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From the President's Desk...

Welcome to the October 2011 issue of the APQNews. Since the previous edition that was released in July, APQN has advanced several GIQAC projects smoothly, and has submitted a proposal for additional GIQAC funding to launch four more projects. Preparations for the 2012 APQN Conference have commenced, with the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia taking the lead.

We are pleased that our membership is expanding and now we have 90 members in all categories. We look forward with excitement to reaching the century mark.

Members are encouraged to keep a keen eye on the website as there will be several expressions of interest released for some of the funded projects. We look forward to a busy and constructive fourth quarter.

We look forward to a busy and constructive fourth quarter.

Anthony Stella

APQN 2012 Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 2012 Conference and AGM will be held in **Siem Reap Angkor, Kingdom of Cambodia from 29 February to 2 March 2012**. The Accreditation Committee of Cambodia will host this event. The Chair of the Organizing Committee is Mr. Vicheanon KHIEU, ACC, Cambodia. The target audience for the APQN Conference and AGM is primarily those associated with quality agencies in the region. This includes APQN Members and Observers, the APQN Board, Committees and Project Groups. In addition, others working in the area of quality assurance and improvement in higher education and government agencies are welcome to attend the conference days that are open to non-members.

Conference themes and sub-themes

The main theme of the conference is:

External Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific: What has changed over a decade?

The two sub-themes are:

- Building Quality Culture within Institutions: Role of External Quality Assurance
- QA of cross-border higher education

In addition, a number of topics will be covered in the workshops and parallel sessions. Following is the indicative list of the topics that will be of interest to the APQN members:

- Quality assurance in Cambodia
- Mutual recognition
- QA of distance education
- Qualifications framework
- Quality literacy
- Benchmarking
- Standards
- Research on external QA and internal QA
- Capacity building of the QA agencies



You are invited to present a paper on a topic of your choice related to one of the topics above. The paper presentation sessions will be run as parallel sessions on 29 February and 1 March 2012.

Guidelines for paper submissions:

Papers on any topic related to the theme or sub-themes of the Conference will be considered.

Papers should be no more than **2000 words** in length, including any appendices, tables, illustrations and photographs, plus an abstract of up to 250 words.

Papers will be reviewed by a committee. The acceptance of papers for inclusion in the program is at the prerogative of the review committee, and no correspondence will be entered into.

If your paper is selected for presentation, it is expected that you will have:

- a 15 minute time for presentation
- around ten minutes for questions/discussion.

All submissions must be in English. Forward one electronic copy of your proposal to the APQN Secretariat at the email: fangle666@gmail.com and administrator@apqn.org. The deadline for paper submissions is **Thursday, 15 December, 2011**.

Timeline—key dates

31 October 2011	Call for Contributions released
15 November 2011	Early Bird Registration opened
15 December 2011	Deadline for submission of contributions and Early bird registration closed
10 January 2012	Contributors notified
15 January 2012	Online registration closes and after this date registration fee cannot be paid online.
15 February 2012	Deadline for registration for all attendance. Registrants during 16 January-15 February will have to pay the registration fee onsite.
28 February 2012	APQN Board Meeting, Siem Reap Angkor, Cambodia
29 February-2 March 2012	APQN Conference and AGM, Siem Reap Angkor, Cambodia

More details

More details of the event could be available at: <http://www.apqn.org/events/> .

Expert Group Meeting on the UNESCO/COL Guidelines for Open Educational Resources



The Section for Higher Education, UNESCO, and the Commonwealth of Learning jointly organised an Expert Group Meeting on the UNESCO/COL Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER) in Higher Education. This meeting was held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 4 July. The meeting examined the UNESCO/COL Guidelines for OER in higher education and identified strategies to take the Guidelines beyond the OER community in particular quality assurance agencies.

Dr Antony Stella was invited to the meeting to identify further areas for enriching the consultation process in the Asia-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific Quality Network will be organising a series of workshops for its members to discuss the role of QA agencies in promoting OER in higher education.

AUQA Leaves a Strong Legacy

AUQA's quality audit and enhancement operations will transfer to the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) on 29 August 2011. Most AUQA staff will transfer to TEQSA. 'AUQA can be proud of its achievements since 2001', says Dr Jeanette Baird, AUQA's Executive Director. 'Among these achievements are: the timely completion of over 120 public audit reports on Australian universities and other higher education providers; a Good Practice Database that is being taken over by TEQSA; and many quality enhancement activities, including training, publications, the Australian Quality Forum and the Australian Higher Education Quality Award.'

