

2008

Annual Report 2008



APQN Annual Report 2008

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ABN 11 769 716 226

Secretariat:
Level 10, 123 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
AUSTRALIA

Tel: +61 3 9664 1039
Fax: +61 3 9639 7377

Email: apqn@auqa.edu.au
Website: www.apqn.org

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Design and layout: Liesha Northover

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Leaders and APQN members

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INTRODUCTION

THE NETWORK

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

THE BOARD

NETWORK ACTIVITY



ROOFTOPS, KYOTO

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report covers the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2008. It reports on the achievements of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network' through it's governance, projects and finances.



WELCOME TO APQN

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) was developed with the purpose of serving the needs of quality assurance agencies in higher education in a region that contains over half the world's population.

This is a fast-growing region, with an increasing appetite for education, and with increasing mobility of students and providers to meet that need. In turn, this makes it a region of growing and developing quality assurance agencies that needs to be able to deal with public and private providers, and with education and students that cross national borders. The APQN is already helping to build alliances between agencies, and assisting countries/territories that do not have a quality assurance agency of their own.

Many hands have contributed to the development of the Network, and through continued international collaboration we have seen the APQN expand and flourish. We were fortunate in having World Bank support for capacity-building through the early years, and now with the continued support from UNESCO with the Global Initiative in Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC) grant, APQN continues to thrive. APQN secured a GIQAC grant of USD\$100,000 to cover the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. The approved proposal covers the following four projects, which are extensively reported on in this document:

- APQN Website: Expansion/Maintenance and Database Development
- Internship and Cross-regional Staff Exchange Programme
- Training Materials and Resource Package
- Chinese Translation Project

I hope you enjoy reading the APQN Annual Report 2008.

Liesha Northover
APQN Administrator



THE NETWORK

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Our Vision

To be a self-sustaining Network by 2010, in which it will come naturally to members to use APQN as a first point of reference for advice or support.

OUR VALUES

APQN is:

- ▶ committed to high quality higher education
- ▶ supportive of quality agencies in the region
- ▶ efficient in its operations
- ▶ open in its information sharing
- ▶ dissemination of information through newsletters, documents, journals and books, whether in paper-based or electronic form
- ▶ training and development through seminars, workshops and conferences

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
- ▶ reference to the databases and other resources of INQAAHE and other organisations
- ▶ other appropriate means as determined by the General Council or the Board



ROOFTOPS, KYOTO

OUR OBJECTIVES

The purposes of APQN are:

- ▶ to promote good practice in the maintenance and improvement of quality in higher education in the Asia-Pacific region
- ▶ to facilitate research in the region into the practice of quality management in higher education and its effectiveness in improving the quality of higher education in the region
- ▶ to provide advice and expertise to assist the development of new quality assurance agencies in the region
- ▶ to facilitate links between quality assurance agencies and acceptance of each others' decisions and judgements
- ▶ 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 organisations
- ▶ where appropriate, represent the region and promote the interests of the region, e.g. vis-à-vis other networks and international organisations

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

The APQN Board, with the particular assistance of Mr Mike Willing, formerly of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), completed a Strategic Plan for the years 2009–2010. The Strategic Plan will be presented to the General Council at the Annual General Meeting of the members on 4 March 2009 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

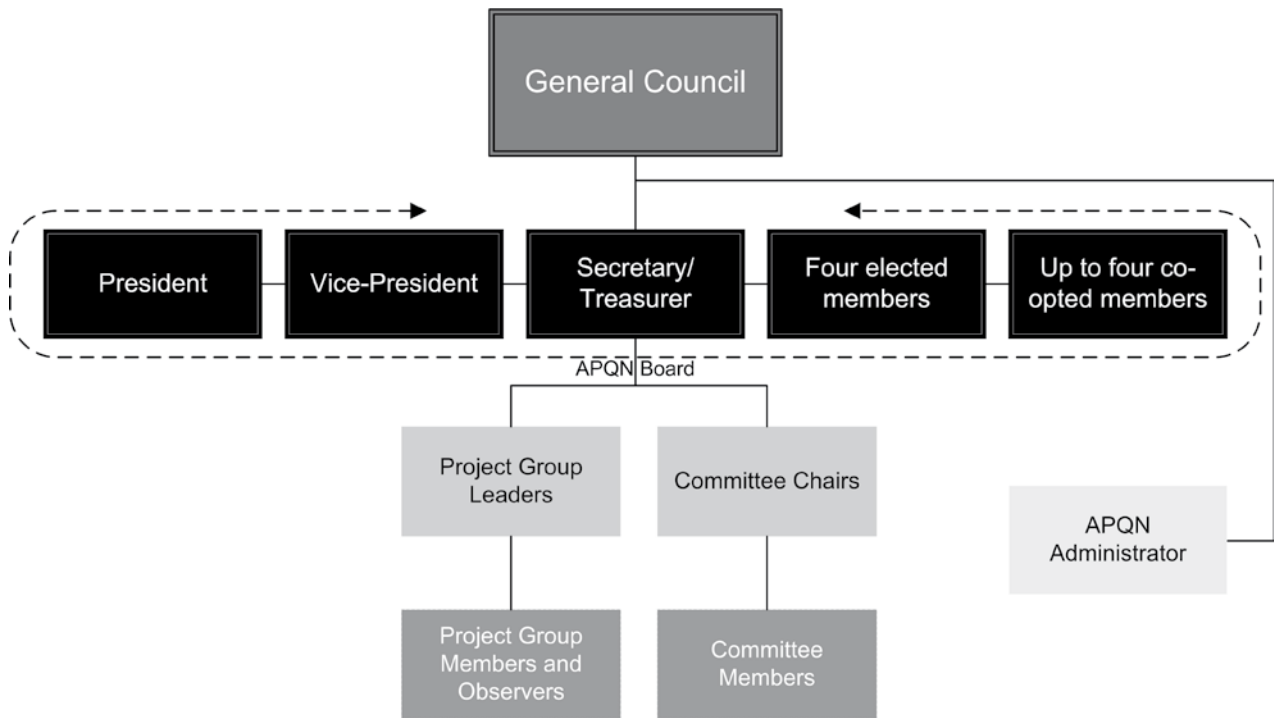
Our Mission

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.



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

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PHOTOGRAPH BY LIESHA NORTHOVER

ROOFTOPS, KYOTO

THE BOARD

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Liesha Northover
APQN Administrator
AUSTRALIA



Concepcion Pijano
President
PHILIPPINES



Akihiko Kawaguchi
Vice-President
JAPAN



Dorte Kristoffersen
Secretary/Treasurer
HONG KONG



Zita Mohd Fahmi
MALAYSIA



Jiang Yanqiao
CHINA



Nuanthip Kamolvarin
THAILAND



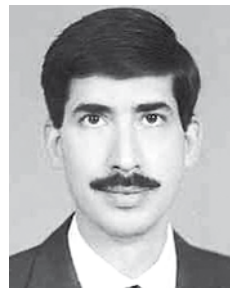
Colin N Peiris
SRI LANKA



Antony Stella
AUSTRALIA



Jagannath Patil
INDIA



Sohail Naqvi
PAKISTAN



Mike Willing
NEW ZEALAND
(until November 2008)



NETWORK ACTIVITY

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CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

At the APQN Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 20 February 2008 held in Chiba Japan, the Board proposed to the General Council an alteration to the Constitution.

The proposal was approved by the General Council and a subsequent formal submission was made to Consumer Affairs Victoria, Department of Justice. This amendment was officially approved on 14 April 2008 and has now been incorporated into the Constitution, version 7.0, on the APQN website at www.apqn.org/virtual_library/.

