

APQNews (19)

Jun. 30, 2019



Main Contents

1. Key Speech
2. 2019 AAC
3. Board & GC
4. Strategic Plan
5. Project
6. Member News
7. Coming-up Event

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Issue 19

APQN Mission Statement

To enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region through strengthening quality assurance work of both internal and external organizations and extending the cooperation among them.

APQN Values:

To be committed to quality of higher education and supportive of both internal and external quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region

Editor Message for the 19th Issue of APQNews

Dear APQN members, dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 19th issue of APQNews (2019)!

March is the best time of the year. This March we had a very exciting month! 2019 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) was held in Colombo, which attracted 151 participants from 30 countries/territories. 2019 AAC is special because the 6th Board directors have been elected: Jianxin Zhang from China, Galina Motova from Russia, Deepthi Bandara from Sri Lanka, I-Jung Grace Lu from Chinese Taipei, David Lambuckly from Vanuatu, Farida Nurmanbetova from Kazakhstan. This March also witnessed the release of the Brochure of “APQN 15th Anniversary”, the release of the Anthology of 2018 APQN Academic Conference, 2019 APQN Quality Awards, 19 meetings and 2 Excursions during the 4-day Programme in Sri Lanka.

The 19th issue of APQNews (2019) made up of 7 columns in 20 articles. The current issue provides detailed information on APQN activities, projects and sustainable development, as well as the QA developments from the QAAs and HEIs from the Asia-Pacific Region. It is worth mention the 6th Board made “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region: APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022)”.

It is encouraging to see the efforts invested in EQAA by the QAAs, e.g. APQR, Global Yoga Accreditation Summit Held in New York by NAAC, etc. It is encouraging to see the efforts invested in IQAA by HEIs, e.g. the APQL Review at SIU, the 3rd International Higher Education Conference at SIU in India and the Seminar on Quality Assurance Held at the Open University of Sri Lanka, etc. Both the QAAs and the HEIs are striving for improving their respective systems, with the aim to enhance credibility and relevance of provisions.

As always, we are happy to share valuable information on upcoming QA events. Among the major ones, 2020 AAC and AGM will be co-hosted by APQN and EDUVAUE, Singapore at Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore, on April 23-26, 2020. You are warmly welcomed to share your QA experiences next April in Singapore!

Last but not the least, I cordially invite all of you to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews (Issue 20). Please kindly e-mail them to Chief Editor and APQN Administrator at: 948661302@qq.com & apqnsecretariat@163.com. Please stay tuned for APQNews!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jianxin Zhang'.

Chief Editor of the 19th Issue of APQNews: Jianxin Zhang

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor Message for the 19 th Issue of APQNews.....	1
KEY SPEECH.....	3
Opening Speech at 2019 AAC	3
Inaugural Address at 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Colombo.....	6
Speech at Global Summit.....	9
2019 Annual Academic Conference (AAC)	11
Background of 2019 AAC	11
2019 AAC Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.....	14
THE BOARD & GENERAL COUNCIL	23
APQN 1 st Board Meeting Held in Colombo of Sri Lanka.....	23
APQN 2 nd Board Meeting Held in Colombo.....	24
APQR Council Meeting in 2019 was Held in Sri Lanka	27
STRATEGIC PLAN	28
APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022)	28
THE PROJECT.....	32
Global Yoga Accreditation Summit Held in New York.....	32
The APQL Review at SIU, India	35
SUI was awarded the APQL for Internationalization	37
Release of the Brochure of “APQN 15 th Anniversary”	38
Release of the Anthology of 2018 APQN Academic Conference	39
THE MEMBER NEWS.....	40
The 3 rd International Higher Education Conference at SIU, India	40
Seminar on Quality Assurance Held at the Open University of Sri Lanka	42
COMING-UP EVENT	44
Welcome to 2020 AAC and AGM	44
Welcome to the 4 th APQN-AACCUP Global Summit (2019).....	45

KEY SPEECH

Opening Speech at 2019 AAC

Honorable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Honorable Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, Distinguished guests, dear APQN members, dear colleagues, good morning! Welcome to the big family of APQN!

On behalf of APQN, I am honored to give Welcome Remark & Theme Address.

First of all, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Prime Minister of Sri Lanka: Honorable Ranil Wickremesinghe; the Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka: Honorable Karu Jayasuriya. Great thanks to Local Organising Committee: Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC): Prof. Mohan de Silva, Consultant of UGC: Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara and all the staff. Thanks to our Keynote speakers :Prof/Dr. Jamil Salmi, Global Tertiary Education Expert from Morocco; Dr. Peter J Wells, Chief of Higher Education from UNESCO. Welcome and thanks to The Delegates within & outside of the Asia-Pacific Region. Last but not the least, great thanks to APQN Board Directors and 222 APQN members!

