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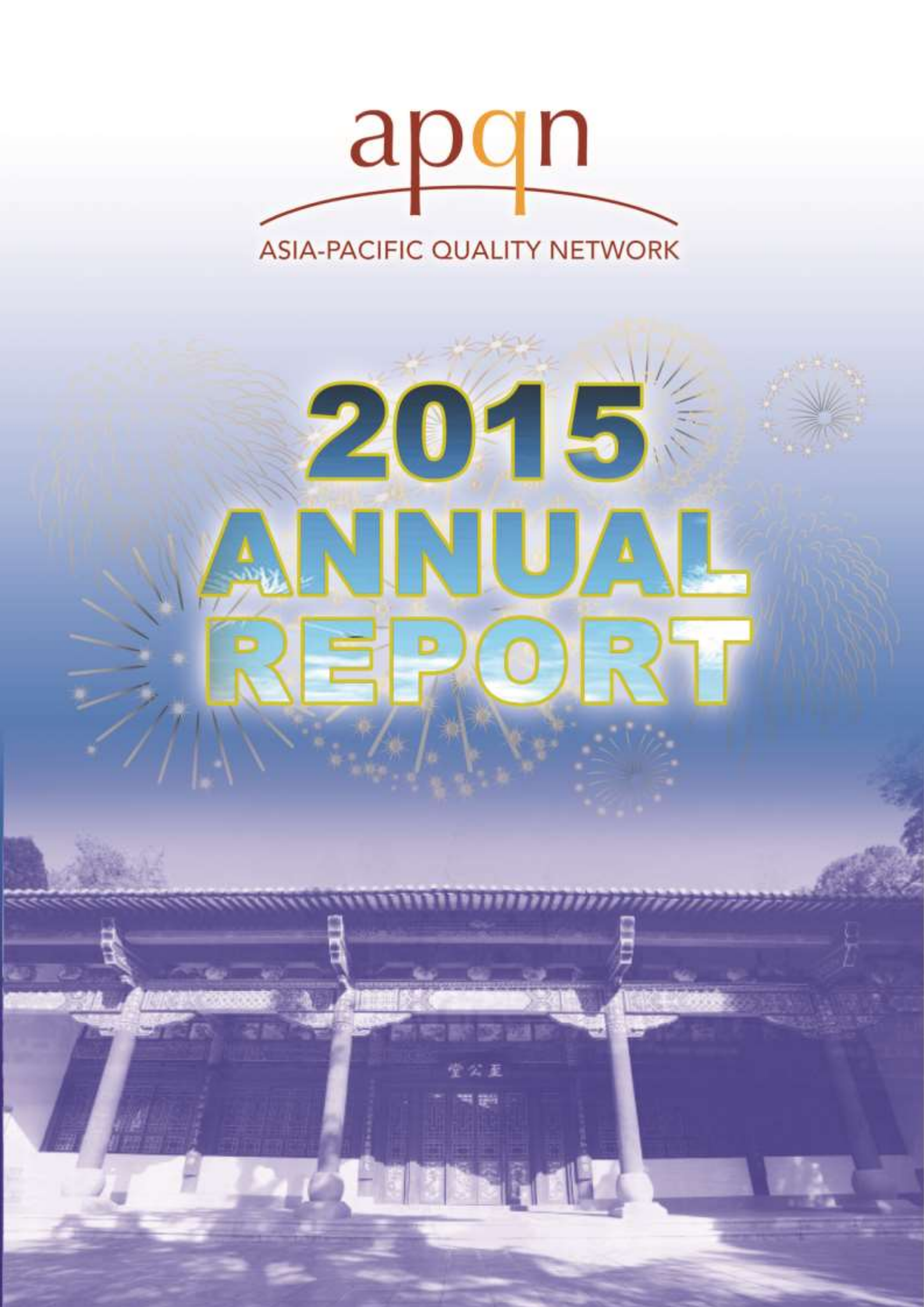
ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

APQN Annual Report 2015

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THE NETWORK

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

MEMBERS–GENERAL COUNCIL

THE BOARD

THE NETWORK

OUR VISION

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

OUR VALUES

APQN is:

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

OUR METHODS

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

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

OUR PURPOSES

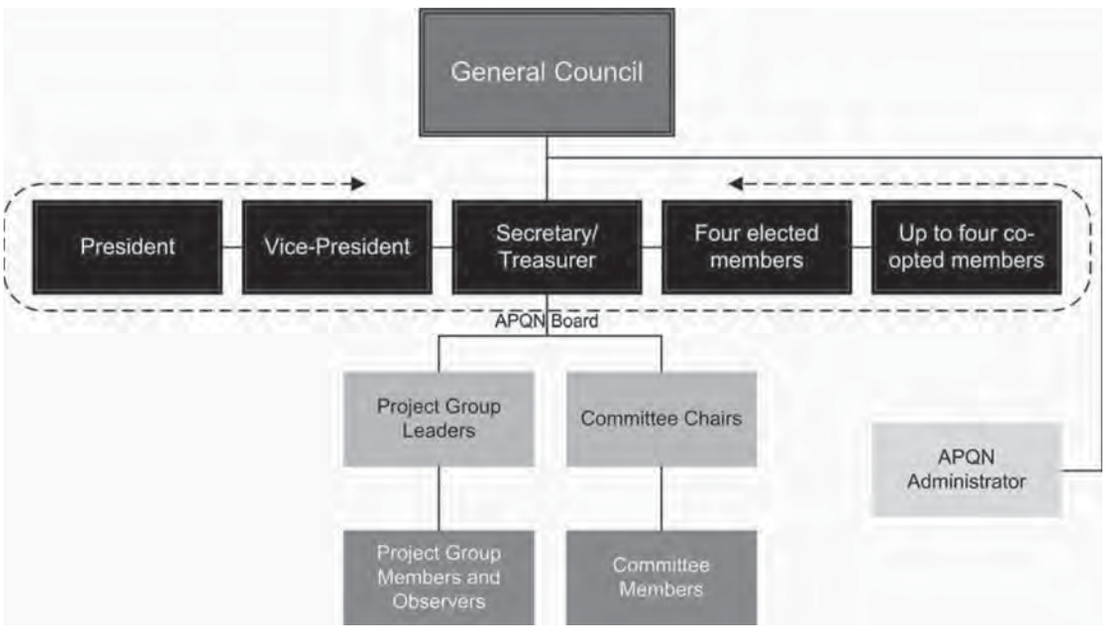
The purposes of APQN are:

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

OUR MISSION

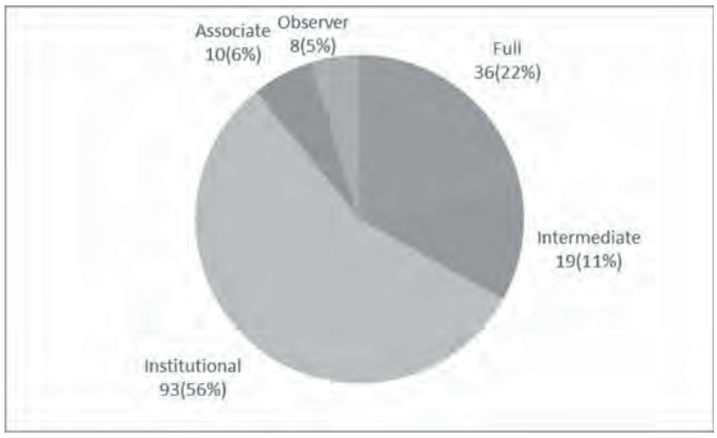
To enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



MEMBERS–GENERAL COUNCIL

APQN NOW BOASTS:



This brings the total number of members across all categories of membership to 166 from 38 countries or territories. Among them, 11 members were successfully approved as new members of the Network in 2015. Among the new members, there are 1 Full members, 1 Intermediate member, 8 Institutional members and 1 Associate member.

Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC), Fiji has been approved to update its membership status from Associate member into Full member. It is a pity that Council for Private Education, Singapore would not renew its membership status in 2015, and would like to join APQN once again in the future.

LIST OF APQN MEMBERS OF ALL CATEGORIES

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

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

No.	Country /Territory	Agency	Membership Status
37	Hong Kong, China	Vocational Training Council	Associate
38	Hong Kong, China	Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education	Associate
39	India	National Assessment and Accreditation Council	Full
40	India	Annamacharya Institute of Technology and Sciences	Institutional
41	India	Camp Education Society Dr. Arvind B Telang College of Arts, Science & Commerce	Institutional
42	India	Chettinad Academy of Research & Education	Institutional
43	India	Dhanwate National College	Institutional
44	India	Govt. College of Education, M.A. Road, Srinagar, J&K	Institutional
45	India	Kamla Nehru Mahavidyalaya	Institutional
46	India	MIER College of Education	Institutional
47	India	K.L.E. Society Basavaprabhu KORE Arts, Science and Commerce College, Chikodi	Institutional
48	India	School of Management, Sambhram Academy of Management Studies	Institutional
49	India	SSESA's Science College	Institutional
50	India	Arts, Science and Commerce College	Institutional
51	Indonesia	National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education	Full
52	Iran	The University of Tehran	Institutional
53	Japan	Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation	Full
54	Japan	Japan University Accreditation Association	Full
55	Japan	National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation	Full
56	Kazakhstan	Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating	Intermediate
57	Kazakhstan	Independent Kazakhstan Quality Assurance Agency in Education	Intermediate
58	Korea, South	Korean Council For University College Education(KCCE)	Full
59	Korea, South	Korean Council for University Education	Full
60	Kuwait	Private Universities Council	Observer
61	Laos	Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education Lao PDR.	Associate
62	Macao, China	Macao Polytechnic Institute	Institutional
63	Macao, China	Macau University of Science and Technology	Institutional
64	Macao, China	Tertiary Education Services Office	Associate
65	Malaysia	Malaysian Qualifications Agency	Full
66	Malaysia	Finance Accreditation Agency	Intermediate
67	Maldives	Maldives Qualifications Authority	Intermediate
68	Maldives	Institute for Academic Development, Villa College	Institutional
69	Mongolia	Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation	Full
70	Mongolia	Ikh Zasag International University	Institutional

No.	Country /Territory	Agency	Membership Status
71	Mongolia	Health Sciences University of Mongolia	Institutional
72	Mongolia	University of the Humanities	Institutional
73	Nepal	University Grants Commission of Nepal	Intermediate
74	New Zealand	Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities	Full
75	New Zealand	New Zealand Qualifications Authority	Full
76	Pakistan	Higher Education Commission	Intermediate
77	Pakistan	National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council	Intermediate
78	Pakistan	National Business Education Accreditation Council	Intermediate
79	Pakistan	National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education	Intermediate
80	Pakistan	Sarhad University of Science & information Technology *	Institutional
81	Pakistan	University of the Punjab, Lahore	Institutional
82	Pakistan	Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan	Institutional
83	Pakistan	Air University Islamabad Pakistan	Institutional
84	Pakistan	Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University	Institutional
85	Pakistan	Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University	Institutional
86	Pakistan	Balochistan University of Engineering & Technology, Khuzdar	Institutional
87	Pakistan	Beaconhouse National University	Institutional
88	Pakistan	NED University of Engineering & Technology	Institutional
89	Pakistan	Greenwich University Karachi	Institutional
90	Pakistan	University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir	Institutional
91	Pakistan	University of Central Punjab	Institutional
92	Pakistan	The University of Faisalabad	Institutional
93	Pakistan	Fatima Jinnah Women University	Institutional
94	Pakistan	Indus University	Institutional
95	Pakistan	Institute of Business & Technology-Biztek Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC)	Institutional
96	Pakistan	Institute of Business Management	Institutional
97	Pakistan	Institute of Management Sciences	Institutional
98	Pakistan	Institute of Space Technology	Institutional
99	Pakistan	Iqra University	Institutional
100	Pakistan	King Edward Medical University, Lahore-Pakistan*	Institutional
101	Pakistan	Lahore College for Women University, Pakistan	Institutional
102	Pakistan	LAHORE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS	Institutional
103	Pakistan	Mehran University of Engineering & Technology	Institutional
104	Pakistan	Khadim Ali Shah Institute of Technology (Pvt) Ltd	Institutional
105	Pakistan	National Textile University	Institutional
106	Pakistan	National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)	Institutional
107	Pakistan	New Ports Institute of Communication and Economics(NICE)	Institutional
108	Pakistan	COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT)	Institutional

No.	Country /Territory	Agency	Membership Status
109	Pakistan	Preston University	Institutional
110	Pakistan	University of Management and Technology (UMT)	Institutional
111	Pakistan	Quality Assurance Directorate, Bahria University	Institutional
112	Pakistan	Quality Enhancement Cell, National University of Modern Languages	Institutional
113	Pakistan	Riphah International University	Institutional
114	Pakistan	University of Peshawar	Institutional
115	Pakistan	Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar	Institutional
116	Pakistan	Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science & Technology (SZABIST)	Institutional
117	Pakistan	Quality Enhancement Cell, Kohat University of Science & Technology	Institutional
118	Pakistan	Sindh MaDr.essatul Islam University (SMI University)*	Institutional
119	Pakistan	University of Science & Technology, Bannu	Institutional
120	Pakistan	Sukkur institute of Business Administration	Institutional
121	Pakistan	University of Lahore	Institutional
122	Pakistan	The University of Agriculture, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Institutional
123	Pakistan	Abasyn University	Institutional
124	Pakistan	Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science & Technology *	Institutional
125	Pakistan	Government College University Faisalabad*	Institutional
126	Pakistan	Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Balochistan*	Institutional
127	Pakistan	University of Balochistan *	Institutional
128	Pakistan	University of Engineering & Technology, Taxila	Institutional
129	Pakistan	University of Karachi	Institutional
130	Pakistan	Allama Iqbal Open University	Institutional
131	Pakistan	Islamia College Peshawar (Chartered University)	Institutional
132	Pakistan	SBK Women University Quetta Pakistan	Institutional
133	Pakistan	Ziauddin University	Institutional
134	Pakistan	National Testing Service-Pakistan (NTS)	Associate
135	Philippines	Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines Inc.	Full
136	Philippines	Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities	Full
137	Philippines	Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation *	Full
138	Philippines	Asia Theological Association	Intermediate
139	Philippines	International Distance Education Accreditation League, Inc.	Associate
140	Russia	Association for Engineering Education of Russia	Full
141	Russia	National Center of Public Accreditation (NCPA)	Full

