

MEET THE MEMBERS

AIUB, Bangladesh

In the pursuit for quality and excellence, and in adherence to the principles of quality assurance as a global thrust, the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), Dhaka, Bangladesh through its Academic Council approved the establishment of the quality assurance cell (AQAC) during its 55th meeting on 1 September 2008. The Cell will provide technical assistance to the AIUB management in undertaking quality assurance activities for the university which primarily cover areas on Faculty, Instructions, Library, Laboratories, Physical Infrastructure, Student Services, Community Service and Administration. After attending training and orientation conducted by Dr Charles C. Villanueva, Dean FASS, the Vice Chancellor, Dr Carmen Z. Lamagna and the VP HR and Administration, Mr. Hasanul Hasan has selected the following members who shall compose the Cell: Mr Maksudur Sarker (as Director), Dr A B Md. Ramatullah, Ms Afroza Nahar, Mr Bikash Barua and Mr Anwar Hossain as members. The cell is directly under the Office of the Vice Chancellor with an Executive Committee providing policy directions and decision making and shall pursue the following objectives:

- To undertake initial self-survey of the university through well planned and defined auditing procedures using international instruments and standards/ benchmarks

- To provide support in the institutionalization of the internal quality mechanisms and activities of the university
- To implement and monitor quality assurance standards prescribed by the external accrediting bodies
- To ensure continuous improvement in the entire operations of the university



The AQAC team undergoing orientation-training, Bangladesh

using the defined systems and procedures designed for assuring quality and excellence in the essential components of the university

- To help promote to the stakeholders the importance and benefits derived from the accredited programs of the university
- To establish and maintain the functionality of the data and information

about the essential components of the university

- To establish inter and intra-linkages on matters pertinent to the promotion and sustainability of the quality and excellent standards of the university consistent with the and with the international

The Terms of Reference of the AQAC have been defined and discussed with the members as follows:

- Produce, deposit and disseminate reliable and updated data and information about the university in defined areas in both hard and soft forms
- Undertake self-survey (evaluation) of the university to determine the level of quality using the internal

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and external standards for quality and excellence

- Propose strategic actions for the improvement of the university particularly in areas where there are deficiencies
- Provide orientation and briefing with the key officials of the university on the actual status of the university vis-à-vis the standards prescribed for accreditation of the academic programmes
- Establish linkage with other quality assurance bodies or organizations both nationally and internationally for current developments in quality assurance and learn new successful approaches for adoption in the university
- Institute the culture of quality and excellence in all areas of the university through proper implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the different activities of the various sectors of the university
- Design and produce forms, guidelines, reports, summaries, and other documents that can capture the desired information and proper dissemination and utilization of these information
- Perform other functions assigned by the Executive Committee

It is hoped that with the establishment of the AQAC, the university will lead the way to make quality assurance a vital strategy for quality improvement and development of universities in Bangladesh.

AUQA, Australia

There are three recent additions to the AUQA website, as follows:

- Audit Report for Australian Catholic University The Report of an Audit of the Australian Catholic University is now available for

download at the AUQA website at: www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/universities/.

- New good practices in AUQA's Good Practice Database Eleven good practices from Australian higher education providers are now available in the Good Practice Database at: www.auqa.edu.au/gp/.



- A new AUQA Occasional Publication on Self-Review for Higher Education Institutions is now available for download from the AUQA website at: www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/publications/occasional/publications/.

Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center (YHEEC), China

On December 24 in 2008, Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center (YHEEC) held an evaluation seminar and a workshop on the new-cycle evaluation project of Talent-training programme (TTP) for advanced vocational institutions (AVIs) in Yunnan Province on the campus of Yunnan University. Mr. LIN Yu, Deputy Director General of Section of Advanced Vocational and Specialized Education in the Department of Higher Education from the MoE, Professor YANG Yingsong, director of the committee of AVIs' Level Evaluation of Talent-training Programme from the MoE, YHEEC Director ZHANG Guohua and 196 participants of officials, assessors, administrators, researchers and graduates from all the AVIs in the whole province. Professor DONG Yunchuan, the administrative vice director of

YHEEC as well as director of Research Institute of Higher Education, presided the evaluation seminar.