'AUQA has been recognized particularly for its role in improving quality assurance for transnational higher education, for igniting discussion on academic standards, and for projects such as the *Good Practice Principles for English Language Proficiency for International Students in Australian Universities*.'

'As a quality assurance agency for higher education, AUQA has very high standing internationally. It is known as a leader by quality assurance agencies in other countries, especially those agencies that are newly-established. Many of these agencies have sought advice from AUQA, and I am pleased to say that we have supported them as much as possible. AUQA played a significant role in the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network and continues to do so through the Presidency of APQN, a position held by Dr Antony Stella.'

'We believe AUQA leaves a strong legacy. Our operations have been transparent, economical and accountable. We have made a difference to higher education.'

AUQA extends grateful thanks and all best wishes to those who have assisted and supported its work since 2001. These people include the many academic and professional staff in higher education involved in AUQA's audit and quality enhancement activities. They also include people in peak bodies, professional associations, government accreditation authorities and the media.

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) of Ministers for Education



At the instance of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) of Ministers for Education, the QA groups of Europe and Asia held a joint meeting in Bonn, Germany on 5 and 6 July 2011. The ministerial meetings held in 2010 laid emphasis on strengthening inter-regional cooperation between quality assurance agencies and networks in Asia and Europe. Organising joint meetings with a view to develop common principles of quality assurance across the ASEM education area was identified as a key strategy. To implement this strategy, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Federal Ministry for Education and Research of Germany organised an expert seminar on Regional Quality Assurance in QA where the experiences of the European region and the Asia-Pacific Quality Network were discussed. Dr Antony Stella delivered a keynote on the QA trends in the Asia-Pacific and the role of Chiba principles in strengthening regional

integration in QA. Dr Jagannath Patil, Vice president of APQN and Deputy adviser, NAAC made presentation on 'Peer Selection and Training from Asian agency perspective'. The seminar identified a number of areas of mutual interest where the QA networks of the two regions will work collaboratively.

The Secretariat's Reception of Guests



On July 19, 2011, Ms. Carolyn Campbell and Ms. Jane Holt from the Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education, UK visited the APQN Secretariat.

On Sep. 6, 2011, three professors from Osaka University and Kanazawa University, Japan visited the APQN Secretariat.

APQN Membership

APQN welcomes the following 7 new members who were approved during the period 1 July – 30 September 2011.

No.	Country /Territory	Agency	Membership Status
1	Australia	The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)	Full
2	India	Dhanwate National College	Institutional
3	Pakistan	Air university Islamabad Pakistan	Institutional
4	Pakistan	Institute of Management Sciences	Institutional
5	Pakistan	National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education	Intermediate
6	Pakistan	Riphah International University	Institutional
7	Pakistan	Ziauddin University	Institutional

The APQN membership across all categories is 92 representing 33 countries or territories up to September 30, 2011, including:

26 full members,

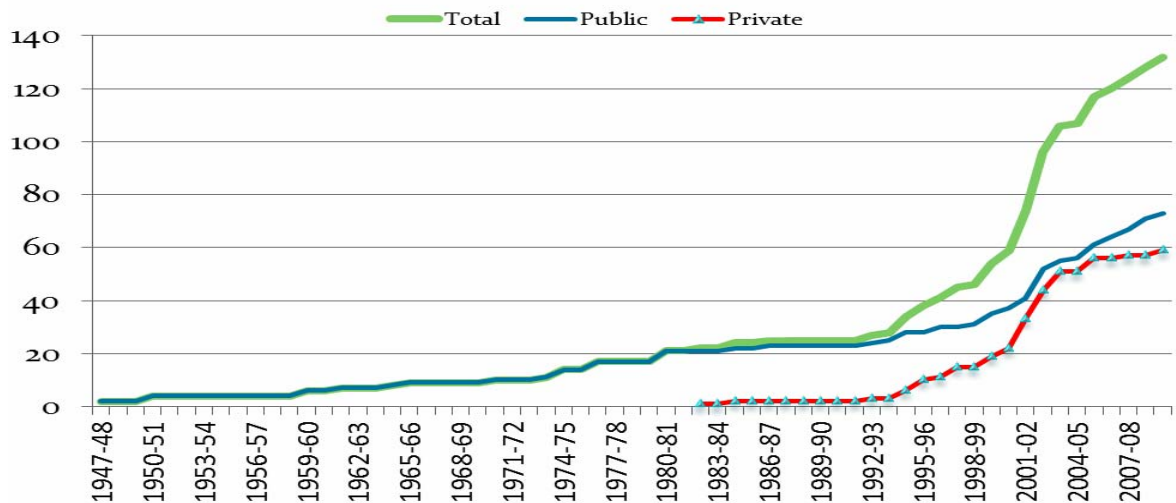
- 15 intermediate members,
- 41 institutional members,
- 6 associate members, and
- 4 observers.