No.	Country /Territory	Agency	Membership Status
142	Russia	The Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and Career Development	Full
143	Russia	The National Accreditation Agency of the Russian Federation	Full
144	Russia	Altai State University	Institutional
145	Russia	Kazan Federal University	Institutional
146	Samoa	Samoa Qualifications Authority	Full
147	Saudi Arabia	Jazan University	Observer
148	Sri Lanka	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of Sri Lanka	Intermediate
149	Sri Lanka	Horizon College of Business & Technology	Institutional
150	Sri Lanka	South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine (Pvt) Ltd.	Institutional
151	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology	Institutional
152	Thailand	Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment	Full
153	Thailand	Office of the Higher Education Commission	Associate
154	Thailand	Asian Forum on Business Education	Observer
155	Thailand	ASEAN University Network	Observer
156	Timor Leste	National Agency for Academic Assessment and Accreditation (NAAAA)	Intermediate
157	Tonga	Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board	Intermediate
158	United Kingdom	UK NARIC	Observer
159	United Kingdom	The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education	Observer
160	Vanuatu	Vanuatu National Training Council	Intermediate
161	Vietnam	General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation	Full
162	Vietnam	Vietnam Vocational Training Accreditation (VVTAA)	Intermediate
163	Vietnam	Center for Educational Testing and Quality Assessment, Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City	Institutional
164	Vietnam	Center for Quality Assurance, Foreign Trade University	Institutional
165	Vietnam	Institute for Education Quality Assurance of Vietnam National University, Hanoi	Institutional
166	Vietnam	Hanoi National University of Education (HNUE)	Institutional

NOTE: THE AGENCIES WITH "*" ARE NEW MEMBERS OF APQN IN 2015.

THE BOARD

APQN President
Dr. Jagannath Patil (Elected)
INDIA

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

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

APQN Board Member by Feb., 2016
Dr. Jan Cameron (Elected)
NEW ZEALAND

APQN Board Member
Prof. Pornrungroj Channarong (Elected)
THAILAND

APQN Board Member
Prof. Jianxin Zhang (Elected)
CHINA

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

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

APQN Board Member by Mar., 2016
Dr. Richard Terry Ung Wah (Co–opted)
FIJI

BOARD ACTIVITY

BOARD MEETINGS IN KUNMING, CHINA

The Board of APQN held two meetings respectively on April 16 and April 18, 2015 in Kunming, China, which were just before and after the APQN 2015 Conference and AGM. The Board members discussed and approved the following issues: the 2014 Finance Report and 2015 Budget recommended by the Finance Committee, the review result of the APQN 2015 Quality Awards, the assignments for the APQN projects and the composition of the APQN Quality Register (APQR) Council, the preparation for the APQN 2015 Conference and AGM, the proposal for the APQN 2016 Conference and AGM and the co–optation of Board member.

PREPARATION FOR THE ELECTION OF NEW BOARD

The term for the current Board will be end in May, 2016. APQN has to prepare for the election of the Board for the term 2016–2019. The timetable for the election is following.

No.	Responsible person	Item	Timeline
1	The Secretariat	Prepare documents for the Board election	10-Dec.-2015
2	President/ Board	Identify the Independent Council and two other vote counters except Fang Le	31-Dec.-2016
3	The Secretariat	Send EoIs for the Full and Intermediate members	04-Jan.-2016
4	Interested Agencies	Provide the CVs of the nominees	05-Feb.-2016
5	The Secretariat	Make the publicity campaign for the nominees and send the ballots to the Full and Intermediate members	12-Feb.-2016
6	Full & Intermediate member	Send vote to all the three vote counters	29-Feb.-2016
7	Fang Le and two other vote counters	Count the votes and send the results to the Independent Council	1-Mar.-2016
8	The Secretariat	Contact with the successful candidates and wait for their responses	8-Mar.-2016
9	Independent Council	Make adjustment if some successful candidate refused, and announce the result to the Old and New Board	15-Mar.-2016
10	The Immediate Past President	Introduction of the New Board on the AGM	27-May-2016

PRESIDENT REPORT

VICE–PRESIDENT REPORT

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

PRESIDENT REPORT

Beginning of APQN's great march in the new decade: Culmination of 3 eventful years

Dear Colleagues,

In 2013, Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) celebrated its existence of 10 years in the service of Asia–Pacific Community of quality assurance in higher education. The decennial celebrations of Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) coincided with the election of the new board. While celebrating the achievement of a decade, we also committed ourselves to an agenda for the new decade to develop APQN as the strong and sustainable platform for quality assurance in Asia–Pacific. As the board completes its tenure during APQN Annual conference and AGM scheduled at Fiji during 25–27 May, 2016, I take this opportunity to brief our members about our achievements in this year as well as in this tenure of the board.

Highlights of last year 2015–16:

The past year continued to be a very busy and eventful year for APQN. The main highlight of the year was launch of Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR) and the first review of Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) which became the first agency to be included in the APQR. The building of APQR is still a work in progress and we are happy to receive interests from other agencies to join APQR.

This year, we also launched publication series based on select papers presented in APQN Annual conferences. The publication based on 2015 annual conference in Yunnan, and 2012 conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia are published and ready for circulation among the members and other stake holders. It is hoped that publication based on annual conferences of 2013–14 would be released in the forthcoming year.

APQN's Quality Information Portal has been also designed and published. We need help of APQN member agencies to update the data on this portal so that information is current and useful to stake holders.

APQN was key partner in a global project funded by European Commission with European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) as

major partners besides a few leading quality assurance agencies. This project on Quality Assurance of Cross–border Higher Education (QACHE) is now successfully completed and a tool kit for QA of CBHE has been published. This project was a major achievement as it reinforced the spirit of collaboration among different regional networks and quality assurance agencies. APQN, ENQA and ANQAHE have agreed to continue spirit of collaboration even though this project is culminated.

As discussed during annual conference last year, APQN has launched media fellowships. Aim of this fellowship is to encourage media to promote benefits of quality in higher education among the stake holders and public at large. We also continued our activities such as online forum and exchange programme for the benefit of APQN members.

APQN's 6th online forum titled ‘Quality assurance for sustainable learning, teaching and research in higher education’, which was moderated by three global experts was well received by APQN members.

Another ambitious project of APQN which is aimed at developing Asia–Pacific regional quality label and thereby promoting programme and specialised accreditation has made considerable progress. The board has agreed to collaborate with European Alliance of Specialised and Programme Accreditation Agencies (E–ASPA) to take this idea forward.

Initiatives in 3 years:

The beginning of new decade of APQN coinciding with current tenure of the APQN board has seen APQN growing from strength to strength making it one of the most respected and valued quality assurance organisation not only in the region but also in the world.

A few key initiatives listed below can give an idea about the huge work done in the past 3 years.