Following "the Notice of MoE's Implementing Level Evaluation of Talent-training Programme of Advanced Vocational Institutions and Specialized Colleges"(2004, No. 16) and "Opinions on Level Evaluation of Talent-training Programme of Advanced Vocational Institutions and Specialized Colleges"(2005, No.4), from 2004 to 2007 YHEEC has evaluated Simao Teachers' College and other 12 public and private AVIs. The evaluation decisions are classified into 4 levels: excellent, good, pass and fail.

In 2008, according to the MoE's new notice of "the Evaluation of Talent-training Programme Project of Advanced Vocational Institutions" (2008, No.5, "New Project" in shorten form), YHEEC will implement the experimental evaluation on the following AVIs: Yunnan Vocational College of Tropical Crops, Yunnan Vocational College of Mechanical and Electrical Technology, Yunnan Forestry Technological College, Yunnan Einsun Software College and Yunnan Vocational Economic Management College, which indicates the important reform of AVIs' evaluation of TTP, and the new stage of the evaluation system of advanced vocational education. During the seminar, Deputy Director General LIN Yu called on everyone to participate in the New Project on behalf of Section of Advanced Vocational and Specialized Education in the Department of Higher Education from the MoE. YHEEC Director ZHANG Guohua expressed his sincere welcome to all participants and put forward some requirements on the New Project of AVI evaluation in Yunnan Province.

“Thinking, Revealing, Renovating and Validating” is the keynote speech made by Professor YANG Yingsong. Professor YANG analyzed the new concepts and idea of the new AVI evaluation, dated back the historical development of AVI level evaluation of TTP, introduced such characteristics as evaluation aims, the collection platform of status data of the new-cycle evaluation. In the face of such deficiencies as drift of the evaluation aim, singularity of the evaluation main bodies, lack of evaluation information, rigid evaluation methods and others, Professor YANG pointed out that, the evaluation aims of the new-cycle evaluation will be focused on the following 5 aspects:

- (1) realizing the policy of “the Notice of MoE’s Implementing Level Evaluation of Talent-training Programme of Advanced Vocational Institutions and Specialized Colleges” (2004, No. 16) in the New Project, guiding AVIs to reform and develop in the direction of advanced vocational education;
- (2) leading the AVIs to focus on their inner structure and development;
- (3) considering the reform and development as the main aim, promoting AVIs’ inner need to participating in evaluation;
- (4) steering the AVIs to further improve the administration level and gradually step from regular

administration of DPDCA (plan, do, check and action) to knowledge administration of CCDU (capture, creation, delivery and use);

- (5) strengthening the effect and degree of macro-administration and social supervision. Professor YANG also introduced the characteristics of the collection platform of status data is to create from bottom to top, reflect the instantaneity, and serve knowledge administration and others.

By learning the logical evaluation system of “result-cause-effect” in the New Project, the collection platform of status data, in-depth interview methods and other characteristics, the participants can see a new road to sustainable development of Chinese AVIs and they are determined to plunge into the implementation of the New Project.

Adopting “standardization and specialization” as its own development requirement, YHEEC scrupulously abides by the guideline of “objective confidence, neutral existence”, tries to build and cultivate healthy, harmonious higher education evaluation environment and provides excellence of higher education in Yunnan Province.

(Provided by Jianxin ZHAN)



Prof. Yang in the YHEEC workshop



BOARD ACTIVITY

The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) held a Bologna process seminar on 'Quality Assurance in Transnational Higher Education: From Words to Action' in London on 1-2 December 2008. The seminar, organised by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) of UK, examined aspects of quality assurance in respect of cross border higher education activities. It took as a central reference point the UNESCO-OECD Guidelines on Quality provision in cross-border higher education, and focused on responsibilities, principles, and practicalities.

