

APQNews

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Asia-Pacific Quality Network

HIGHLIGHTS

2010 APQN Conference & AGM



- The establishment and improvement of qualification framework;
- The relationship between the internal and external quality assurance;
- Cooperation between regional networks.
- Quality assurance for the electronic and cross-border education.

The APQN 2010 Conference and AGM was held in Bangkok, Thailand from March 3 to 5, 2010. The theme of the Conference was 'Enhancing Quality of Higher Education in the Developing World'. More than 400 persons participated in the conference, including 121 persons from APQN member agencies representing 19 countries and territories. Ms. Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic, Chief of Section for Reform, Innovation and Quality Assurance, Division of Higher Education, UNESCO and H.E. Dr. Joao Freitas, Minister of Education, Timor Leste presented the key-note speeches. A total of 39 papers were presented on the following topics:

The APQN Annual General Meeting was open only to APQN members. There were 55 delegates in attendance from 32 member agencies, with an additional two invited observers, one from UNESCO and the other from Toronto University. The President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer presented the annual reports. Some time was spent for the members to comment on the Strategic Plan of APQN.

2010 Training Workshop for Vietnamese

On 1 and 2 March 2010 APQN organized a workshop for a Vietnamese delegation, composed of staff from the Higher Education Department and the General Department of Education, Training and Assessment as well as from selected Vietnamese universities, the Quality Assurance Centre of Laos, and a representative from Myanmar.



The workshop concluded with a visit to the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) in Thailand.

The workshop is part of a project organized and coordinated by UNESCO to offer technical support and assistance in further elaborating and strengthening the quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms for the higher education system in Vietnam. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an introduction to the core methodologies and procedures of quality assurance and provide a platform for the discussion of these methodologies and procedures as they relate primarily to the Vietnamese context of higher education.

It is part of APQN's objectives to provide advice and expertise to assist the development of new quality assurance agencies in the Asia-Pacific region and to promote good practice in the maintenance and improvement of quality in higher education. From that perspective APQN appreciates the opportunity to be involved in the organization of this workshop and to facilitate the delegation's attendance at the APQN conference and thus welcome the participants to the Asia-Pacific quality assurance community.

2010 GIQAC Annual Implementation Support and Review Mission

The 2010 Annual Implementation Support and Review Mission were held on March 6, 2010 following the 2010 Conference and Annual General Meeting on 3-5 March 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. This Mission was conducted by Zeynep Varoglu, Program Specialist, Division of Higher Education, UNESCO, in line with the implementation of the GIQAC activities for 2010-2011. The office bearers of APQN participated in the review mission.



The mission went well and proved that APQN had rigorous GIQAC procedures in place. In the mission report, Overall Project Objectives, Implementation Arrangements, Disbursements, Intermediate Indicators are regarded as highly satisfactory; General Record Keeping & Reporting and Procurement are judged as satisfactory.

2010 International Information Package Workshop

The ‘2010 International Information Package Workshop’ hosted by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE) of Japan, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) of the UK and the Higher Education Evaluation Centre of the Ministry of Education (HEEC) of China, was convened on Tuesday 2 March, 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. In addition to the three organizers, APQN and the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) of Thailand supported this event. A total of 77 persons from 19 countries/territories and 3 international organizations participated in the pre-conference workshop.

The workshop was held to provide an opportunity to discuss and share ideas and experiences on the concept of mutual understanding that is essential for promoting effective international cooperation and information sharing in higher education.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

APQN welcomes the new members who have been accepted in April, 2010:

Agency	Membership Status
The Federation for Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions, Hong Kong, China	Associate Member
Asian Institute of Finance, Malaysia	Institutional Member
Council for Private Education, Singapore	Intermediate Member

GIQAC UPDATE

I. APQN Website: Expansion, Development and Maintenance

This is a continuing activity of the Network. APQN has enriched the contents of the web through the following: for the Public section, APQN has updated the Non-APQN Events list, launched the Database of Consultants and uploaded the 2009 APQN Annual Reports; for the Members' Only section, APQN has uploaded the papers, presentations and pictures of the 2010 APQN Conference and Annual General Meeting. The revised APQN Finance Manual has also been uploaded.

The web statistics from Jan. 1 to Mar. 31, 2010 showed that there have been 1,418 visits and 5,333 page views per month. In March 2010, Richard Hopper, Senior Education Specialist of the World Bank commended APQN for setting an excellent example on how to use the GIQAC resources to increase its web presence and reach out to its members and clients. He made this conclusion after making a comparison of web statistics of the various GIQAC-supported networks.

II. Internship Program

A Call for Applications has been issued by the APQN Secretariat for those agencies who are interested in hosting the 2010 Internship Program. For purposes of implementing this project, APQN called on member agencies with well-developed QA systems and sufficient capacity for mentoring the trainees to express their interest in hosting the internship project. A total of five participants are being funded for this project.

APQN also issued a Call for Participants to the Internship Program. APQN members interested in participating in the Internship Program were requested to nominate officers or persons who hold responsible positions in their agency. Implementation of the project will start in the 2nd quarter of 2010.

III. Training Workshop for External Reviewers

The Training Materials Package that will be used for the workshop has been reviewed by two international experts on QA. Based on comments made by the reviewers the final training package is now being finalized and will be pilot-tested in a workshop scheduled in the 2nd quarter of 2010. A total of eight participants will participate in the training workshop. The APQN Board is now discussing the details of the training workshop, including the criteria for those who will be invited as participants. The workshop will be conducted in the 3rd quarter of 2010.

IV. Liaison and Communication among APQN Members and Regional Networks

Eighteen persons from APQN member agencies from developing countries received some financial support for the APQN 2010 Conference and AGM held in Bangkok, Thailand from March 3 to 5, 2010. This covered travel, registration fees or accommodation. There was very positive feedback from the sponsored participants.

Upcoming Events

AuQF 2010 Quality in Uncertain Times

AuQF2010, the 9th annual forum, will be held at Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach, 30 June - 2 July 2010. The forum theme is 'Quality in Uncertain Times'. The program is intended to reflect the evolving Australian higher education quality assurance landscape. Early Bird Registration for AUQF2010 is now open at

<http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2010/registration/>.

The preliminary forum program is also available on that webpage, which will be updated regularly in the lead up to the forum. Included are details of the pre-forum workshops and plenary panel sessions.

ICAQHE 2010 Quality Modeling in Higher Education

The 3rd ICAQHE (International Conference on Assessing Quality in Higher Education) will be held from 6th - 8th December, 2010 in Lahore, Pakistan. The theme of the conference is "Quality Modeling in Higher Education". This is in recognition of the growing significance of TQM Quality Approaches, Customer Services Relationship and Evaluation Model in the context of Higher Education. Detailed information is available at:

<http://www.icaqhe2010.org>.

New Items on the Website

The following items have been added to the website:

1. Annual report 2009 is now available online at the public site:

http://www.apqn.org/virtual_library/reports/.

2. Papers, presentations and pictures of the APQN 2010 Conference and AGM are available at the member's only area: <http://www.apqn.org/members/events/past/?agm=1>.

3. Presentations for the 2010 International Information Package Workshop are available at the member's only area: <http://www.apqn.org/members/events/past/details/presentations/?id=356>.