IDENTIFICATION OF SECRETARY AND SECRETARIAT

According to the APQN Constitution the APQN Secretary/Treasurer is an elected member of the Board. The Constitution is silent, however, about the link between the body providing the administrative support and the Secretary/Treasurer, i.e. whether the Secretary/Treasurer's workplace is expected to host the administration and the administrator or whether the Secretary/Treasurer can be in one member institution and the administration in another.

In the past APQN has been fortunate that the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) has been willing to host the Administration and AUQA has been the workplace of the two first elected Secretary/Treasurers. Most of the costs of the Administration have been borne by the DGF but the Administration was originally established and financed by AUQA. APQN is forever grateful AUQA for this support.

The Board is of the view that the link between the Secretary/Treasurer should be formalised in order to give APQN a stable administrative structure which is important in order for APQN to continue to provide professional services for its members and effectively manage the future challenges. The Board has been discussing a number of solutions and recommending the solution presented below to the membership for approval.

The main reasons for the recommended solution is that the Board considers it to be valuable for the sake of the stability of the Network that the Board plays a direct role in deciding the organisation which will best serve as host for the Secretariat, based on submissions of expressions of interest (see below) and compliance with criteria decided by the Board. Furthermore through the proposed solution the Network the host institution should be guarantor of the continuation of services even if the Secretary/Treasurer should change the Secretariat's appointment period.

Recommendation

The Board recommends that the following clause in regard to the Secretary/Treasurer and the administration is added to the Constitution as a new clause 42 under point VII: The Board:

The Board shall appoint a Secretariat, which must be a full or intermediate member and whose Chief Executive or nominee shall be the Secretary of the Network and a member of the Board ex officio.

It should be noted that this change means that the Secretary/Treasurer is no longer an elected position.

FUTURE PROCEDURE FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Board will identify the Secretariat through a tender process. The Secretary/Treasurer will be appointed for a period of three years so that the Secretariat will always overlap the election of a new Board and provide the necessary platform for the Network. The choice of Secretariat will be based on a set of criteria developed by the Board, including criteria such as costs, qualifications of the Chief Executive or his nominee to take on the role as Secretary, and infrastructure.

The tender process will be initiated mid 2008 to allow for the Secretariat to be in place for the election of the new Board in 2009. The new Secretariat should be decided no later than three months before the next AGM to allow for a transit period between the current and the new Secretariat

VOTING RIGHTS OF CO-OPTED BOARD MEMBERS

According to Section VII, Clause 36 of our Constitution: "...the Board may decide to co-opt to a maximum of four co-opted members, but without a vote on the Board."

The decision not to grant co-opted members voting rights was taken when the co-opted members were project group leaders and some project leaders came from the same organisation as elected members.

At the AGM 2007 members approved a clause introducing the rule that no two elected members can come from the same organization.

In addition to this formal rule the APQN Board has a precedence of primarily co-opting members from member organisations without elected members on the Board to ensure a good spread of members on the Board.



PHOTOGRAPH BY LIESHA NORTHOVER

ROOFTOPS, KYOTO

The co-opted members are expected to take have a similar role to elected members and are expected to have similar responsibilities. The Board is therefore of the view that co-opted members should also have the same privileges as elected members, i.e. also be allowed to vote.

Recommendation

The Board recommends that the sentence: "...but without a vote on the Board" be removed from Clause 36 of the APQN Constitution.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY BOARD MEMBERS

Several APQN Board Members represented the Network at international meetings. The following list of meetings were attended:

Board Member	Date	Events attended
Concepcion Pijano	July 2008	UNESCO meeting – Washington, USA
Zita Mohd Fahmi	July 2008	ASEAN meeting – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Concepcion Pijano	July 2008	ASEAN meeting – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Dorte Kristoffersen	September 2008	UNESCO conference – Macau, China
Dr Antony Stella	December 2008	ENQA workshop – Paris, France

PUBLICATIONS

APQN listed in the ‘World Directory of Associations in Higher Education’, which is led by the Academic Co-operation Association (ACA) and supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), under its ‘ASEM Education Hub’ programme.



MONKS IN KOYASAN, WAKAYAMA-KEN

PHOTOGRAPH BY LIESHA NORTHOVER

REPORT ON MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

SECRETARIAT

GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE CAPACITY (GIOAC)

MEMBERS – GENERAL COUNCIL



PHOTOGRAPH BY LIESHA NORTHOVER

REPORT ON MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THE YEAR 2008 BROUGHT NEW CHALLENGES TO APQN.

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Introduction

In 2008, the Asia Pacific Quality Network turned five. From approximately 20 founding members in 2005, membership has grown to 58 members representing 26 countries within the Asia-Pacific region, and seven observers from five different countries outside the Asia-Pacific region. The year under review brought with it many new challenges.

Highlights of the APQN Evaluation Review

March 2008 marked the end of the World Bank's Development Grant Facility (DGF) which had sustained the growth of the network for the past three years. At the end of the 3-year period, it was required that an external evaluation be done by an independent Consultant to assess the achievements of the DGF objectives. All members received a questionnaire to express their view. Let me take this opportunity to thank you all for your active participation in the survey and for your support to APQN as expressed through the results of the evaluation.

The evaluation report confirmed that the comprehensive range of programs and activities undertaken by APQN have been affirmed by members as significant contributing factors in building capacity in quality assurance. Some of the highlights of the evaluation report are as follows:

DGF funding and in-kind contributions from individuals and member agencies have enabled APQN to target the establishment of quality assurance agencies (QA) in countries/territories. It has also strengthened the practices that support the enhancement, reform and renewal of emerging and developed QA systems. With the DGF funds, APQN began a strong program that of information-sharing and capacity building while considering the unique national contexts in which the agencies have to function. That work is supported through staff exchanges, workshops and consultancy services.

Results of the evaluation also confirm that APQN is a strong model for regional cooperation. In its short life, it has well defined procedures and organisational administrative framework that has successfully delivered programs and other activities to build QA capacity within the region.

The evaluation report also revealed that the greatest impact has occurred in QA mechanisms across national systems, in the exchange of ideas and of expertise, in enhanced institutional capabilities, and in promoting communication and cooperation between agencies and institutions.

Lessons Learned

One of the lessons which we have drawn from the APQN experience is that a regional approach seems to be an efficient and cost effective mechanism to deliver capacity building across a wide and diverse region. The APQN regional model has demonstrated that it has reached many countries and built capacity. The regional approach has led to greater capacity to learn and share.

We have also learned that while the subject of educational quality is global, the work of QA, for the most part, is local. And herein lies the strength of a regional network. A regional model is able to develop higher education QA systems more quickly and efficiently. The proximity of the nations to each other and the ties that bind them together are strong, so the projects and activities take a life of their own.

The Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity

As the DGF was ending, the World Bank and UNESCO launched the Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity or GIQAC. It is a partnership between the WB and UNESCO to support capacity building in QA of higher education in developing countries and countries in transition.

The purposes of GIQAC are: to serve as a worldwide vehicle to build capacity for QA, to support regional training and knowledge sharing activities and assist emerging QA systems in building capacity by sharing information on good practices from around the world.

APQN's GIQAC Projects

In March 2008, the GIQAC approved four projects submitted by APQN. These projects are now being implemented.

The Expansion of APQN's Website and of Existing Databases of Consultants and Reviewers

The continuous development of the website is taking place in conjunction with the development of the database of consultants and reviewers and the testing and strengthening of the moderated online discussion forum. The APQN website serves as the platform for capacity building and information sharing. The platform and structure for online discussion fora is also being developed through the GIQAC project funds.

