA in Iran. It was held at the Alzahra University in Tehran from 9 to 10 May 2018. The conference structure included three sections: a) keynote speeches, b) oral presentations of accepted papers, and c) roundtable sessions. A total of 150 research papers were received by the conference secretariat. Of these, only 15 were accepted for oral presentation. Furthermore, three national and three international key note speakers presented recent research findings on the QA topics.

The conference was inaugurated by chancellor of Alzahra University. Then, Secretary of Permanent Committee of the QAUS emphasized the theme of the QAUS-2018 as: How to Link the QA Practices with the Quantitative Development of Higher Education? The first international keynote speaker was President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), Professor Dr. Jianxin Zhang. She presented a paper entitled: Seeking for quality assurance of HE internationalization in the Asia-Pacific Region. Ms. Michael Martin, from the International Institute for Educational Planning, Paris (IIEP-UNESCO) was the second international keynote speaker. She presented a paper on the Quality Management in Higher Education: Development and Drivers. The third international keynote speaker was Dr. Mallory Schaub, from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. Her presentation entitled: Evaluating Teaching at the Universities and its Impact on Teaching Practice: the Case of University of Geneva.



The national key note speakers presented their papers on the :1) experiences of QA in medical education in Iran; 2) the role of Iran Accreditation Institute of

Engineering Education in improving the quality of engineering education in Iran; 3) an index to assess the university management performance.

The roundtable section was organized around the six themes, related to quality assurance ,as follows: 1)Pathology of the Present HE Monitoring and Assessment System and its Desirable State; 2) The Role of Teacher Education Universities in Professional Development of Teachers for General Education System; 3) Undergraduate Admission Policies and their Impacts on the HE quality;4) Experiences of QA in Engineering Education: Lessons Learned and the Role of Iranian Accreditation Institute of Engineering Education(IAIEE); 5) The Role of QA in Enhancing Faculty Development; and 6)Professional Qualifications and Employment of Graduates with Emphasis on Learning Outcomes.

About 500 academics and administrators of higher education participated from universities and other institutions of higher education. The conference was a success story in disseminating the quality culture and emphasizing the need for strengthening the national institutions for the IQA and the EQA in higher education. Towards improving the quality of higher education in Iran, the link with APQN was also acclaimed by some of the professionals.

(written by Professor Abbas Bazargan, University of Tehran, Iran)



Conference of IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence

On May 23-26 the 9th annual conference of the IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence was held in Hasselt (Belgium). 131 representatives of rating and



accreditation agencies and leading universities from 35 countries participated in the conference.

IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence (in short: IREG Observatory) is an international association of ranking organizations, universities and other bodies interested in university rankings and academic excellence. Some Accreditation Agencies also joined IREG as full members. The purpose of the Association is strengthening of public awareness and understanding of the range of issues related to university rankings and academic excellence. The experience acquired by a group of rankers and ranking analysts, who met first in 2002, led to creation of an International Ranking Expert Group (IREG). In 2009 this informal group was transformed into IREG Observatory as a non-profit organization. Nowadays more than 100 rankings exist in the world: global, regional and national. And public interest in ranking is growing from year to year.

Jan Sadlak, President of IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence, (Belgium) and Rector of Hasselt University Luc de Schepper opened the event with analytical reviews. The theme of the conference drew attention to a very important issue: «Ranking and Accreditation - Two Roads to the Same Goal?» Specialists on ranking and accreditation have met on one communication venue for the first time. During the last 20 years and up to the present moment these tools for evaluation of education quality have been exponentially developed but

independently as different goals were set and different evaluation methods were used.



The key presentations of the first day of the conference were devoted to the role of ranking and accreditation in education quality enhancement. Judith S. Eaton, President of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation CHEA (USA) spoke about the US experience, which is of special interest as accreditation in the USA is over 100 years old. Today there are 85 accrediting bodies in the USA. They are independent, de-centralized and legally non-governmental, however, connected to the government through federal funding and grants. Judith Eaton pointed out some perceived shortcomings of accreditation: it is not transparent enough, not accountable enough, and inconclusive (baseline quality as well as excellence), hard to understand. Ranking is more connected to the result, whereas accreditation – to the process. Rankings are for the general public, accreditation is for academics, and consequently, ranking is more influential than accreditation. Speaking about the likely future for both systems Judith Eaton believes that both will continue, both will coexist, both will sustain strengths and limitations, still having different purposes. The purpose of accreditation is threshold quality and quality improvement for academics; the purpose of ranking is comparative judgment for public use.