- Introduction of APQN quality awards to encourage and exchange good practices and contributions in quality assurance. Three editions completed and fourth edition is due in May, 2016 at Fiji.
- Launch of quality journal “Higher Education Evaluation and Development” (HEED) in collaboration with HEEACT. The first and perhaps only network to run its own quality journal.
- Collaboration and MoUs with Commonwealth of Learning (COL)–Canada, European Consortium of Accreditation (ECA), Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE)
- Consortium project on QACHE in collaboration with ENQA and ANQAHE.

- Contribution to UNESCO initiatives and working groups such as regional qualification framework and recognition of qualification, etc..,
- APQN exchange programme within the region as well as outside the region in collaboration with European Partners.
- Successful development and launch of Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR)
- Launch of Asia Pacific Quality Information Portal
- Project on APQN Quality label
- Series of publications based on selected papers in Annual conferences since 2012.
- Support provided to various APQN members as co–organiser of International conferences held in the region (ONESQA of Thailand, MPI of Macao, Fu Jen University of Taipei and so on)
- Financial and mentoring support to projects undertaken by agencies (over 10 projects in last 3 years).
- Increase of over 50 members in 3 years indicating growing popularity of APQN.

The key highlights presented above provide only bird's eye view of various activities and achievements by APQN in last three years. It is significant to note here that except one or two externally funded projects like QACHE, all other projects and activities are carried out within the limited funds available by way of membership fees. This has been possible primarily because of:

- A very low cost for efficient secretariat provided by SEEI–Shanghai.
- A large amount of free and voluntary time by the committed APQN board members on various projects and initiatives.
- Goodwill and active participation by APQN members contributing to the success of various initiatives.

While expressing satisfaction of this commendable work, I would give credit of this to team spirit of the APQN board and a deep sense of fraternity and networking among the APQN members.

Handing over legacy:

On 27th May, 2016, I will be delighted to pass on the responsibility of APQN presidency to the newly elected president. As I complete my 3 successive tenures in the board, my joy of satisfaction is doubled because I will be handing over charge to Prof. Jianxin Zhang as the new president because we have worked closely on various projects and initiatives since past 3 years. It is very re–assuring that Prof. Jianxin Zhang and the new board which

takes over in Fiji has been closely associated with APQN's Agenda and activities for this new decade. This gives strong hope that good work being done by APQN will be continued for years to come. While carrying the great legacy, the new APQN board will also have some challenges. Some of them include:

- Strengthening the financial status of APQN as membership fees continues to be the major source of the income.
- Sustaining the high level of activities and expectations with limited resources available.
- Searching for new avenues of resource generation such as funded projects and services based income generation using APQN brand value.

I remain indebted to members of APQN who trusted me to be at helm of affairs while we strongly launched our great march for the new decade of APQN. As the president of APQN who got an opportunity to launch APQN's growth trajectory in the new decade, it will be my pleasure to support the new president and board in taking forward quality agenda so that APQN remains the most valued and trusted name in the field of higher education quality assurance in Asia Pacific.

Dr. Jagannath Patil
President
Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN)
Adviser, NAAC, India
E–mail: jp.naacindia@gmail.com

VICE–PRESIDENT REPORT

The quality of higher education institutions is a key to the national social and economic well–being. The assessment approach and its quality indicators often affect the status of national higher education system at the international level. According to OECD, quality assurance systems. now "have become a necessity, not only for monitoring quality in higher education delivered within the country, but also for engaging in delivery of higher education internationally". APQN, as the leading quality assurance network plays a major role in capacity building of Asian quality assurance agencies as well as guidelines developing of cross–border higher education. Over the past years, APQN has accomplished several projects, reports, conferences, and publications related to CBHE.

Driven by globalization, transnational education has been growing rapidly in Asia. By taking part in QACHE project funded by the Erasmus Mundus programme of the European Union and coordinated by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), APQN completed a survey over 19 Asian QA agencies and collected the latest development of CBHE in Asia. It was a very good start to realize how Asian agencies dealt with CBHE and learn how they overcame the challenges. At the same time, it also encouraged APQN to provide more and more information and support for all its members in CBHE implementation in the future.

Since quality assurance of cross–border higher education has drawn a lot of attention from Asian nation, APQN launched the 6th on–forum titled "Quality Assurance for Sustainable Learning, Teaching and Research in Higher Education" in March 2016 and invited three well–known experts to lead the discussions on quality management of distance education and external review of online courses, MOOCs and OER with APQN members. Indeed, the APQN 6th Online forum acts as a very interactive platform for a very intense discussion among APQN members.

Strengthening its research capacity is the other objective of APQN. In collaboration with Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan APQN publishes an international journal titled "Higher Education Evaluation and Development" (HEED) to disseminate updated QA information and research outputs within APQN members and globally. Up to present, HEED has published more than 75 English academic articles in higher education development and quality education. In addition, a concern for encouraging APQN members collaborated with each other in higher education research is also growing. The 6th forum just provides an opportunity for APQN members to

share and learn with each other's research capabilities, thinking of possible cooperation with other foreign scholars in specific QA topics.

Over the past decade, the number of APQN members has been increasing steadily with an approximate 160. As quality guardians of higher education, quality assurance agencies are currently required to guarantee the credibility of the review process and to ensure the objectivity and transparency of their decisions and recommendations. Since quality assurance became recognized as a Profession in recent years, quality assurance agencies are supposed to be "under review and development to ensure that they remain current and relevant" on the basis of a systematic scheme for quality. With the three-year effort, the document of "The Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR)" was officially issued in APQN special meeting at Macao in January 2015. There is no doubt that APQR will serve an Asian quality hallmark "for global stakeholders on trustworthy quality assurance agencies in Asia Pacific".

It has been five years since I served as APQN Vice President. I am so grateful that I was given this opportunity to witness all progress made by APQN. I not only learned greatly from APQN board but also grew with all APQN members. I am hoping that the new board of 2016 will continue the spirit and passion, bringing APQN into the next brighter decade.

Angela Yung Chi Hou

Prof. Dr. Angela Yung Chi Hou
Vice President, APQN
March 12, 2016

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

Thanks to the leadership of the Board, especially the Office Bearers and the continuous support of the members and interested parties, the APQN Secretariat in 2015 has effectively and efficiently completed the routine work with lower cost and more innovation, which are valuable for the vibrant and sustainable APQN. The details for the work of the Secretariat in 2015 are following.

1. APQN Members and the Board

The Secretariat has devoted lots of energy to attract new members, such as approaching the prospective members in the database of APQN and the non-member participants of APQN's activities, answering queries in the process of application and timely feedback after pre-review of the application, providing support for the review of Membership Review Committee, and making follow-up for the review of the Board. The number of APQN's members in all categories has reached to 166 from 38 countries or territories with 11 new members. For the existing members, the Secretariat has updated their information and provided detailed and thoughtful consultations.

The Secretariat has communicated frequently with the Board, especially the President and Vice President for the important issues, as they are the APQN Office Bearers along with the Secretary/Treasurer. In the year of 2015, the Secretariat has organized two face-to-face Board meetings, including the preparation of the agenda, documents for discussion, draft of minutes and follow-up of actions, including correspondence arising from Board decisions. As 2016 is the year for the election Board, the Secretariat has made preparation for the organization and relevant documents in December, 2015.

