

## **Student Participation in Quality Assurance**

PG13, the Project Group on Student Participation in Quality Assurance, is a recent initiative. It is the latest project group for which formal clearance was communicated on 18th August 2005.

The project is in preparatory stage. Advice is sought from senior experts for enrolling members in this new project group.

Steps initiated so far are as listed below:

1. Data collection and literature review on issue of student participation in quality assurance is commenced by using secondary sources.
2. A desk top study by web based search is being done to capture data on SPQA from available websites of QAAs and sample institutes.
3. A format for collecting and mapping the data on SPQA is being designed and tested
4. A range of programs on SPQA are planned in India by NAAC and few promotional publications are on anvil.
5. A proposal for international conference to be hosted by the NAAC on this theme is prepared and submitted to APQN for assistance

### **Visit to HEQC**

The HEQC of South Africa had invited me to make presentation in Workshop on Student Participation in Quality Assurance held at Pretoria on 7th October 2005. The visit was funded by NAAC to give further fillip to ongoing efforts of NAAC in promoting SPQA.

Hospitality was taken care by HEQC as part of MoU between NAAC and HEQC. Besides sharing Indian experience in SPQA, I used the occasion to present outline of APQN project on SPQA in this workshop, which was appreciated.

This visit has provided an opportunity to share the experience in another region on the issue of SPQA and shall definitely add value to work of current project group of APQN.

### **Future activities and Timeframe**

In addition to continuation of above said steps following schedule of activities is decided.

1. The NAAC has planned to observe year 2006 as year of Student Participation in Quality Assurance. A brain storming session is scheduled in the month of November 05.
2. Before commencing the survey data available at APQN about the member agencies will be accessed and analyzed to capture data on SPQA as outlined in the project proposal. The survey would be commenced after this initial screening of available sources.
3. The preliminary report based on above study will be ready by March 2006.

4. A study visit and meetings as mentioned in the plan would be taken up during April-June 2006
5. International conference on SPQA is planned in September 06
6. Based on preliminary report and inputs from meetings, publication like Student Handbook on Quality Assurance would be planned along with other advocacy measures between July-December 06.
7. The first phase of project expected to end in April-May 2007 as mentioned in Project proposal.

To sum up, the project is on the track outlined in the proposal approved by the board and would meet the determined deadlines with projected outcomes.

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