The Internship and Cross-regional Staff Exchange Program

A two-week internship program provided staff from countries with emerging quality assurance systems with thorough exposure to quality assurance procedures and practices through interaction, hands-on experiences and meetings with the host agency – the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities. Participants to this program came from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mongolia and Indonesia.



KOYASAN, WAKAYAMA-KEN

The Training Materials and Resources Package project consolidates the existing materials for training reviewers and assessors and uses them to prepare a comprehensive training package which can then be made available to members electronically through the website or other electronic means.

The Chinese Translation Project is carried out by Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute. The goal is to translate in Chinese and publish the OECD & World Bank publication on Cross-border Tertiary Education: a Way towards Capacity Development (2004).

Collaboration with other Networks

During the period under review, APQN also collaborated with other networks such as the International Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (INQAAHE) on the Database Project and the Arab Network for Quality Assurance for Higher Education (ANQAHE). APQN's administrator, Liesha Northover, was invited to Cairo to serve as a consultant and assist the staff in the ANQAHE Secretariat develop skills in operating their network.

Memoranda of Cooperation

Memoranda of Cooperation were signed between INQAAHE and APQN, the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) of the United Kingdom, which is an APQN observer, and between the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) and the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU).

The Strategic Plan

Another major activity during the year was the preparation of the Strategic Plan for 2009–2010. APQN's vision-mission as stated in the plan is to be a self sustaining network and to serve as the first point of reference for its members for the provision of expertise, advice, discussion and consultation on all matters relating to quality assurance. Goals for the next two years focused on the financial viability and development of the website to provide a platform for the provision of service for APQN members and to develop and make available training materials and process the requests for a practice oriented training, support and advice to members.

Transfer to Shanghai

In October 2009, the APQN Board after a month-long tender process, decided that it was time for the APQN Secretariat to have a more solid Asian presence and look towards the wider Asian network to take on the responsibility for the APQN Secretariat. The Board decided to accept the bid presented by the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute to serve as the host of the APQN Secretariat from March 2009 to March 2011.

We wish to thank the Australia Quality Assurance Agency (AUQA) for hosting the Secretariat from its infancy and for its continuing support for the past five years. APQN is also deeply indebted to Liesha Northover for her excellent

and efficient service. She has played a vital role in the achievements of APQN and has served as the anchor and corporate memory of the Network. We know we can never thank her enough for the wonderful job she has done for the first five years of APQN. She will surely be missed.

Lastly, we wish to thank the World Bank and UNESCO for their continuing support to APQN and its various projects. International cooperation and commitment towards building capacity in quality assurance as demonstrated by the World Bank and UNESCO are yielding positive results. Feedback from workshops and conferences include testimonies of how well the DGF grant has helped the various countries.

Conclusion

We realise, however, that our work is far from complete. There are new and continuing challenges as we forge ahead. There is a need to create a strong sense of ownership among our members so we can transform ourselves from a grant-seeking body to a sustainable network valued by all stakeholders. Achieving sustainable ongoing funding is critical to APQN's existence and services. There is a need to have a larger membership base.

A continuing challenge is to make greater use of communication technology and to develop other internet-based capacity building tools for quality assurance and the training of external reviewers in developing countries.

Together, in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, we can be drivers of change and respond more effectively to the concerns and needs of this diverse and rapidly growing region which contains over half of the world's population.

Concepcion V. Pijano
President



VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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It has been just over one year since I became Vice-President in October 2007. During this period, there has been a significant milestone, which APQN has embarked on a new stage under the support of GIQAC. Fortunately, I was engaged in the fourth APQN Conference and AGM, taken place in my home country, as the Chair of the Local Planning Committee (LPC).

Project Groups

In my capacity as Vice-President I am also responsible for Project Groups (PGs). The purpose of APQN projects is to identify common areas of interest that need close attention and to facilitate work on those areas with shared responsibilities. Project areas are dynamic in nature, depending on the developments that take place in the quality assurance field. Currently, three PGs are ongoing. PGs' reports including the final reports of completed PGs and the progress reports of current PGs are available via APQN website.

Finance Committee

APQN has a Finance Committee with representation of APQN. Presently the Finance Committee consists of myself as Chair, and Concepcion Pijano, Dorte Kristoffersen, Colin Peiris and John Jennings as members. The terms of reference of the Committee are to:

- ▶ advise the Board on financial and risk-related matters
- ▶ review the end of year accounts
- ▶ recommend a budget for the subsequent year to the Board for approval
- ▶ propose to the Board of APQN criteria for provision of grants and other financial support
- ▶ develop a funding manual which includes matters relating to the DGF and its relationship to APQN
- ▶ set out APQN policies and priorities for funding
- ▶ consider applications from members for grants and other financial support in the light of the criteria established by the Board

Two Finance Committee meetings were held within the reporting period of this Annual Report, and the members discussed about budget, membership fees and others.

In recent years APQN has been dependent on external development funds such as the World Bank development grant facility (DGF) and GIQAC. Meanwhile, the Board has made efforts to strength its income base, through expansion of membership base, continued fundraising activities and others, for sustenance of APQN.

APQN is a membership-based organization run by active contributions from member agencies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in the past, and look forward to your continued contributions to further development of APQN.

Akihiko Kawaguchi

Dr Akihiko Kawaguchi
Vice-President



KOYASAN, WAKAYAMA-KEN



PHOTOGRAPH BY LIESHA NORTHOVER

KOYASAN, WAKAYAMA-KEN

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

The year 2008 was exciting for the Secretariat with a variety of tasks to be performed. The first quarter of the year was dominated by the rounding up of the DGF that included an external financial audit and an external evaluation of APQN's achievements during our first 3 years of existence. The external evaluation was based on a paper review of the Network's projects and administrative procedures and the outcomes of a survey administered to all members. The response rate was impressive and so was the support to the efforts and achievements of APQN. The external evaluation provided evidence that members' valued the activities and information provided by the Network. However, and very importantly, the

evaluation also identified areas for improvement. Based on the recommendations provided, the Board developed an action plan for follow-up and as recommended in the evaluation report a strategic plan. With these two documents, the future direction of APQN is set for the next three years.

The Secretariat also had to develop the administration of the GIQAC projects. Project leaders are required to report to the Secretariat every 5th in the month. This provides rolling updates on progress and facilitates the preparation of the regular reports to UNESCO and the World Bank. The projects are monitored by a GIQAC Committee chaired by the APQN President.

to network forward. Furthermore let me take this opportunity to thank AUQA and in particular Dr David Woodhouse for having hosted and driven the Secretariat even before APQN was formally established. Without this commitment and the provision of resources, APQN would not be where it is today. Another key figure in the development of APQN who will now be leaving us is Liesha Northover. Liesha's footprint is big enough to stay with us for a long time, and there is no doubt that she will be missed as a person, but so will also her professionalism and efficiency. Thanks for your efforts and commitment to APQN 2004-2009.

Ms Dorte Kristoffersen
Secretary/Treasurer

The year 2008 also saw the finalization of the two projects that APQN had been contracted to do by the BCI, i.e. the Scoping Study for quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific region and the workshop on the development of QA principles. This involved a final report on the achievements to the BCI Task Force and an external financial audit for AusAid which provided the funding for the workshop in Chiba. The Secretariat also coordinated the comments from the Board and members to the Chiba Principles before they were published on the BCI website.