Institutional Membership of APQN: A Pakistani Context



The higher education sector of Pakistan is comprised of 132 higher education institutions (HEIs) including 73 public sector and 59 private sector institutions of diversified size, scope and locations. The growth of higher education sector in Pakistan is reflected below:

Number of Universities/DAIs



The Higher Education Commission (HEC) emphasizes on quality assurance and enhancement as one of the core functions and responsibilities of the Commission for the purpose of not only quality education provision but to achieve high standards of international compatibility in the higher education sector. Along with other quality measures and policies like criteria for faculty appointment at HEIs, criteria for MPhil/PhD studies, tenure track statutes for faculty appointment, criteria for recognition of research journals, and criteria for anti-plagiarism policy, HEC has prioritized liaison with recognized QA networks and forums like APQN and INQAAHE.

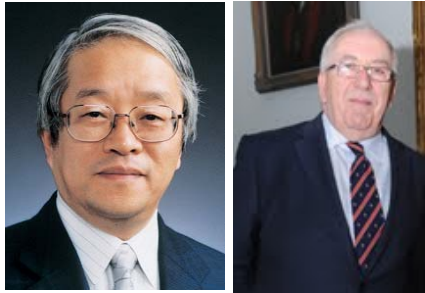
Once the institutional membership was opened up by APQN in 2007, HEC was one of the most active members of APQN to take a lead, and special efforts were made to motivate and convince the Pakistani HEIs to earn APQN membership to receive larger benefits of internationally compatible quality assurance initiatives and to share the good practices of QA across the region. As a result, 22 HEIs of the country have earned the institutional membership of APQN so far and this is the largest contribution of one country in APQN again reflecting its keen interest in QA practices and policies.

The status of quality assurance policies and standards defined by HEC in the country is improving significantly in these 22 institutions as an impact of the linkage with APQN and other member countries. The capacity of these institutions is improving due to frequent interaction with APQN members and participation in the APQN events. As these institutions are on the same page in the QA context, it has become very easy for HEC to convince them for new QA initiatives and adoption of high quality standards.

Conclusively, the impact of Institutional Membership of APQN is significant and positive in the context of Pakistan and the same may be expected for other member countries as well provided the institutional membership is geared up in these countries through triggers from the QA agencies and higher education commissions or ministries.

— —Written by Ms. Zia Batool, Director General, Quality Assurance & Statistics, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

APQN/INQAAHE GPQA Workshop



In order to strengthen the capacity of quality assurance agencies to develop and assess good practices INQAAHE, in cooperation with and with financial support from APQN, is organizing a workshop aimed at giving APQN members an opportunity to share their good practices in quality assurance. The workshop is sponsored with support from GIQAC funds and there is no registration fee. The workshop will be held at the NIAD-UE Takebashi Office Meeting Room, in Tokyo on 25 October 2011. NIAD-UE, an APQN member, will host the event. The event is for APQN members only. Dr Séamus Puirseil on behalf of INQAAHE and Dr Kazuo Okamoto on behalf of APQN are planning the workshop.

The focus of the workshop is for the participants to share and discuss their organizations' good practices, i.e., practices that are already being applied by the member agencies as part of their external quality

No.	Applicant	Agency	Country/Territory
1	Sok Uttara	Accreditation Committee of Cambodia	Cambodia
2	Bangalore Seshadri Madhukar	National Assessment and Accreditation Council	India
3	Adil Basuki Ahza	National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education	Indonesia
4	Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya	University Grants Commission	Nepal
5	Munawar Sultana Mirza	National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education	Pakistan
6	Udith K. Jayasinghe-Mudalige	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council	Sri Lanka
7	Pham Duc Tien	Directorate of Vocational Training	Vietnam

assurance responsibilities. All types of practices are permissible as long as they related to the participating agencies quality assurance activities. It is a requirement for participation that each member agency submits at least two good practices in writing prior to the workshop and agrees to submit these for review for inclusion in the INQAAHE database for Good Practices in Quality Assurance (GPQA). If the practice is approved by INQAAHE, it will be uploaded onto the INQAAHE GPQA and be a resource for the international quality assurance community. The list of sponsored participants by APQN is following. Vu Thi Phuong Hien, from General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation of Vietnam has been supported by INQAAHE.

