

The Inaugural Review for APQR has been Successfully Completed in Fiji

The first formal review for the Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR), organized by the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and APQR Council (APQRC), has been conducted on the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) in Suva, Fiji from 24th to 26th, June 2015.

Facilitated by APQN president, Dr Jagannath Patil, the review panel was made up of three experts: Prof Colin N Peiris (Director of QAA Council of Sri Lanka and Vice-Chancellor of Horizon Campus, Sri Lanka) as the Chair, Dr Jeanette Baird (Adviser to the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology in Papua New Guinea) and Prof Dr Jianxin Zhang (Chief Expert of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center and Director of Research Institute of Higher Education, Yunnan University in China). The panellists conducted interviews with the Commissioners and staff of FHEC, committee members, assessors and evaluators, representatives from accredited institutions and a range of other stakeholders. The premises were viewed as were many more documents including records of assessments and decisions, internal working documents and correspondence.

After three days of meticulous and intense work, with great effort of all the staff from FHEC and many stakeholders such as the Minister of Education, University of the South Pacific (USP), University of Fiji, and Service Pro Institute of Tourism and Hospitality, the review panel successfully completed the review of FHEC for its potential inclusion on the APQR.

The AGM of the APQN in 2012 endorsed a proposal for the establishment of APQR as part of its Decennial agenda. The pilot review was conducted on the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council (QAAC) in Sri Lanka. The document "Asia

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Pacific Quality Register (APQR)” was issued after the special meeting at Macao held on 22nd - 23rd, January 2015.

The first meeting of the APQR Council was held in Kunming on 17th, April 2015. The review of FHEC is the first formal event for APQR. “This exercise would be counted as milestone in history of APQN and APQR”, said the APQN President on July 2.

After the “quantity era”, today higher education has entered into the “quality era”, and quality assurance agencies (QAAs) are playing an increasingly important role. Following the founding of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), APQR becomes the second in the international QA networks to implement a QA register. It is firmly believed that APQR will serve as a quality hallmark, providing an inspirational target, laying down basis for mutual recognition and cross-border operation of quality agencies, and offering a good reference for global stakeholders on trustworthy QAAs in the Asia Pacific region.

Agencies interested in applying to be on the Asia Pacific Quality Register may contact apqnsecretariat@163.com



The Minister of Education in Fiji met the APQR Review Panel

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