On the basis of the Constitutional change approved by members at the 2008 AGM, a request for tender for the hosting of the Secretariat was organized and a new Secretariat, SEEI in Shanghai, and thus a new Secretary / Treasurer, Dr Jiang Yanqiao, were identified. The handover of the Secretariat and the Secretary/Treasurer position will happen at the AGM on 4th March 2009 in Hanoi.

Let me take this opportunity to wish the new Secretariat the best of luck. APQN depends on an efficient and responsive secretariat to bring



PHOTOGRAPH BY LIESHA NORTHOVER



SECRETARIAT

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RELOCATION OF THE APQN SECRETARIAT

On 12 June 2008 an invitation was issued to all APQN members to submit a bid to host the APQN Secretariat from March 2009. The Board received bids from two members expressing an interest to host the Secretariat.

The bids were assessed by the Board against the criteria identified as relevant in the request for tender. Based on a thorough assessment the Board has decided to accept the bid presented by the Shanghai Educational Evaluation Institute (SEEI), which is located in Shanghai, China. Dr Jiang Yanqiao, Executive Vice President of the Shanghai Educational Evaluation Institute (SEEI) will take over as Secretary/Treasurer when the term of the current Secretary/Treasurer expires by the time of the APQN AGM 2009.

In the decision-making process, the Board found it important that the new Secretariat has the necessary human resources and experiences from similar activities to host the Secretariat. In addition, the Board was of the view that there is a need for the APQN Secretariat to have a solid Asian presence. The Board also saw value in having the APQN Secretariat in a developing country to promote fundraising activities and the sourcing of grants.

The Board wishes to take this opportunity to express its profound gratitude to AUQA for having hosted APQN in the early years of its establishment, and for steering APQN through the DGF. AUQA has given APQN a solid foundation that augurs well for the future.

EXTERNAL EVALUATION

The Secretariat prepared the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the external evaluation of APQN. The ToR were approved by the Board before being sent to the World Bank for approval. Following approvals they were submitted for tender to three external evaluation agencies. Bateman Giles Pty Ltd was selected to be responsible for the evaluation.

ACCOUNTING FUNCTIONS

In June 2008, APQN advertised for the position of accountant on the Volunteer Match website at www.volunteermatch.com.au. Two applicants were interviewed for the position. The successful applicant was Ruwan Siriwardena. Ruwan commenced working for APQN as a volunteer accountant in July 2008.

WEB STATISTICS

Web statistic reports are compiled by the APQN Secretariat on a monthly basis. Some of the major findings from the web statistics reports include:

- ▶ remarkable interest in presentations from past events
- ▶ steady interest to the non-APQN events database
- ▶ steady increase in mailing list subscribers

Findings in the APQN web statistics reports were utilised in the development of the Members Only website. For more information on the website developments, see page 20.

APQN NEWS

APQN introduced a quarterly newsletter called APQNews. Issue 1 was disseminated on 7 October 2009. It is available on the APQN website at www.apqn.org/files/virtual_library/newsletters/apqnews-1-2008.pdf.





KOYASAN, WAKAYAMA-KEN

TRAVEL CONSULTANCY

The Secretariat has continued to utilise the professional services of Executive Travel Management (Geelong, Victoria) for all its travel bookings. The service from Executive Travel Management has been exceptional.

MAILING LIST

Great effort has been channelled into expanding the APQN mailing list. Utilising the mailing list function as a tool has increased regional and global awareness of the Network and its activities. By broadening our reach we aim to promote the Network within the region and beyond. Our members, and the quality assurance community at large, benefit from the informative updates periodically issued through this media. The Network itself benefits through establishing additional contacts in countries where we previously didn't have any contacts. Emails are often received from subscribers with expressions of gratitude and thanks for keeping them informed of current events and activities. To register on the mailing list go to www.apqn.org/tools/mailling_list/.

PUBLICATIONS

APQN is constantly expanding its Virtual Library, and has also created a Virtual Library on the new Members Only website. Some of the most recent additions to the virtual library on the public website include:

- ▶ Action Plan for the External Evaluation of APQN (APQN Secretariat and Board)
www.apqn.org/virtual_library/reports/
- ▶ APQN Annual Report 2006–2007 (APQN Secretariat)
www.apqn.org/virtual_library/reports/
- ▶ APQN Constitution no. 7.0
www.apqn.org/virtual_library/constitution
- ▶ APQNews (APQN Secretariat)
www.apqn.org/virtual_library/newsletters
- ▶ External Evaluation of APQN (Bateman and Giles)
www.apqn.org/virtual_library/reports/
- ▶ Toolkit: Regulating the Quality of Cross-Border Education (Japanese)
www.apqn.org/virtual_library/reports/

Some of the most recent additions to the virtual library on the APQN Members Only website include:

- ▶ IQA Feedback Survey Report (Liesha Northover)
- ▶ Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (Prof. Colin N Peiris)
- ▶ Quality Assurance of Distance Learning & E-learning (Assoc. Prof. Takahiro Saito)
- ▶ Strategic Plan 2009-2010 (Mike Willing, APQN Board)
- ▶ Website Survey Report (Liesha Northover)

Links added to the APQN website include:

- ▶ Quality Assurance Principles (Australian Government)
www.apqn.org/virtual_library/reports/
- ▶ Key documents of the Brisbane Communiqué Initiative (Australian Government)
www.apqn.org/virtual_library/reports/





GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE CAPACITY (GIQAC)

20 INTRODUCTION

APQN secured a grant of USD\$100,000 to cover the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. The approved proposal covers the following four projects which are extensively reported on in this document:

- ▶ (A) APQN Website: Expansion/Maintenance and Database Development
- ▶ (B) Internship and Cross-regional Staff Exchange Programme
- ▶ (C) Training Materials and Resource Package
- ▶ (D) Chinese Translation Project

(A) APQN WEBSITE: EXPANSION/MAINTENANCE AND DATABASE DEVELOPMENT

Group Leaders:

1. Dorte Kristoffersen (APQN Secretary/Treasurer), Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ)
2. Liesha Northover (APQN Administrator), Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA)
3. Antony Stella (APQN Board Member), Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA)

I. CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEBSITE

This project has been managed by Liesha Northover—the APQN Administrator—in Australia. The work has been completed with the web design assistance of Matthew Rhodes from Digital Fusion in New Zealand.

This is an ongoing activity that pre-existed the GIQAC grant, but the GIQAC funds have enabled much deeper development of the structure of the digital systems and information available to members. Work instructions are written by Liesha in Melbourne, Australia and are sent to Matthew in Wellington, New Zealand.

The precise components of this activity include the development of a Members Only website, including designing a secure password system for login and management of visitors. It also includes uploading intellectual property currently being developed under other projects in this report, such as (upon completion) the Database of Consultants and Reviewers, Training Materials, Chinese translated materials, and the creation and management of online workshops.

As a way of information sharing to members, APQNews was created. It is intended to be a quarterly newsletter updating APQN on developments within the Network, and it also gives members an opportunity to share QA activities within their organisation. This is seen to be a proactive way of linking members. APQNews-1-2008 can be viewed online at www.apqn.org/files/virtual_library/newsletters/apqnews-1-2008.pdf.

Various surveys were conducted amongst the membership, such as the 'Feedback survey on the IQA moderated online forum' and the 'Website survey' was the tool utilised for the dissemination of questions and collection of data.

The website development and maintenance activity was conceived at the inception of the Network, but further development was initiated out of the need for greater resources to present to members of APQN to encourage membership to the Network.

Developing a Members Only area gives members value for money through providing information not available in the public domain, and offering online workshops all inclusive of their annual membership fee.