The roles of ranking and accreditation in the Asia Pacific Region was covered by Angela Yung-chi Hou , Vice-president of APQN, Executive Director of the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council (Taiwan).



Angela identified main tendencies and challenges for Asia.: 1) Rapid expansion of higher education over the past decade with increasing number of universities and colleges and growing student population. Private institutions outnumber public institutions by three times, which affects the quality of admission and training of students; 2) Centralized higher education system with a strong governmental role. Gap between what students learn and what employers need; 3) Global competitiveness and emerging of world class universities, which leads to a highly competitive environment.

The government policy in the Asian systems of education has the following tasks: to enhance quality of mass HE, to allocate governmental funding, to control student enrollment, to facilitate student mobility, to build IQA mechanism on

campus, to close low performing institutions. In her presentation Angela Yung-chi Hou also noted that research universities pay more attention to rankings rather than accreditation, non-elite universities care more about accreditation. General public use ranking rather than accreditation, however, accreditation gives a detailed report and suggestions to universities. Both ranking and accreditation have the same global challenges: providing professional services in external evaluations, independence, accountability, fair judgment, and internationalization.

At the conference there were many interesting and stimulating presentations by representatives of accreditation agencies and higher education institutions from the Netherlands, Portugal, India (Palak Sheth, Director Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University), Pakistan (Illahi Bakhsh Marghazani, Director of Quality Enhancement Cell of the Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences, Balochistan). A special topic was devoted to subject ranking and specialized accreditation. Thus, Bernard Remaud, President of the European Network for Engineering Accreditation "ENAE" (France) and Dirk Bochar, Secretary General of the European Federation of National Engineering Associations "FEANI" (Belgium) spoke about building bridges between ranking and accreditation in engineering education.

Within the framework of the conference there was an official presentation of the new ranking – Moscow International University Ranking (MosIUR) «The Three University Missions» created at the initiative of the Russian Association of Classic Universities. The new ranking was presented by the Russian Ranking Agency «ExpertRA» (Director Dmitry Grishakov).

Upon the conference closing the General Assembly of IREG Observatory took place. The delegates elected a new Executive Committee and President. Luiz Claudio Costa, Former Acting Minister of Education and Vice-Minister of Education, Federal Government of Brazil, Former Rector of Federal University of Viçosa. Former Vice President of the PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) of OECD became the new President of IREG.

(Written by Galina Motova)

2018 INQAAHE 11th Biennial pre-Forum Workshop

INQAAHE 11th Biennial Forum was held in beautiful and magical Mauritius from 2-4 May 2018. The theme of this year's forum is 'Quality is in the Eye of the Beholder: Relevance, Credibility, and International Visibility'.

The Forum features four pre-Forum workshops, two keynote addresses, and three lively discussions, as well as three special addresses related to the three subthemes of relevance, credibility and international visibility.



On 2nd May, Executive Director of HEEACT, Prof. Angela Yung Chi Hou, also the Vice President of APQN chaired an impressive workshop titled "Governance, Assurance and Credibility" with Dean of Office of Quality Assurance Prof. Shaw-Ren Lin. More than 60 attendees were encouraged to share their knowledge and experiences in the workshop on three specific topics:

1. Establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Mechanism at Self –accrediting institutions: organization, student learning outcomes, and data management.
2. Review Procedures and Onsite Visits of External Quality Assurance Agencies and Professional Accreditors: How to demonstrate QA professionalism and accountability.
3. Transparency and social responsibility of QA: Taiwan's experience.

At the Gala Dinner, the day after the workshop, INQAAHE president awarded all facilitators for their contribution to QA community.

THE MEMBER NEWS

HEEC Completed the 2018 Training of Audit Evaluation Experts

On April 12, 2018, higher education evaluation center(HEEC) of Chinese Ministry of Education, organized the 2018 training



of audit evaluation experts in Qingdao. Over 500 experts and project administrators attended the training and got their certificates. The newly-trained experts are supposed to do their contributions in the audit evaluation work this year.

Peer review is one of the guiding principles in the institutional evaluation process of HEEC. HEEC always selects prospective experts and provides professional trainings to help them do their jobs in the audit evaluation process. All the experts should be selected based on their professional experiences in higher education institutions (HEIs) and/or relevant industries as well as in quality assurance. This year HEEC organized 2018 training of audit evaluation experts on April 12 in Qingdao Cop Thorne Hotel. Prior to their participations in the audit evaluation exercises, experts were briefed about the audit work and roles.