Expansion of the Database

Twenty more experts from the Arab region have been added to the Database of Consultants since Sep. 1, 2011, which is the result of cooperation between Arab Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (ANQAHE) and the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN). Now there are 77 experts in total. The Database is available at: <http://www.apqn.org/services/consultantsdb/>. Hope this will be useful for you!

APQN and International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) have jointly launched the new round of expansion of the Database from Sep. 1, 2011. The heads of quality assurance agencies of the two networks are requested to nominate experts for the Database by Sep. 30, 2011.

APQN 2011 Internship Program

The APQN Secretariat released the announcement for the APQN 2011 Internship Program on August 20, 2011. Up to the deadline of application, 15 persons had expressed interest and submitted applications, and 5 quality assurance agencies had applied to host the interns. The GIQAC Management Committee of APQN will review the applications and make recommendations to the Board for approval.

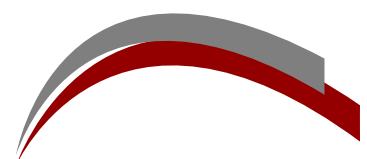
Additional GIQAC Funding

APQN has submitted a proposal for four more projects under the GIQAC grants.

1. **Quality Information Systems (QIS) Toolkit:** This Project aims to map practices of quality assurance agencies and other bodies in spreading quality information among stakeholders in general and students in particular. Based on the mapping of practices it is proposed to conduct a workshop to identify good practices and develop a toolkit for Quality Information system, which can be piloted and promoted among the members of APQN.
2. **Publication of an Electronic Package for Reviewer's Training:** The project aims to publish the Training Package for Reviewers on the APQN website as well as in the form of CD and a Print version, to be circulated among members.
3. **Capacity Building of Institutions in the Asia-Pacific to meet Minimum Standards:** The project aims to outline minimum guidelines for the emerging higher education institutions of the region. It will identify the threshold standards that need to be ensured across the region for mutual recognition of qualifications.
4. **Liaison and Communication among APQN Members and Regional Networks:** Funding under this head will be used primarily to provide financial support to eligible member agencies to participate in the APQN 2012 Conference and AGM.

Online Graduate Certificate in Quality Assurance

The LH Martin Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Management, at the University of Melbourne send greetings to readers of AUQA News. The GCQA in 2012 offers a comprehensive academic program for the training and professional development of quality assurance professionals. This one-year, part-time online graduate program has been developed in close consultation with the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and is awarded by the University of Melbourne for professional recognition internationally. Being a fully online program, it offers maximum flexibility. Participants follow two compulsory modules after which they choose one of two electives. Program staff are international experts in quality assurance and higher education policy and management. The program features current state-of-the-art online teaching methodologies, supported by extensive program resources. It offers integrated learning via theory, case studies, moderated discussion boards, virtual teamwork, webinars and work-based assignments. 2012 will be the third year the GCQA is offered, with the program being continuously upgraded based on participant feedback. Our GCQA students have been hailed from 23 countries, across all continents. Please visit the GCQA website to learn more, register your interest, and enroll in the program: www.lhmartininstitute.edu.au/postgraduate-award-programs/51-graduate-certificate-in-qualityassurance-2012 Online applications close 5 December 2011. For further information on GCQA program, please contact Associate Professor Leo Goedegebuure, Deputy Director, at leo.g@unimelb.edu.au or + 61 3 8344 0619. For access to the demo site for the GCQA program, contact Dr Chinh Nguyen, at chinhn@unimelb.edu.au or + 61 3 8344 3158.



APQN Logo

To facilitate the exposure of APQN to the wider community, we have provided the APQN logo in a downloadable format for members to use on their respective websites. There are three versions of the logo – large and small JPEG suitable for websites and other documents and an EPS for print materials. The downloadable logo can be located on the home page of the 'Members Only' section of the website. If you are experiencing difficulty logging into this area or downloading the logo, please contact Mr Fang Le—APQN Administrator - fangle666@gmail.com.

Next edition

Does your organisation have any news that you would like to share with the region? Are there any upcoming quality events that you would like to publicise in the APQNews? APQN welcomes all contributions for the next issue of APQNews and requests that you email them to

Mr Fang Le—APQN Administrator
fangle666@gmail.com by 10 January 2012.



To assist in the circulation of Quality Assurance knowledge in higher education, APQN encourages all members to translate segments of the APQN newsletter into the local language and disseminate to personnel within your agency or institution.

Newsletter Edition
 Mr Fang Le
 APQN Administrator