Many improvements were made to the APQN Administration site, which is the background management system for the public APQN website. In addition, the development of a Members Only website, offering members greater value, includes several features:

Home page

- ▶ GIQAC – This link gives you information about the GIQAC projects and reports submitted to UNESCO.
- ▶ Contact a member – This link gives the full list of contact information for the CEO and nominated APQN contact person within APQN member agencies.
- ▶ Manage your Staff – This link is only available to the CEO and nominated APQN contact person. It enables these two individuals to add staff within their organisation so that the benefits of the Members Only site can be enjoyed by more members.
- ▶ Opportunity – Periodically I am emailed requests to advertise positions or consultancies within the region. This link provides a platform for member agencies to upload any opportunities the agency feels would benefit the membership.



Events

- ▶ The majority of APQN event details will soon be moved to the Members Only site. Currently all APQN AGMs have been separated from the Past Events and can now only be viewed on the Members Only website.

Virtual library

- ▶ APQN Policies & Procedures – This is a new link. It contains an early version of the APQN Procedures Manual (currently being redeveloped) and the newly created Strategic Plan.
- ▶ Other links in the Virtual Library have been moved from the Public site to the Members Only site and remain the same.

Moderated online forum

- ▶ The Online Forum has been moved from the Public site to the Members Only site and has been renamed Moderated Online Forum. This will host online workshops run by APQN.

Services

- ▶ The Consultants and Reviewers Databases (that are currently under review as part of the GIQAC grant) have been moved from the Public site to the Members Only site.
- ▶ Regional Networks – Contact information for the regional and global networks has been added to the APQN Members Only site.
- ▶ Forms have also been moved to this site.

II. DATABASE OF CONSULTANTS AND REVIEWERS

A five-member Working Group (WG) has been established consisting of:

- ▶ Dr Antony Stella, Audit Director, Australian Universities Quality Agency, Australia (convener)
- ▶ Dr Marjorie Peace Lenn, President, Center for Quality Assurance in International Education, USA
- ▶ Dr Jagannath Patil, Deputy Adviser, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India
- ▶ Susanna Lee, Senior Registrar, Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, Hong Kong
- ▶ Dr Nadia Badrawi, Member of the INQAAHE Board from Egypt, INQAAHE Nominee

The Working Group is currently discussing the principles and procedures to be followed in developing the Database of Consultants and Reviewers. A Draft Procedures Manual and screening criteria have been discussed.

III. MODERATED ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM

APQN has completed one moderated online discussion forum on 'Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)', which was planned before the GIQAC started. The following persons were involved in the forum:

- ▶ Dr Antony Stella, AUQA, Australia (convener)
- ▶ Dr Zia Batool, HEC, Pakistan (facilitator)
- ▶ John Jennings, NZUAAU, New Zealand (facilitator)
- ▶ Trevor Webb, QAC UGC, Hong Kong (facilitator)

To summarise the results achieved, APQN evaluated the forum after its completion and the evaluation showed a high degree of satisfaction with the forum in the form of increasing the participants' understanding of the key issues related to IQA. The evaluation also identified some areas for improvement of future online such as means to ensure that the exchange of information and discussion can continue after the formal completion of the course.

APQN is currently running its second online forum. The topic of the forum is 'Writing Audit/Evaluation/Accreditation Reports'. The following persons are involved in the forum:

- ▶ Nick Harris, convener, formerly QAA UK (now consultant)
- ▶ Andrea Hope, facilitator, Shue Yan University, Hong Kong
- ▶ Robyn Adams, facilitator, RMIT, Australia
- ▶ BS Ponmudiraj, facilitator, NAAC, India

The Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) forum was launched in April 2008 and concluded in August 2008. The Writing Audit/Evaluation/Accreditation Reports forum was launched in December 2008 and will run until March 2009.

The online courses are a continuation of a development started by APQN with the support of the World Bank DGF. The first online course was organised in cooperation with IIEP and took place from April to June 2007. This initiative was followed by the first online discussion forum organised by APQN alone. The latter was on External Quality Assurance for Higher Education.

The APQN Board considers the online discussion fora to be one of the most important means of offering capacity building opportunities for its members in an economical and continuous way.

(B) INTERNSHIP AND CROSS-REGIONAL STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Group leader: Concepcion Pijano (APQN President), The Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU)

The following people were involved in the internship program from August 10–23, 2008:

- ▶ Pen Sithol, Director, Dept. of Standards, Accreditation Committee of Cambodia
- ▶ Lay Sopagna, Technical Staff, Accreditation Committee of Cambodia

The following persons were involved in the internship program from September 29 to October 10, 2008:

- ▶ Jesmin Pervin, Asst. Director, Private University Division, University Grants Commission, Bangladesh
- ▶ Nguyen Huu Cuong, Expert of Accreditation, General Department of Evaluation, Testing and Accreditation, Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam

Overseeing the project is Concepcion V. Pijano, PAASCU Executive Director with the Commission on Tertiary Education. Some of the members served as mentors to the interns.

Before the internship program started, each participant was asked to draw up a list of expectations to ensure that the planned activities would match the particular needs of the intern. The internship programme includes the following:

- ▶ exposure in the PAASCU Secretariat
- ▶ orientation on the various types of visits conducted by PAASCU
- ▶ participation in an actual visit to an institution (4 institutions)
- ▶ visits to the quality assurance units of institutions (3 institutions)
- ▶ attendance in meetings related to quality assurance (2 meetings)

The four interns served as accreditors in various institutions across the country. They also observed the internal quality assurance processes being undertaken by institutions on various stages of accreditation. In addition, they joined meetings related to quality assurance activities.

Considerable time was spent in the PAASCU Secretariat where the participants observed closely the day-to-day operations and got acquainted with the processes and procedures pertaining to the conduct of survey visits.

All the interns were requested to keep a journal to record their insights, observations and the best practices which they noted on a day-to-day basis. Guide questions were given out for each activity to enable the interns to reflect on their experiences. A report was submitted after each activity.

The mentors helped the interns process their experiences and were available to respond to their queries. At the end of the 2-week program, the participants were asked to reflect on their most important learnings and how they were going to apply the knowledge they gained to improve their home agencies.

The activity was conceived as a response to the need for more qualified QA personnel in the Asia-Pacific region. Many accrediting agencies are emerging in the region and this project hopes to provide staff from these agencies with thorough exposure to QA procedures and practices. The training will help build capacity and improve assessment, accreditation and external review of institutions, programs and systems in various agencies across the region. PAASCU, being one of oldest accrediting agencies in the region, decided to open its doors and share its experiences with emerging QA agencies.

The participants to the internship program acknowledged that they acquired new knowledge, skills and competencies during the 2-week program. The hands-on experiences and interaction with the host agency and its member institutions provided them with new insights and knowledge on QA best practices which they can adopt/adapt in their own countries. Opportunities which were made available to them such as joining actual team visits and spending time with the PAASCU Secretariat and various institutions broadened their horizons and taught them new and better ways of doing things. As recorded in their journals, they were able to identify many best practices which they can apply to their own agencies. Their most important learnings revolve on the processes and procedures which they noted during their internship program such as the steps to be followed by QA agencies, the importance of internal quality assurance units, report writing, actual conduct of team visits, preparation and revision of evaluation instruments and accreditation standards. Details of their experiences and the lessons learned are found in their diaries.



KOYASAN, WAKAYAMA-KEN

(C) TRAINING MATERIALS AND RESOURCE PACKAGE

Group Leader: Prof. Colin N. Peiris, QAA Council of the UGC, Sri Lanka

Quality assurance (QA) in higher education is a systematic process of assessing and verifying inputs, outputs, and outcomes against standardized benchmarks of quality to maintain and enhance quality, ensure greater accountability and facilitate harmonization of standards across academic programs, institutions, and systems.