The training program included the introduction of “The New Idea and New Standards of the Audit Evaluation” by Zhou Aijun, Deputy Director of HEEC; “The Interpretation of the Scope of the Audit Evaluation” by Lin Pinghua, Vice President of Southeast University; “The Working Procedures of Audit Experts” by Wu Ping, Vice President of Huazhong Agriculture University; “The Share of Working Experiences as Audit Experts” by Liu Huadong, Vice President of China University of Petroleum; “The Use of the Data Analysis Report” by Yang Jing, Division of Information of HEEC; and “The

Introduction of the Information Management System of the Institutional Evaluation” by Sun Ying(Division of Institutional Evaluation of HEEC. The invited speakers are very experienced audit experts who always work as panel leaders in the HEEC audit evaluations. At the end of the training, the experts were supposed to have clear visions about their work in the future audit evaluations.



Over 500 experts and project administrators attended the training. HEEC gave every expert and administrator a Training Certificate. The certificates are important symbols for HEEC's acknowledgements and welcomes to the new experts to join the audit evaluation. And also, the training provided a valuable platform for the dialogues between experts, administrators and HEEC.

The audit evaluation is an important form of the institutional evaluation in China. It is planned that HEEC will conduct altogether 85 universities' (colleges') audit evaluation in 2018. That is the reason why more audit experts are needed this year. Surely the newly-trained experts will do their contributions in the future. And HEEC would follow the performance of each expert and provide the necessary help to ensure the quality of audit evaluations.

(Written by Sun Ying)



Higher Education Evaluation Center Of The Ministry Of Education

<http://www.heec.edu.cn/en/index.jsp>

HKCAAVQ 1st Professional Training Workshop in Quality Assurance

HKCAAVQ delivered the “Professional Training Workshop in Quality Assurance 2018” at Crown Plaza Causeway Bay Hong Kong Hotel from 12 to 16 March 2018. The event was attended by 25 quality assurance practitioners and professionals, including participants from Australia, Mauritius, Oman and Singapore.

Four guest speakers were invited to share their knowledge and experience on specific topics in the workshop: (1) Mr. Anthony Chan, Former Project Coordinator (Further Education) of Education Bureau, Hong Kong; (2) Dr. Louis Ma, Director of School of Continuing and Professional Education, City University of Hong Kong; (3) Professor Malcolm Thomas McVicar, Former Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom; (4) Professor Isabella Poon, Pro-Vice-Chancellor / Vice-President, Professor, Department of Statistics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

HKCAAVQ plans to offer this workshop on a regular basis. If you are interested to find out more information about the workshop, please visit our website:

https://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/en/services/training/professional_training_workshop



Engagement of International Reviewers on HEEACT's Institutional Review

Since 2016, Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) conducted the 2nd cycle institutional review for 84 universities and colleges. HEEACT has completed the reviews of 33 universities in 2016 and will continue the remaining 52 universities



by the end of 2017. In response to the development of higher education internationalization and increased student mobility, HEEACT has invited international reviewers to engage in the on-site visit panel of 11 top research universities in order to provide the external opinions and suggestions to universities from international perspectives. The international reviewers recommended by HEEACT and the top research universities respectively are well-known scholars and academics from world class universities worldwide. They all acquired great experiences in university governance and management and are fluent in English and Mandarin.

Up to now, there are 6 international reviewers from Temple University, University of California, San Diego, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, National University of Singapore, Lingnan University and Hong Kong University to take part in three top research universities' on-site reviews. It is a very great experience for HEEACT to learn how to engage more international human resources in the local QA activities.

COMING EVENT

2019 APQN Academic Conference(AAC)

2019 APQN Academic Conference(AAC) will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on March 28-31, 2019. The University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka will host this great event.

The main theme of the 2019 AAC is: “Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: Insight into the Future”, and the 4 sub-themes are: 1) Innovative approaches to the development of internal QA: transforming challenges into opportunities; 2) Application of new technologies in evaluation and accreditation of programs, Institutes and long distance; 3) Cultural diversity and its implications for the quality of Cross Border higher education; 4) Role of institutions and students in the enhancement of Quality Culture in higher education.