Dr Antony Stella, Audit Director, AUQA represented the Asia-Pacific Quality Network and spoke on the regional developments. She also made a presentation on the similarities among the three sets of guidelines– UNESCO-OECD Guidelines on Quality provision in cross-border higher education, Guidelines for Good Practices in QA developed by the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INNQAHE) and the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).

The discussions resulted in the following two major recommendations:

1. A general mapping study of TNE provision being offered within the EHEA should be considered. This kind of a mapping exercise could increase understanding of the different kinds of provision involved, how quality is assured, how TNE relates to national education systems, etc. The study could be undertaken by the E4 group in collaboration with other stakeholders.
2. A sentence should be inserted into the Leuven communiqué of the Bologna Process which states that TNE should be considered as 'education' and as such the same guidelines should apply to all TNE provision as to other educational programmes. Hence, TNE is subject to the same principles of public good and public responsibility that constitute the basis for all higher education.

APQN BOARD UPDATE

The election for the new APQN Board, term of office 2009 to 2011, took place at the end of 2008. The new Board officially took office at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the General Council that was held during the 2009 APQN Conference at the Melia Hanoi Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam on 4 March 2009. The new Board is constituted of:

Office Bearers:

1. President: Mrs Concepcion Pijano, Philippines
2. Vice-President: Ms Dorte Kristoffersen, Hong Kong
3. Secretary/Treasurer: Dr Jiang Yanqiao, China

Elected Board Members:

4. Dr Antony Stella, Australia
5. Dr Jagannath Patil, India
6. Ms Kathy MacLaren, New Zealand
7. Prof. Somwung Pitiyanuwat, Thailand

Co-opted Board Members:

8. Prof. Colin Peiris, Sri Lanka
9. Kamanto Sunarto, Indonesia
10. Nurilya Shakhanova, Kazakhstan
11. Mrs Zita Mohd Fahmi, Malaysia

APQN welcomes new members to the Board. Profiles can be viewed at www.apqn.org/about/board.

DIARY DATES

AUQF2009 1-3 July, Alice Springs, Australia

Early Bird Registration for AUQF2009 is now open. Register online now at www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/registration/. The preliminary forum program is also available, which will be updated regularly in the lead up to the forum. Included are details of the pre-forum workshops and plenary panel sessions. To view the program, go to www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/program/.



The full Proceedings of AUQF2008 have now been published and are available online at www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2008/index.shtml.

OBHE Conference

APQN is sponsoring the 2009 OBHE Global Forum: Global Connections - Local Impacts: Best Practices, Models and Policies for Cross-Border Higher Education. This event will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21-24 October 2009. For further details go to www.obhe.ac.uk/the_obhe_global_forum__malaysia/welcome.

APQN advertises events run by both APQN and its members. Full event details for the events below can be found at www.apqn.org/events, and for information about other events around the region and throughout the world, go to www.apqn.org/events/non_apqn.

APQN SECRETARIAT

The APQN Secretariat has now moved to the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) in Shanghai, China. SEEI commenced operating the Secretariat from 4 March 2009, at the time of our 2009 AGM. The new APQN Secretary/Treasurer is Dr Jiang Yanqiao (secretary@apqn.org), and the new APQN Administrator is Mr Fang Le (administrator@apqn.org).

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Asia Pacific Journal of Education focuses on major shifts in educational policy and governance, curriculum and pedagogy, and on the everyday lives and practices of students and teachers in the Asia-Pacific Rim. For a free sample issue of the Asia Pacific Journal of Education (Volume 28 Issue 3 2008), go to www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713724324~db=all

■ *The Asia-Pacific Quality Network is still expanding its Virtual Library and would like to ask if you have any papers, reports, presentations, good practices, etc. that you would like to share with other members. If you would like to contribute to the expanding Virtual Library, please send your content to Mr Fang Le, the APQN Administrator, at administrator@apqn.org.*

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