The people involved in this activity were:

- ▶ Prof. Colin N. Peiris, QAA Council, Sri Lanka (team leader)
- ▶ Dr. Jayantha L. Ratnasekera, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (consultant)
- ▶ Ms. Samantha P. Wickramasinghe, QAA Council, Sri Lanka (secretary)

Over the last three years the APQN has successfully conducted a range of training sessions for reviewers. There already exists a lot of training material and other resources. The first goal is to consolidate these existing materials and use them to prepare a comprehensive training package which can then be made available to members electronically through the website or other electronic means. Materials would be tested in the countries participating in the Training Workshop scheduled in the first quarter of 2009 that would be the initial beneficiaries and provide the feedback for further improvement.

At the beginning the Consultant was hired on part time basis and then materials were collected which are available in the web. Individual resource persons were also contacted and requested them to send their materials and informed other sources to provide more information.

Available resources were analysed and started consolidating them and prepared various forms of electronic materials which will be sent for reviewers' comments. Finally the electronic resources will be tested in other countries.

In summary, the following training materials are being developed:

- ▶ Reviewers profile
- ▶ Tips for reviewers
- ▶ Training objectives
- ▶ Importance and guidance of the preparation of self-evaluation report
- ▶ Guidelines for reviewers and accreditors
- ▶ Review judgements
- ▶ Guidance on the preparation of the review report

- ▶ Effective presentations in workshops
- ▶ Key features of the review visit

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(D) CHINESE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Group Leader: Jiang Yanqiao (APQN Board Member), Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI)

The people involved in this activity were:

- ▶ Jiang Yanqiao, Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (project leader, proofreader)
- ▶ Zu Yuanyuan, Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (project manager, proofreader)
- ▶ Pei Lide, Beijing Education Evaluation Institute (cooperation [workshop, forum])
- ▶ Zhang Zhaoxia, Beijing Education Evaluation Institute (translation)
- ▶ Chen Yuting, Tianjin Educational Development and Evaluation Center (translation)
- ▶ Yang Xiaojiang, Jiangsu Education Evaluation Institute (cooperation [workshop, forum])
- ▶ Wu Yue, Liaoning Educational Academe (cooperation [workshop, forum])
- ▶ Jing Liying, Heilongjiang Education Evaluation Center (cooperation [workshop, forum])
- ▶ Yang Jun, Guangdong Educational Research and Evaluation Center (cooperation [workshop, forum])
- ▶ Zhu Hanyi, Guangdong Educational Research and Evaluation Center (translation)
- ▶ Dong Yunchuan, Yunnan Education Evaluation Office (cooperation [workshop, forum])
- ▶ Zhang Jianxin, Yunnan Education Evaluation Office (translation)

MAY TO JUNE 2008

(1) Identify staff and consult with them

SEEI identified twelve people from ten different provincial agencies as the project team members (see list above). These agencies come



GIQAC CONTINUED...

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from Shanghai, Jiangsu, Yunnan, Guangdong, Beijing, Tianjin, Liaoning and Heilongjiang. All staff sent to participate in this work were proficient in English, with four working as translators and two working as proofreaders. Others worked as cooperators and take an active part in the activities relating to translation.

(2) Identify proofreaders and draft the contract

Three proofreaders were identified and drafted the contract. These proofreaders are Dr. Jiang Yanqiao, Dr. Zu Yuanyuan and Mr. Xu Yongji.

(3) Project team member meeting

On 20, June, 2008, there was a project team member meeting at Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute. At the meeting, the members discussed project plans, assigned tasks, and items related to translation, such as abbreviation, proper nouns, etc. The members agreed to work as a team to produce high quality products as scheduled.

(4) Workshop on cross-border education

The 'cross-border education' workshop was held on the same day of the team member meeting. After a brief introduction of APQN and GIQAC project, Mr. Jiang Yanqiao gave a report on cross-border education.

The main ideas in this report are:

- ▶ Characterising cross-border education
- ▶ Challenges arise from cross-border education
- ▶ UNESCO-OECD Guidelines
- ▶ UNESCO-APQN Toolkit
- ▶ China's Practice for assuring the quality of cross-border education.

Relevant articles and papers concerning this topic were also prepared for the team members. There was a discussion right after the report. The team members said, the translation project provides them with a good opportunity to understand cross-border education, and makes them think much on how to improve the quality of cross-border education. They said the workshop and team training enhanced their quality assurance knowledge.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2008 – TRANSLATION IN PROCESS

From July to September, all team members were devoted to the translation work. So far, all the translation work has been completed, accompanied by continuous feedback and consultation.

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER – PROOFREAD AND GIQAC SYMPOSIUM ON '2008 EDUCATION EVALUATION FORUM'

On the Shanghai 2008 Education Evaluation Forum which was held from 6 to 7, Nov, the project leader Dr. Jiang Yanqiao, APQN President Mrs. Concepcion V. Pijano, APQN board member Dr Jagannath Patil, and all the Chinese Translation team members gathered together to give a special discussion on GIQAC and the Chinese Translation Project. Mrs. Concepcion V. Pijano pointed out that the translation project plays an important role in information and culture exchange, and will help a lot in developing country's capacity building. She further suggests to translate and introduce good Chinese experience to the world, and realise the interaction between China and the world information exchange. Dr. Jiang reported the current stage of the project and gave the plan of the 2009 publication and circulation of the translated material. The translation will be used as training material in capacity building of QA and the knowledge will be shared by Chinese speakers.



MEMBERS - GENERAL COUNCIL

APQN now boasts:

- ▶ 24 Full members
- ▶ 9 Intermediate members
- ▶ 4 Associate members
- ▶ 21 Institutional members
- ▶ 7 Observers

This brings the total number of members across all categories of membership to 58 members, with an additional seven observers. Six of those 58 members were successfully approved as new members of the Network during the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2008; two were existing members that modified their membership with the Network; and two new observers were also accepted into the Network.

Sadly, two memberships were not renewed: Royal University of Bhutan and the Directorate for Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Timor-Leste. APQN is sorry to lose these two members and wish them well for the future. In 2008 the Network was pleased to accept the following agencies as members:

Country	Member level	Agency
Brunei Darussalam	Intermediate	Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council (BDNAC)
Germany	Observer	Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA)
India	Institutional	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Textile Management
Kuwait	Observer	Private Universities Council
Pakistan	Institutional	Fatima Jinnah Women University
Pakistan	Institutional	Mehran University of Engineering & Technology
Pakistan	Institutional	NED University of Engineering & Technology
Sri Lanka	Institutional	Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology
Vietnam	Full	General Department of Education, Testing and Accreditation (GDETA) – existing member
Vietnam	Institutional	Institute for Educational Research – existing member

To view the complete list of APQN members, visit www.apqn.org/membership/members.

The list of APQN Observers, visit www.apqn.org/membership/observers.

WE WELCOME YOU TO APQN!

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

PAST EVENTS

FUTURE EVENTS

STAFF MOVEMENT & CONSULTANCIES

PROJECTS

PROJECT GROUPS



PHOTOGRAPH BY LIESHA NORTHOVER

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES



28 JAPAN

Future of Quality Assurance in Asia-Pacific: Cooperation and Diversity (Conference and AGM)

Chiba City (19–22 February 2008)

The APQN Conference and AGM is the main annual event for discussing and advancing quality assurance in higher education throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The fourth Conference and AGM was hosted by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE). Under the main theme, a keynote speech, six plenary sessions and more than twenty parallel working sessions were held. A total of 127 participants deepened the relationship between each other through discussions.