The Tentative Program is as follows:

Day, Time	Agenda
Day-1 (March 28, 2019)	
13:00-	Registration
16:00-19:30	The 1 st Board meeting and other Council meetings (Board members only)
Day-2 (March 29, 2019)	
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:30	Opening
10:30-12:30	Keynote Speech -1
	Plenary Sesion-1
13:30-18:00	Plenary Sesion-2
	Parallel Sessions1-2; Workshop 1
18:00-20:00	Welcome Dinner
	APQN Quality Award Ceremony
Day-3 (March 30, 2019)	
09:00-12:30	Keynote Speech-2
	Plenary Sesion-3
	Parallel Session 3-4;Workshop 2
13:30-14:30	Plenary Sesion-4
14:30-15:30	Closing Session
15:30-16:30	Annual General Meeting (APQN members only)
16:30-18:00	The 2 nd Board Meeting(Board members only)
Day-4 (March 31, 2019)	
08:30-13:00	City tour to Colombo, Sri Lanka

You are welcomed to join us!

The Third Global Summit in Bali

The third APQN Global Summit will be held in Bali, Indonesia on August 27-29, 2018 by the National Accreditation Agency for Higher (BAN-PT) and APQN in collaboration with the National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (NAAHE), Indonesia and the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network.

The theme of the Summit is "*Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0 - Issues and Challenges*". The target audience is leaders in HE quality assurance, policy makers of quality assurance and those associated with QAAs in the ASEAN countries and Asia-Pacific region, which will also include APQN Members and Observers, the APQN Board, Committees and Project Groups.



Online registration can be done via:

Contacts and communication: international_affairs@banpt.or.id

A participation fee of

- USD 250 is applied to the international participants
- IDR 1.500.000 is applied to local participant

Venue and Accommodation: Sheraton Bali Kuta

You are welcomed to the third Global Summit on August 27-29 in Bali, Indonesia.

International Conference on Teaching & Learning Quality Assurance

Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) and APQN co-organized “Higher Education International Conference on Innovation and Developments in Teaching & Learning Quality Assurance” on November 20-22, 2018 in Macao, China.

The conference is free of registration. Free accommodation and meals for one author per accepted paper during the Conference.

<http://www.ipm.edu.mo/heconf2018>

If you have questions, please write to heconf@ipm.edu.mo

You are welcomed to submit your papers!



CALL FOR PAPERS (Submission Deadline 投稿截止日期)
現正徵集論文 2018/07/31

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Details 詳情
www.ipm.edu.mo/heconf2018
Enquiries 查詢
heconf@ipm.edu.mo
(853) 8599 6269/6270

In addition to research, the other two most important functions of higher education are teaching and learning. The theme of the 10th higher education is on "Innovation and Developments in Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance". This conference will adopt a wide-ranging view of what constitutes the factors impacting on teaching and learning, focusing on their innovation and development aspects. Scholars and professionals in different disciplines are cordially invited to participate and submit papers for presentation at the conference on topics related to the following:

- Theories and practices of teaching and learning quality assurance systems;
- "Enhancement" of teaching and learning in higher education;
- Outcome-based approach to teaching and learning;
- Student evaluation of teachers (SET) and teacher self-evaluation (TSE);
- Voice of students to enhance teaching effectiveness;
- Use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in teaching and learning enhancement;
- Professional development for teachers in connection with teaching and students' learning.

教與學是高等教育的重要工作。第十屆高等教育國際學術研討會以「教與學質量保障創新與發展」為主題。會議將從較寬闊的視野探討影響教與學質量的各種因素，重點是於其創新和發展方面。誠邀各學術界、專業界人士踴躍參加，並提交論文於研討會中發表。研討會將採納廣泛的觀點探討影響教與學質量的各種因素，包括以下方面：

- 教學質量保障系統的理論與實踐；
- 高等教育教學與學習的「提升」；
- 基於成果的教學與學習；
- 學生對教師的評價 (SET) 及教師自評 (TSE)；
- 學生在提高教學效果中的聲音；
- 資訊及通訊科技在教學與學習上的應用；
- 與教師專業發展有關的教師專業發展。

Paper Submission Form

Corresponding Author			
Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Professor	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Ms
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Affiliation			Position
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Paper Title			
Keywords (3-5 keywords)			
Abstract (500 words in English or 300 words in Chinese)			
Author profile (100 words per author, stating the author(s)' affiliation and research interests)			



Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQNews (Issue 17, 2018)

Call for Articles for the next Issue of APQNews

APQNews is a half-year periodical newsletter on quality assurance for QAAs and HEIs of APQN. All members are invited to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews.

Does your organization have any news that you would like to share with the region? 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: 948661302@qq.com & apqnsecretariat@163.com.