

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

ASEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE NETWORK



and the

ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK



AUGUST 2018



**Memorandum of Understanding
between the
ASEAN Quality Assurance Network and the Asia-Pacific Quality Network**

1. Context

The ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) is a non-profit organisation established in 2008 by quality assurance authorities and ministries to:

- enhance and sustain the higher education system in the Southeast Asia region through quality assurance practices;
- seek closer harmonisation of the national quality assurance frameworks of the member countries;
- promote and share good practices of quality assurance in higher education in the region;
- collaborate on capacity building of quality assurance in higher education in the region;
- share information on higher education and facilitate exchanges and mutual recognition of qualifications within the region and between it and other parts of the world; and
- ensure effective association with other international quality assurance networks and higher education organisations.

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) is a non-profit organisation established in 2003 by quality assurance agencies as well as other bodies with an interest in quality assurance, with the mission to enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them. Among others, it aims to:

- promote good practice in the maintenance and improvement of quality in higher education in the Asia-Pacific region;
- facilitate links between quality assurance agencies and acceptance of each other's decisions and judgments;
- permit better-informed international recognition of qualifications throughout the region;



- enhance the mobility of students between institutions both within and across national borders; and
- assist members of APQN to determine standards of institutions operating across national borders.

Recognising the similarity in the mission statements and objectives of AQAN and APQN and their mutual interest in the quality of higher education and higher education institutions, it is in the interests of both organizations to formalise a memorandum of understanding (MoU) or cooperation between them to establish the objectives, parameters and resources of joint activities and mutual support. Such memorandum responds to the demands of increasing internationalisation in quality assurance and in higher education, and reflects international policy statements of educational leaders in both regions of the world.

2. Areas for Cooperation

This Memorandum is intended to reinforce and provide a platform for the desired cooperation between AQAN and APQN. It aims at strengthening the work of AQAN and its member agencies, and the work of APQN and its member agencies, as well as their interrelations, with the overall goal of enhanced global understanding and practice in the field of quality assurance in higher education. This MoU is intended to facilitate cooperation between AQAN and APQN and to set the basis for common projects in key areas of mutual interest and benefit such as:

- a. Database of consultants and reviewers
- b. Mutual recognition of external review of quality assurance agencies (QAAs)
- c. Staff exchange
- d. Sharing of information about quality assured higher education institutions (HEIs) in both regions
- e. Joint promotions of conferences and publications
- f. Developing tools and common strategy towards quality assurance of Cross-Border Higher Education (CBHE)



3. Resources

The two organisations shall cover their own costs for the cooperation, unless there is available project funding for some fields of collaboration. Active and coordinated fundraising efforts are foreseen in order to reach the above stated goals and carry out the intended activities. Funding may be requested from other organisations such as EU, UNESCO, World Bank, INQAAHE, and APEC.

4. Timeline

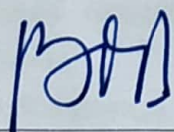
The timing of the activities will be as agreed between the two organisations. This agreement comes into effect on the date of signing, is valid for a period of three years, and may be renewed by mutual agreement.

5. Agency Officers Responsible for Managing the Agreement

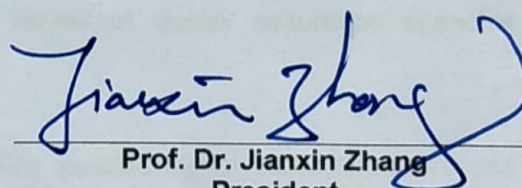
The Presidents of AQAN and APQN shall be responsible in managing this MoU. From time to time, they may delegate the responsibility of managing a particular area of the cooperation to other officers of their respective organisations. The President of AQAN may appoint a member of the AQAN Executive Committee to exercise the overall responsibility for this Memorandum on behalf of the network. The President of APQN may appoint a member of the APQN Board to exercise the overall responsibility for this Memorandum on behalf of the consortium.

6. Copies of the MoU

There are two identical copies of this Memorandum, one for each signatory.



Prof. T. Basaruddin
President
ASEAN Quality Assurance Network
(AQAN)



Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang
President
Asia-Pacific Quality Network
(APQN)

Date: 29/08/2018

Date: August 29, 2018