2. Conference and AGM

The Secretariat cooperated with Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center (YHEEC) to organize the APQN 2015 Conference and AGM in Kunming, China on April 17-19, 2015 with the overall theme "Globalization and Diversification of HE Quality Assurance". The Secretariat has provided the full support for the preparation and organization of the Conference. Before the conference and AGM, the Secretariat has done the followings: communication with the Program Committee and the Local Organizing Committee, development

and maintenance of the online registration system, promotion of the Conference, invitation of the key–note speakers, and draft the sponsorship plan for participants and selection of the papers. During the Conference and AGM, the Secretariat conducted the on–site coordination, provided the conference documents, and kept records of the Conference and AGM. After the Conference and AGM, the Secretariat sorted out the conference papers, PPTs and pictures and uploaded on the website, and drafted the minutes of the AGM.

The Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) will host the APQN 2016 Conference and AGM, which just followed the 2016 Forum of the International Quality Assurance Agencies Network in Higher Education (INQAAHE) in the same venue. The Secretariat has communicated with FHEC frequently for the preparation of the Conference and AGM, such as confirmation of the venue and hotels, release of the Call for Contributions and open of the online registration system. The Secretariat has also forwarded the Call for EoIs for the 2017 Conference and AGM for several times.

3. Management of Projects

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

1. 2015 APQN Quality Awards,
2. APQN Quality Label,
3. APQN 6th Online Forum,
4. Expansion of the Database of Consultants in cooperation with International Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE),
5. Exploration and Practice of the Asia–Pacific Quality Register (APQR),
6. Establishment of Asia Pacific Quality Informational Portal (web–based system),
7. Publications based on APQN 2012 Conference Papers,
8. Publications based on APQN 2013 Conference Papers,
9. Publications based on APQN 2014 Conference Papers,
10. Publications based on APQN 2015 Conference papers in past years,
11. International employability of graduates in APQN members and role of QA agencies,
12. External Quality Assurance and its impact on Internal Quality Management,
13. Post Graduate Diploma in Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education
14. Workshop on IQA in Pakistan,

15. APQN Media fellowships to promote awareness about QA and APQN among Stakeholders,
16. Quality Assurance of Cross–border Higher Education (QACHE) in cooperation with European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) , including the regional seminar in Macao, China in Jan.,2015 and Paris Conference in Nov., 2015.

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

5. Publication and Liaison

The Secretariat has actively taken the responsibility to collect and disseminate information among the APQN members and those interested to APQN. In the year of 2015, the Secretariat drafted, designed the APQN 2014 Annual Report, and distributed the hard copy to all members and uploaded the soft copy on the APQN website; posted the "Cooperation in Cross–Border Higher Education: A Toolkit for Quality Assurance Agencies" to Full and Intermediate members; and forwarded about 34 messages to APQN members and 25 messages to the mailing list subscribers. 73 interested persons have joined the APQN mailing list in 2015, which has made the total number of subscribers up to 1568. The GOOGLE Analytic has showed that there are about 17,386 visits for the APQN website in the year of 2015, including unique visitors.

In the year of 2015, the Secretariat has continued the liaison and communication with the Bangkok Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education (ECA), and Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE). APQN has cooperated with INQAAHE for the expansion of Database of Consultants and with ENQA

for the quality assurance of cross–border higher education. APQN also has signed MoU with the he Arab Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (ANQAHE) to reinforce and provide a platform for the desired cooperation between the two networks.

6. Finance

In March, 2016, the Secretariat organized the annual audit for the 2015 Finance Statement, the audit report has showed that "the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of ASIA–PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK as at December 31, 2015, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards for Non–profit Organization."

According to the APQN 2015 Annual Finance Report, the operation cost of the Secretariat has kept about 60% of the annual income of membership fees. The Secretariat has made great efforts for the collection of the membership fees. Up to the writing of this report, about 70% of members have paid their 2015 membership fees.

7. Words for the Future

The year 2016 is also the year for the bid of the APQN Secretariat with the term from 2016–2019. The Call for EoIs to host the Secretariat will be sent to the Full and Intermediate members. Anyway, the Secretariat in Shanghai will continue the full support for the operation of the network just as in the past seven years, and keep the efficiency and effectiveness by the end of the term on May 31, 2016. Within this period, except the assigned tasks of information distribution, administrative support and finance management, the Secretariat would like to creatively complete: 1. to make more promotional activities to attract more new members; 2. to sort out and deal with the current issues and prepare for the templates of documents for future use; 3. to strengthen the capacity–building the Secretariat staff.

Li Yaogang

Prof. Dr. Li Yaogang

APQN Secretary/Treasurer

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2015 APQN CONFERENCE

The Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2015 Conference with the theme "Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance of Higher Education" was held in Kunming, China in April 17–19, 2015 and hosted by Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Centre (YHEEC), Yunnan University (YNU) and Yunnan Association of Higher Education (YAHE). 192 representatives from 28 countries/territories within and outside the region had participated in the Conference.

In the opening ceremony, Dr. Zhu Huashan, Deputy Director–General of Yunnan Provincial Department of Education in China, Dr. Jagannath Patil, President of APQN and INQAAHE, and Prof. Lin Wenxun, President of Yunnan University and Chair of the Local Organising Committee, respectively delivered the well–prepared welcome speeches.

Dr. Judith Eaton, President of Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), U.S.A made the keynote speech with the title "Changing Role of QA Agencies: Regulation, Autonomy and Internationalization", while Prof. Rujhan Mustafa, CEO of Malaysian Qualifications Agency(MQA), Malaysia presented the other keynote speech on "Asian Perspective on Globalization and Diversification of HE Quality Assurance". Both speeches gave the audience the ideas and experiences of "globalization and diversification" to stimulate discussions.

In the session for Special Plenary Addresses, Prof. Dr. Wu Yan, Director–General of Higher Education Evaluation Center (HEEC) of the Ministry of Education in China and Mr. Wang Lisheng, Director–General of China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC) in China presented the overall scene of the quality assurance of higher education in China, which was chaired by Prof. Dr. Dong Yunchuan, Director of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center (YHEEC).

The 3 panel discussions are respectively focused on the topics on: 1. quality assurance mechanism of cross–border higher education: collaboration, challenges and prospect; 2. quality label: professionalism, excellence and quality assurance of QA agencies; and 3.Improving Relevance and Quality of Undergraduate Education: Course assessment, Teacher Assessment and Learning outcomes.10 panelists, including Prof. Angela Yung–chi Hou, Prof. Zhang Jianxin, Prof. Keith Morrision have shared their research findings and academic ideas as well as their own experience or practice with the plenary participants on the relevant topics.

In the 5 Parallel Sessions, 32 papers covering the 6 sub–themes had been orally presented, which were selected by peer review from the 56 submitted papers. The topics for the 3 workshops were "Quality Assurance of Cross–border Higher Education", "Internal Quality Assurance" and "Quality Label". In addition, 12 posters had been demonstrated in the Conference venue.