The sub-themes of the Conference, were 'Mutual Recognition and Standards', 'Quality Assurance of QA Agencies', 'Respect of Diversity and Network Activity', and two other topics, 'UNESCO-APQN Toolkit' and 'Brisbane Communiqué'.

The open symposium 'What's "University"? - from QA community -' was held in association with the conference and AGM. Considering the diversification of the mission of higher education, the symposium aimed to inspire all for ideas of excellent practices that can be internationally compatible through keynote speeches about practices for quality assurance in APQN, the UK and China, and the panel discussion by experts in quality assurance community.



PHOTOGRAPH BY LIESHA NORTHOVER

KOYASAN, WAKAYAMA-KEN

INDONESIA

Perspective and Evaluation of the Institutional Accreditation

Jakarta (24–25 March 2008)

The APQN workshop, *Perspective and Evaluation of the Institutional Accreditation*, was hosted by the Board of National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia, with Prof. Kamanto Sunarto, Ph.D, Chair, at the helm. The objectives of the workshop were:

1. Comprehensive information on the process and the result of accreditation of higher education institution.
2. Assessment of the manageability of the accreditation process in the field.
3. List of pitfalls in the preparation and the execution of the accreditation.
4. Consolidated assessment results and experience for further improvement.
5. Enhanced effectiveness of quality assurance processes in the country and the region through exchanging best practices in quality management and accreditation of higher education.

The expected outcomes were:

1. Acquisition of knowledge and experience on international practices of institutional accreditation.
2. More effective quality assurance agencies in the Asia-Pacific countries.
3. Stronger international perspective of BAN PT (National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia).

The APQN workshop was successfully completed through the financial support of APQN. They were 24 participants plus 16 members of the BANPT. Almost half of the participants are university rectors. Some of them coming from the most established university such as Gadjah Mada University. It was stimulating event where the participants offered critical and argumentative response to the visitation process of BAN-PT's Institutional Accreditation. Most important was the participant's critical and constructive suggestions for the 15 standards that the agency applies. We thank you very much for all supports from the APQN, especially from Ms Conception Pijano and Ms Liesha Northover who helped us immensely in preparation for the workshop.

Bambang Cipto (APQN Workshop Coordinator)
BAN-PT Indonesia

APQN CONFERENCE AND AGM 2010

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A call for expressions of interest to host the 2010 event was sent to members on 1 April 2008. Thailand will host the event through the collaborative efforts of The Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), the Commission on Higher Education (CHE), and SEAMEO RIHED. Conference planning and preparation will be managed by ONESQA. The date has yet to be confirmed, but it is expected to take place in early March 2009.



TEMPLE AT KOYASAN, WAKAYAMA-KEN

NON-APQN EVENTS DATABASE

APQN maintains a database of quality assurance related conferences and events around the world. This has proven to be a valuable page with consistently high monthly hits. The non-APQN events page is continually updated, and members and mailing list subscribers are periodically notified of updates.

STAFF MOVEMENT & CONSULTANCIES

APQN facilitated four APQN-supported staff movement activities. One APQN member was supported by another agency, and sponsored by AusAid during this reporting period.

30 APQN SPONSORED

APQN has facilitated four APQN-sponsored staff movement activities within the reporting period.

Name	Seconded from	Seconded to	Dates
Jesmin Pervin (Bangladesh)	University Grants Commission (UGC)	Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU)	29 September – 10 October 2008
Nguyen Huu Cuong (Vietnam)	General Department of Education, Training and Accreditation (GDETA)	Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU)	29 September – 10 October 2008
Pen Sithol (Cambodia)	Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC)	Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU)	11-22 August 2008
Lay Sopagna (Cambodia)	Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC)	Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU)	11-22 August 2008

AGENCY/OTHER SPONSORSHIP

Member agency- or other-sponsored staff movement activities were driven primarily from established Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Memoranda of Cooperation (MoCs) between the agencies involved.

Name	Seconded from	Seconded to	Dates
Dr Marwan (Indonesia)	Badan Akreditasi Nasional Perguruan Tinggi (BAN-PT)	Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) hosted by AUQA, sponsored by AusAid	1-29 August 2008

These staff movement activities are also listed on the APQN website at www.apqn.org/services/staff_movement/.

SHARED APQN-AGENCY SPONSORSHIP

There were no shared APQN/agency-sponsored staff movement activities during this reporting period.

CONSULTANCIES

Liesha Northover, Administrator of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network Inc. (APQN), was contracted to train staff of the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) from 9-13 January, 2009. This consultancy is also listed on the APQN website at www.apqn.org/services/.



ANQAHE SECRETARIAT TRAINING, CAIRO

APQN has embarked on a number of external and internal projects. For the purposes of clarity all external projects are referred to as 'projects' and all internal projects are referred to as 'project groups'.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PRINCIPLES

As part of the work arising from the Brisbane Communiqué, the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), in cooperation with APQN, organised a workshop in Chiba City Japan on 18 February 2008. The workshop, on higher education quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific, was held in association with the APQN annual meeting which took place from 19–22 February. The workshop provided the opportunity for a regional discussion on the findings of a scoping study of quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific region. Prior to the workshop DEEWR commissioned APQN to undertake this scoping study, which was carried out by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) for APQN. Dr Antony Stella, AUQA Audit Director, prepared the scoping study report. The Scoping Study, which is now called "Quality Assurance in Higher Education – Report", and the "Quality Assurance Principles", the primary document that evolved out of the Brisbane Communiqué Initiative, are now available at www.brisbanecommunique.deewr.gov.au/docs.htm.

Major outcomes

The major outcomes of the Workshop on Higher Education Quality Assurance in the Asia Pacific were:

1. The participants agreed that it would be valuable to have an agreed set of quality assurance principles in the region and all participants supported the further development of the principles.
2. There was further agreement that the principles presented for discussion were fit for the approaches applied by the QA agencies represented in the workshop which would facilitate the further development.
3. Participants agreed that internal and external quality assurance need to be considered as two interrelated activities and therefore the overarching principles, as suggested, need to cover both quality assurance of quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions.
4. For the principles to become a useful tool for the development of the QA practices in the countries in the region, there is need to clearly define the purpose and objectives of the principles.
5. The participants agreed that the effects of the principles would have to be agreed as part of the discussion of their purpose. Should the principles for example in the longer term form part of APQN's membership requirements.
6. The participants supported that the stated principles should be broad in their formulation rather than be formulated as prescriptive requirements and agreed that there is a need to consider the formulations of the principles in the context of the region due to the diversity of educational systems and QA procedures.
7. The workshop identified the need to engage the stakeholders ie students, teachers, professional organisations, employers and ministries of education, in the process in order to ensure that the principles are broadly accepted and understood. The stakeholder engagement would have to take place at the national rather than the regional level in the first stage.
8. The discussions proved that there would be value in developing a shared understanding of quality assurance terminology and outcomes.
9. In the further development of the principles it is important to take into consideration how QA relate to recognition and assessment of qualifications as there would be benefits in the two processes being mutually supportive.
10. The quality assurance principles cannot be seen or developed in isolation. There is a need to place the principles within the broader national frameworks of national quality assurance. The workshop resulted in the development of this broader framework which was accepted by the participants. The framework is attached.

The final published principles were circulated to the APQN membership on 19 August 2008.

32 QA OF DE/E-LEARNING [PG3]

Takahiro Saito, Ph.D. (Project Group Leader)
Associate Professor, National Institution for Academic Degrees and
University Evaluation (NIAD-UE)

Project Group 3 targeted the issue of the quality assurance of Distance Education and e-Learning (DE/eL) in higher education institutions (HEIs) and entailed for the following purposes:

1. Sharing information on the latest quality assurance systems of DE/eL among quality assurance agencies.
2. Building a list/matrix of DE/eL qualities in the Asia-pacific to easily understand the multidimensionality and multiple perspectives of DE/eL quality assurance.
3. Promoting the development of DE/eL quality assurance capabilities of each agency.

Through the implementation of two questionnaire surveys to APQN members as well as literature surveys, it was made clear that many agencies are going to assure the quality of HEIs using DE/eL as the same framework of the traditional campus-based HEIs. The project group then recommended quality items for DE/eL used in the HEIs in addition to those for traditional face-to-face instructions. Utilising these quality items are expected to be one of the solutions for some troubles concerning DE/eL in the various situations of HEIs in Asia Pacific region.

This project group concluded in May 2008. The final report, *Quality Assurance of Distance Education/e-Learning*, is available on the APQN website at www.apqn.org/project_groups/reports/.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION [PG8]

Dorte Kristoffersen (Project Group Leader)
Deputy Executive Director, Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ)

During 2008 the leadership of the APQN project group on Mutual Recognition (MR) was handed from Ms Dorte Kristoffersen to Dr Jiang Yanqiao, Executive President, Shanghai Educational Evaluation Institute (SEEI).

TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION [PG11]

Dr Antony Stella (Project Group Leader)
Audit Director, Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA)

This project group was approved late in 2007. The objective/purpose of the project group is to develop a report on the status of, and trends in, transnational education in the APQN region.

Relevance to APQN objectives/activities: Asia-Pacific is the region where a lot of transnational education activity is happening. This is also the region where many national QA efforts are still in initial stages and there is a great need for capacity development. While efforts have gone into scoping the general development of QA and in addressing the national needs of the QA systems, efforts to understand the QA of transnational activity has been sporadic. A study with special focus on transnational education and its QA issues will be valuable to plan the capacity development activities of the region.

Asia-Pacific is also the region that has the distinct feature of leading in both export and import at the same time. It is also the region where the phenomenon of third country students is significant. Malaysia and Singapore are trying to become regional hubs by attracting foreign students to study in their countries in the foreign university campuses they host. These developments bring in issues that are not addressed by general reports on QA. This project will look at these issues and develop a report on the merging trends.

Methodology/Process: Review of literature, use of data already collected from APQN members, web search, targeted approach to select APQN members, teleconference

Expected Outcome: A report that would outline the current status of transnational education in the region, good practices and effective policies for both source and destination countries, areas that need attention, and trends that are emerging.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN QUALITY ASSURANCE [PG13]

Dr Jagannath Patil (Project Group Leader)
Deputy Adviser, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

The project group has completed its third year. A report summing up the total activities is available at www.apqn.org/project_groups/current/.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

No new project groups were established in 2008. There were no progress reports produced, but there will be a reporting session on 4 March 2009 at the 2009 APQN Conference and AGM being held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

All previous progress reports and details outlining the objectives and achievements of the project groups are online at www.apqn.org/project_groups/current.

All completed reports for project groups are available online at www.apqn.org/project_groups/reports.



REPORT ON FINANCES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME STATEMENT

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



PHOTOGRAPH BY LIESHA NORTHOVER

REPORT ON FINANCES





PHOTOGRAPH BY LIESHA NORTHOVER

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The APQN Finance Committee met during 2008 to discuss the appointment of a new accountant, the 2008 budget, membership fees, and funds related to GIQAC projects. A discussion of progress on other funding sources also took place.

The following meetings of the Finance Committee took place:

- ▶ in person on 19 February 2008 (Chiba, Japan)
- ▶ via teleconference on 28 August 2008

EXTENSION TO THE WORLD BANK DGF

Furthermore the APQN Board negotiated an extension to the DGF to assist Badan Akreditasi Nasional Perguruan Tinggi (BAN-PT) and the Indonesian government to organise a training workshop early in 2008. This extension of funding was approved and the workshop took place in Jakarta on 24 and 25 of March 2008.

INCOME STATEMENT TO 31 DECEMBER 2008

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Categories/ Programs	DGF*	GIQAC**	Other	Total	Total Budget 2008
	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
INCOME					
Initial joining and annual fees			16,250.29	16,250.29	34,000.00
Interest received			3,692.93	3,692.93	2,000.00
The Brisbane Communiqué			15,352.50	15,352.50	18,624.00
DEEWR funding for Japan workshop			36,468.75	36,468.75	35,892.00
AusAid funding for Japan workshop			20,186.25	20,186.25	24,014.00
GIQAC funding		59,995.00		59,995.00	100,403.00
Surplus carried forward from 2007			111,615.00	111,615.00	114,230.00
- Grants received from World Bank (extension to grant period)	59,335.00			59,335.00	59,335.00
TOTAL INCOME	59,335.00	59,995.00	203,565.72	322,895.72	388,498.00
EXPENSES					
1. Training					
1.1 Conferences					
Chiba, Japan	11,338.93			11,338.93	8,000.00
1.2 Workshops					
Jakarta, Indonesia	14,400.00			14,400.00	18,000.00
1.3 GIQAC - travel, accom., allowances		7,428.40		7,428.40	23,900.00
2. Consulting activities					
Scoping Study 2007			38,025.00	38,025.00	47,091.00
BCI Workshop			38,693.15	38,693.15	37,500.00
GIQAC - services in the field		2,000.00		2,000.00	7,132.00
3. Reviewers/consultants					
GIQAC - external professional services		2,950.00		2,950.00	23,712.00
4. Staff movement					
Project fund for members			0.00	0.00	15,000.00
5. Advisory services					
Project groups			0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Online discussion forum			0.00	0.00	7,800.00
6. Finance, admin. and liaison					
Administration/audit	3,189.00		7,315.06	10,504.06	12,000.00
Bank fees/TT fees	421.62	186.95	751.41	1,359.98	800.00
Fundraising	6,315.46		2,117.24	8,432.70	6,300.00
Secretariat/accounting	16,493.94		46,644.42	63,138.36	70,000.00
Website/clearinghouse			0.00	0.00	6,000.00
GIQAC - services admin home office		13,191.77		13,191.77	30,259.00
GIQAC - communications		2,002.64		2,002.64	3,300.00
GIQAC - reproduction/reports		6,700.00		6,700.00	8,800.00
7. Other					
Miscellaneous			1,000.00	1,000.00	12,000.00
Surplus for Secretariat 2009					49,904.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	52,158.95	34,459.76	134,546.28	221,164.99	388,498.00
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	7,176.05	25,535.24	69,019.44	101,730.73	0.00

* Costs listed under DGF were only covered until 31 March 2008

** Costs listed under GIQAC can only be covered until 30 April 2009

1. In the last week of December 2007 APQN was granted an extension of the DGF to 31 March 2008. As the DGF expired on 31 March 2008, all surplus will be reimbursed to the World Bank.
2. The GIQAC income and expenses listed are for a full year.
3. APQN only learned after the budget was prepared that the GIQAC year was going to run from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. The surplus indicates that there are expenses that will be covered in the first quarter of 2009. The GIQAC funds can only be used to cover GIQAC activities.
4. For the reasons stated above the DGF and the GIQAC surplus has to be deducted from the operating surplus of the year.
5. These are unaudited financial statements. Financial audit is postponed due to time constraints and will take place after the APQN conference and AGM in Hanoi in March 2009.