The Conference was successfully completed in the afternoon of April 18, 2015. Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation

Centre (YHEEC), Yunnan University (YNU) and Yunnan Association of Higher Education (YAHE), the joint hosts of the Conference and AGM were respectively awarded the trophies for successfully hosting the Conference, which conveyed the sincere gratitude of APQN and all the participants. Dr. Jagannath Patil said, "I have no words to thank you enough for love and affection showered by your team on APQN colleagues during this conference. This conference has set very good standards, and expectations will be high for the next host."

APQN 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The APQN 2015 Annual General Meeting was held in Kunming, China in the afternoon of April 18, 2015. There were totally 58 participants attending the meeting, among which 46 agencies or institutions, including 16 Full members, 7 Intermediate member, 19 Institutional members, 2 Associate member and 2 Observers. Dr. Jagannath Patil (President of APQN), Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi (Vice-President of APQN) and Prof. Li Yaogang (Secretary/Treasurer) respectively made the reports.

Two proposals: (1) to raise the standard of membership fees, and (2) to give representation to institutional members into the APQN Board were respectively presented by Prof. Angela Yung-chi Hou and Prof. Colin Peiris. Dr. Jagannath Patil emphasized that the proposals were open for discussion, and they would be improved by the Secretariat after the AGM. At the end of the meeting, Dr. Jagannath Patil made acknowledgement for all the participants, and expressed the sincere gratitude for the host of the Conference and AGM.

APQN 2015 QUALITY AWARDS

APQN Quality Awards were initiated in 2013 for those doing much more outstanding work individually, institutionally, as well as internationally, which was intended to identify and distinguish extraordinary or prominent QA contributions and good practices that have potential of replications in the Asia-Pacific area. 8 winners in four categories were finally selected by the international jury after review. At the Awarding Ceremony in Zhigongtang in Yunnan University, China in the evening of April 17, 2015, Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQN President expressed his sincere congratulations to

all the winners and invited the distinguished guests on stage to award the trophies and certificates.

i. Best/Model Internal QA Award

This award is awarded to both Horizon College of Business & Technology, Sri Lanka and Macao Polytechnic Institute, Macao, China, which have committed to internal quality assurance mechanisms and quality culture building.

ii. Quality Champions Award

This award is awarded to Prof. Li Yaogang, Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China and Engr. Salim Ahmed Khan, Riphah International University, Pakistan as experts within the region, and Prof. Stamenka Uvalic–Trumbic & Dr. Judith Eaton as experts outside the region. They have made outstanding contributions in promoting quality and excellence of higher education nationally and internationally in his or her research achievements or leadership of QA activities.

iii. Training and Support of Reviewers

This award is awarded to Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council, Sri Lanka, which has made prominent contributions in training and support of reviewers locally and/or regionally, and developed sound and effective material kit of training.

iv. International Cooperation in QA

This award is awarded to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom, which has engaged in successful cooperation with agencies and institutions within the Asia–Pacific region to further cross–border education and quality assurance of international initiatives.

MOU BETWEEN APQN & ANQAHE

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Arab Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (ANQAHE) and the Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN) during the INQAAHE 2015 Conference in Chicago on 2nd of April 2015. This MoU is intended to reinforce and provide a platform for the desired cooperation between APQN and ANQAHE. It aims at strengthening the work of APQN and its member agencies and the work of ANQAHE and its member agencies, as well as their interrelations, with overall goal of enhanced global understanding and practice in the field of quality assurance in higher education. This MoU is intended to facilitate the cooperation between APQN and ANQAHE and to set the basis for common projects in areas of mutual interest and benefit.

APQR REVIEW FOR FHEC

The APQN 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM) endorsed the proposal for the establishment of Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR). APQR would be register of external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs) that demonstrate certain thresholds of maturity, which is to acknowledge well developed quality assurance agencies. APQR document is outcome of yearlong consultation with various stakeholders which concluded in the special meeting at Macao during 22–23 January 2015. The first meeting of APQR Council was held in Kunming on 17 April 2015, adding to the credibility of APQR.

From June 23 to 25 June 2015, the first formal review of Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR) has been carried on in Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) in Suva, Fiji. Facilitated by Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQN President, the review panel included 3 experts:

1. Prof. Colin N Peiris (Director of QAA Council of Sri Lanka and Vice–Chancellor of Horizon Campus in Sri Lanka) as the Chair;
2. Dr. Jeanette Baird (Adviser to the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology in Papua New Guinea);
3. and Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang (Chief Expert of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center, China).

The panelists conducted interviews with the Commissioners and staff of FHEC, with committee members, assessors and evaluators, with representatives from accredited institutions and with a range of other stakeholders. The premises as well as records of assessments and internal working documents were reviewed.

After three–day meticulous and intense work, the review panel has concluded that FHEC is in 'overall substantial compliance' with the APQR Criteria, incorporating the Chiba Principles. As a result of the positive review, the APQR Council has approved that FHEC is accepted onto the APQR with a five–year period. It is believed that APQR will serve as a quality hallmark for the external quality assurance agencies in the Asia–Pacific region.

APQN QUALITY INFORMATION PORTAL

APQN Quality Information Portal (AQIP) is a timely response to the pressing demand for more transparency and better information provision regarding the national education systems in Asia and Pacific Region. AQIP is a tool, designed to benefit the members of APQN, as well as wider public: students, employers, public authorities and researchers. The objectives of the AQIP are:

1) To provide access to quality, reliable and up–to–date information about higher education systems, including quality assurance systems across Asia Pacific Region;

2) To facilitate cooperation and exchange of information between quality assurance agencies/ authorities within the Asia Pacific Region;

3) To set–up and provide access to the quality assurance expert database.

Through achieving these objectives, the information portal will promote good practices and peer–to–peer learning across the Asia Pacific region and global level at large. It will seek to improve the links between Asia Pacific Quality Network and member agencies/ institutions. As an underlying objective, the information portal could increase trust in education systems across the region through providing reliable information about quality assurance processes and standards. Quality Information Portal (www.qualityinformationportal.org) hosted and administered by the Horizon Campus in Sri Lanka and 12113 visitors have visited the portal.

Regional Level, National Level, Useful Links, International Level and Contact us are the main menus/links of the portal. About APQN, Higher Education in Asia Pacific, Contact Details of APQN members are listed under Regional Level.

Country information are available in National Level. National Higher Education System of 31 countries/territories namely: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Croatia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Macao, Malaysia, Maldives, Magnolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of China, Russia, Samoa, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Vietnam are available under country information. Higher Education List and Institutional Profiles of the above countries and other countries details are under

construction and to be completed once the details are received. At present site consists of only 31 countries and other APQN member countries details to be inserted in future to complete in comprehensive manner.

Further the portal provides details on Higher Education System, Competent Authorities, Accredited Higher Education Institutes and Degrees, Quality Assurance Bodies, National Qualification Framework, Information for Students and Contact Details of the respective Country. Students who are interested to do studies in the above countries are able to get details on Visa Requirement, Living Cost and Language Requirements, etc.

APQN QUALITY LABEL

International mobility of students is on continuous rise. In Asia Pacific region, a good number of HEIs are offering programs for international students. This has pushed trend of HEIs and programs looking for international accreditation or quality label or certification besides the local/ national accreditation. APQN has launched the project on Quality Label with Dr. Jagannath Patil and Prof. Jianxin Zhang as the co–Chairs. The objectives of the project are following:

- To establish a system of issuing earned Quality Label (QL) to the eligible higher educational institutions [HEIs] and programmes,
- To facilitate certification and recognition for the interested HEIs/programmes based on pre–defined criteria and standards,
- To develop the criteria and standards required to get APQN label to the interested organizations,
- To develop a periodic review system for earned APQN QA Label to sustain and ensure quality,
- To build the capacity of the QAAs and HEIs to improve standards through recognized system of QA and certification.

The draft framework for QL has been established in 2015. APQN has developed minimum Criteria and standards for internationalization that ensures global recognition of programme such as curriculum, credit transfer, employability, facilities for international students etc. The QL is planned to be offered both at programme and institutional level to the interested entities. The pilot review will be conducted in 2016, and then the criteria and procedure will be improved and finalized.

PUBLICATION OF APQN 2015 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

As a follow–up activity, in January, 2016, the Proceedings of 2015 APQN Conference Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance of Higher Education has been formally published by the Yunnan People's Publishing House. Prof. Jianxin Zhang (APQN Board member) and Dr. Jagannath Pail (APQN President) are the joint chief editors.

The proceedings include 49 selected papers with the following sub–themes in over 400 pages: (1) Quality Assurance of Cross–Board Higher Education, International Accreditation and International Cooperation; (2) Internal Quality Assurance, Including Programme, Project and Course Accreditation; (3) Professional Accreditation, Quality Labels and Ranking; (4) Quality Assurance of Open Educational Resources, Massive Open Online Courses in Post–Traditional Provisions; (5) Teacher Assessment and Student Learning Outcomes Assessment; (6)Qualifications Frameworks, Quality Assurance and Information systems. As approved by the APQN Board, the hard copy of the book is sold with the comprehensive price of USD 20 including the cost of postage and others, and the soft copy can be available at 2016 APQN Conference venue in Fiji on May 26–27, 2016.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION FOR HEED

Higher Education Evaluation and Development (HEED) is a journal founded by Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) and is jointly owned and published by Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN) since 2014. It is a scholarly refereed journal aimed at encouraging research in higher education evaluation and development, raising standard of evaluation research, and sharing outcomes of evaluation and higher education worldwide. Up to present, it has published more than 80 English academic articles, which have been downloaded over 1,220 times, 15 times per every article. In 2015, HEED has successfully released eight articles in English and four in Mandarin. Every article was written by versatile scholars concerning quality assurance and evaluation of higher education, not just in Chinese Taipei, but countries worldwide including Canada and various European countries.

A change in 2016, HEED is now an all–English academic journal and is issuing a general call for papers. We are interested in contents on (1) quality assurance and evaluation in higher education, (2) research development of higher education and its practices, and (3) other topics related higher education and development. Along with APQN, both agencies remain committed to advocating grand thoughts and innovative research of experts, scholars, and researchers worldwide through HEED. For more information, please visit http://aspers.airiti.com/aspers/WebHome.aspx.

APQN STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In order 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 has launched the Exchange Program, which is expected to contribute to the capacity development of the emerging quality assurance systems with varying needs. The exchange will take place at an experienced QA agency selected from among the APQN members and provide staff from emerging QA agencies with thorough exposure to quality assurance procedures and practices through interaction, hands–on experiences and meetings with the host agency.

Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Centre (YHEEC), China hosted Ms. Malini Nair – Prasad and Mr. Waisea Rokobera from the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) and successfully conducted the exchange program from October 2 to November 4, 2015. Ms. Malini Nair – Prasad and Mr. Waisea Rokobera were invited to observe how YHEEC to conduct institutional evaluation, communicated with the teachers and graduates from the Research Institute of Higher Education of Yunnan University (RIHEYUN), and visited Yunnan Vocational College of Culture and Arts (YVCCA). The visit laid foundation for future exchanges and research cooperation.

QACHE ASIA–PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR

The Asia–Pacific Regional Seminar on Quality Assurance of Cross–border Higher Education was co–organized by the Gabinete de Apoio ao Ensino Superior (GAES) of the Macao SAR government and the Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN) at the GAES office, Macao, China on 22–23 January 2015.

The seminar was part of the project, Quality Assurance of Cross–border Higher Education (QACHE), supported by the European Commission's Erasmus Mundus Program. The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) is the project coordinator, and APQN is one of the project partners.

The event gathered around 40 participants from QA agencies and other relevant actors in cross–border higher

education (CBHE) in the region. All project partners participated in the event, both to present outcomes of the other project activities and the European cases, as well as to discuss needs and opportunities for collaboration between agencies and relevant authorities in the future.

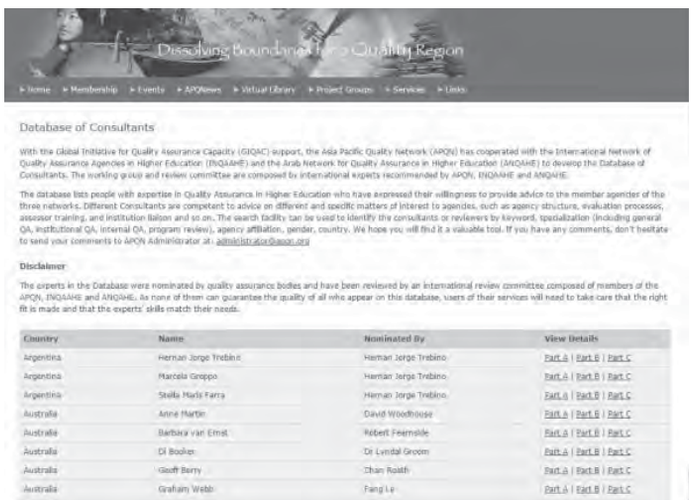
Dr. Alexis Tam Chon Weng, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Macao, Dr. Jagannath Patil, President of APQN and Mr. Rafael Llavori, Board member of ENQA have made the welcome addresses. Dr. Jagannath Patil mentioned that with Asia–Pacific being the focal point, QA agencies in the region will continue to play an increasingly important role and such an undertaking can only happen when APQN members come together and collaborate with each other. Challenges of quality assurance for the cross–border higher education, collaboration between receivers and providers, and perspectives from UNESCO, Europe, Arab region and receiving countries in Asia–Pacific have been presented and discussed. It is believed that such a seminar further opens up the door to understand each other which could result in future collaborations. The PPTs and relevant materials could be available at: https://qache.wordpress.com/.

On Nov. 5–6, Dr. Jagnannath Patil, Prof. Angela Hou Yung–chi and Mr. Fang Le were invited as the representatives of APQN to participate in the QACHE final dissemination QACHE Conference in Paris. Dr. Jagannath Patil presented the survey result on QACHE among the APQN members, Prof. Angela Hou Yung–chi presented with the topic on "Mutual recognition in quality assurance decisions in CBHE", and Mr. Fang Le presented on the topic "Collaboration in quality assurance reviews concerning CBHE". The conference has released the formal version of "A Toolkit for Quality Assurance Agencies: Cooperation in Cross–Border Higher Education". The relevant PPTs and the Toolkit are available at: http://www.enqa.eu/index.php/events/qache–conference–on–qa–of–cross–border–higher–education/ and the hard copies have been posted to the APQN Full members and Intermediate members.

EXPANSION OF THE DATABASE OF CONSULTANTS

The Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) cooperated with the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) to enhance the database of consultants in 2015. The Review Committee was composed by Dr. Jagannath Patil, Dr. Carol Bobby and Prof. Colin Peiris.

APQN and INQAAHE agency member were encouraged to nominate qualified candidates for each of the three categories of consultants. 87 nominees have been received up to the deadline. The initial priority was given to strengthening a global database for (1) general quality assurance consultants; it is also a high priority to strengthen its databases for (2) consultants in institutional quality assurance; and (3) consultants for programmatic quality assurance. After review, 68 more experts have been added to the Database of Consultants after review by the international committee composed of members from both Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE). In total, there are 188 experts in the Database.



All these experts in the database have expressed their willingness to be contacted regarding the provision of advice in the field of quality assurance in higher education. The various consultants are competent to advise on different and specific matters of interest to agencies, such as agency structure, evaluation processes, assessor training, institution liaison and so on.

HEEACT &APQN 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On December 4th 2015, Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) and Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN) jointly organized an international conference on the theme "Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Accountability, Internationalization, and Professionalism" in Chinese Taipei. International QA institution representatives (Pic. 1 left to right, front row), including Dr. Hazman Shah Vijayan Abdullah, Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), Dr. Judith Eaton, President of Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), Dr. Jong–Tsun, Huang, President of HEEACT, Dr. Akihiko Kawaguchi, National Institution for Academic Degrees and University (NIAD–UE), and Ms. Wai–Sum Wong, Joint Quality Review Committee (JQRC) were all invited to conduct speeches and share valuable experiences on quality assurance in higher education.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BY MPI & APQN

The International Conference on Quality Assurance and the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education was held at Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) from 23–25 November 2015. Organized by MPI and co–organized by the Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN), this international conference explored factors impacting upon teaching and learning while providing a chance for participants to exchange views on the latest developments in quality assurance of higher education.

The opening ceremony of this conference was officiated by Dr. Stephen Jackson, Associate Director International of the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Professor William Lee, Director of HKU SPACE and former Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, and Dr. Jan Cameron, Director of the Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities and representative of APQN, together with Professor Lei Heong Iok, President of MPI.

Dr. Stephen Jackson, Prof. William Lee and Dr. Jan Cameron gave their keynote speeches. Dr. Jackson discussed the UK's latest initiative the Teaching Excellence Framework while Professor Lee and Dr. Cameron talked respectively about the quality assurance systems. of HKU SPACE and New Zealand. Overall, the conference was participated by about forty quality assurance and higher education scholars and experts from various countries or regions. By the end of the conference, a survey was conducted to collect the participants' feedback about the conference. The results indicated that the participants found the conference satisfactory and stimulating, enjoying the various discussions we had during various sessions of the conference.

NAEAC TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR PROGRAM EVALUATORS

Three–day training workshop was organized for program evaluators (PEs) of NAEAC from July 29–31, 2015 at Grand Regency Hotel, 1–Club Road, Islamabad. Resource person was Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang. She has expertise in Quality Assurance and Accreditation with considerable international experience of institutional and program review.

Based on provincial as well as institutional representation, 30 participants for the workshop were identified and nominated for the training workshop. This is the third such training workshop in the series, and earlier two such workshops were conducted with total number of 60 program evaluators/experts. The main focus of the third training workshop for PEs was focused on the following aspects:

- Key features of external assessment and accreditation of degree programs.
- Significance of participatory SWOT analysis.
- Best practices for accreditation of degree programs.

The main objectives of this three day workshop were:

- To improve the relevant skills of PEs in undertaking external evaluation and accreditation process and
- To understand participatory SWOT analysis and NAEAC best practices of external peer review.

The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Dr. G. Raza Bhatti, Advisor HEC whereas the concluding session was presided by Prof. Dr. Riaz Hussain Qureshi, Ex–Advisor, HEC. Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, the Resource Person delivered the workshop proceedings in a very diligently and meticulous manner. She appreciated the interest and commitment of the participants in the workshop deliberations. Participants of the workshop highly valued the training material and its delivery by the resource person. They expressed their full satisfaction on the teaching–learning process and desired that such workshops may be regularly organized for orientation and updating the knowledge and skills of the P.Es. Chairperson of the concluding session also appreciated and acknowledged the hardwork of the resource person. He also complimented the expertise of Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, resource person of NAEAC and expected that with her third visit to Pakistan /HEC, the Professional cooperation between APQN and HEC will be further strengthened.

2016 APQN CONFERENCE AND AGM

The Asia–Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2016 Conference and AGM will be hosted by Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) in Natadola, Fiji on 26–27 May, 2016. The conference will be open to all registered delegates except the AGM which is for members only. The main theme of the 2016 Asia–Pacific Quality Network Conference is: Sustainable Development of Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

The sub–themes are:

- Quality Assurance and Sustainable Development: the Benefits of Sustaining EQA, IQA, Qualifications Framework and Peer Review System,
- Higher Education Trends and Accountability of QA in Asia Pacific in Terms. of Productivity, Equity and Cost,
- Quality Assurance of University Governance and Management,
- Assuring Standards and Quality of Higher Education: Teaching and Learning,
- Managing Quality of Cross–Border Movements in Higher Education,
- The Internet Generation and its Implication on Higher Education Quality Management (OER, MOOCs, Online Distance Courses and Assessment).

The key dates for the Conference are following:

1 September 2015	Call for Contributions released
20 September 2015	Online Registration opened
20 April 2016	Online registration closes
10 May 2016	Online registration payment deadline
26-27 May 2016	APQN Conference and AGM, Natadola, Fiji

In addition, kindly note that the APQN Conference will be preceded by the 2016 International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) Forum on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Challenging Times in the same venue from 22nd – 24th May, 2016.

2015 REPORT ON FINANCE

Categories / Programs	Budget	Actual
Income		
Annual Membership Fees,Initial joining fees	46,912.00	31083.42
Interest received	700.00	608
QACHE Project	36,548.20	10708.75
Other income by fundraising or service	20,000.00	7725
Total income	104160.2	50125.17
Expenses		
Administration	800.00	0
Audit fees	1,000.00	969.09
Bank fees/TT fees	1,500.00	885.8
Website maintenance	6,500.00	2755
Administrator Salary	18,000.00	18000
Publications based on APQN 2015 Conference papers	2,500.00	2500
Asia Pacific Quality Informational Portal	5,000.00	2500
APQN Quality Label	2,500.00	1000
Annual Conference Sponsorship	15,000.00	9474.62
APQN Quality Awards 2014	1,800.00	105
QACHE Project for Macao Seminar and Staff Cost, etc	35,202.89	18826.79
Publication of Journal, Annual Report and others	10,000.00	9121.35
Total Expenses	**99,802.89**	66137.65
Balance for 2015	**4,357.31**	**-16012.48**
Balance carried forward from 2014	167528.07	167,528.07
Balance	171,885.38	151,515.59

NOTE: In 2015, 54 members are overdue payment of membership fees with the total amount of USD 24,455.27. Especially, 18 of them have not paid for more than 2 years with the total amount of USD 12,584.29.

apqn

ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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