Second, let me report the Brief Information of 2019 AAC.

The theme is "Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: Insight into the Future". There were 151 participants from over 30 countries/territories. The Programme in 4 days included 19 meetings and 2 Excursions:

Day 1: Excursion to Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage; 3 meetings- 1 Finance Committee meeting; 1st Board meeting; APQR Council meeting.

Day 2-3: 15 meetings - 2 keynote speeches; 4 plenary sessions; 1 Quality Awarding Ceremony; 5 parallel sessions; 1 workshop; 1 Annual General Meeting(AGM); 2nd Board meeting.

Day 4: City tour of Colombo.

As the Irish playwright and critic, George Bernard Shaw says: "If you have an apple & I have an apple, we share apples, then each of us will have one apple. But if you have an idea & I have an idea, we share these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas." We are gathering here to Share Ideas at APQN Big Family.

Third, I focus on Theme Address: Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: Insight into the Future. It is an Empirical Study Based on APQN-INQAHE Survey we did last year.

III. Theme Speech: Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: **Insight into the Future**



"The World is divided into three classes of people.
The 1st category are the overwhelming majority who **have no notion of what happens** ;
the 2nd type are the many who **watch things happen**, &
the 3rd category comprises of a few people who **make things happen**."

Nicholas M. Butler (1862-1947) : an American philosopher, diplomat, and educator, president of Columbia University, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize



Empirical Study Based on APQN-INQAAHE Survey

- In the **global accreditation era** of QA in HE, the Asia-Pacific Region with the **largest demand** for HE in the world, has made rapid progress after over **20-year development** in QA. However, few focuses in this Region. In 2018, APQN & INQAAHE jointly conducted online survey of both **IQA & EQA** to **HEIs & EQAAs** in this region.
- Survey was conducted in free website- **Wenjuanxin**: 130 days, a total of 1,341 questionnaires, got **79 valid samples**.



Research on Quality Assurance



- 1995-1999: Germination period
- 2000-2008: Development Period
- 2009-2016: **Rapid Growth Period**
- 2017- : **Maturity Period**



8 Dimensions of the Questionnaire on IQA

8 Dimensions	Indicators	Questions
(1) General Information	country or region	1
(2) Implementation of IQA	qualification offered by HEIs	2
	activity of IQA	3
(3) Self-evaluation Report	implementation of suggestion	4
	publicity of self-evaluation report	5
(4) Management of IQA	methods of publicity	6
	quality assurance unit management framework	7
(5) Policy of IQA	frame	8
	revise	9
(6) Resource of IQA	human resource	10
	financial resource	11
(7) Stakeholder	internal stakeholder	12
	external stakeholder	13
(8) Quality Culture	importance of quality culture	14
	sprout of quality culture	15

Summary: Problems on IQA Survey

1. Some HEIs **haven't sufficient initiative** to carry out IQA activities

2. QA policies & procedures are still **imperfect**

3. The HEIs still face the dilemma of **insufficient human & financial resources**

4. The cooperation with both internal & external stakeholders **are not reached** yet

5. The HEIs affiliated to the government **lack independence**

6. The awareness of Quality Culture is **weak** ...

Insight into the Future for IQA of the HEIs



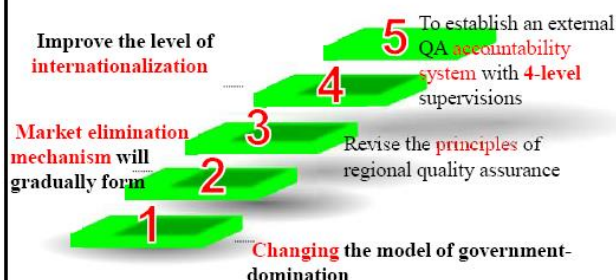
8 Dimensions of the Questionnaire on EQA

8 Dimensions	Indicators	Questions
(1) General Information	country or region	1
	officially establishing year	2
(2) Nature and Legality	nature	3
	legality	4
(3) Internationalization	joined organization	5
	international accreditation	6
(4) Implementation of EQA	procedure of implementation	7
	external evaluation teams	8
	preparatory sessions	9
(5) Quality Assurance of EQAA	establishment of QA system	10
	acceptation of external review	11
(6) Resource	human resource	12, 13
	financial resource	14, 15
(7) Stakeholder	stakeholders involved in policy making	16
	stakeholders represented by EQAA	17

Problems on EQA Survey

1. Half of EQAAs affiliated to the governments are not independent
2. Some EQAAs haven't been recognized by the legislation
3. Internationalization level of EQAAs is low
4. External evaluation team hasn't student representatives
5. EQAAs lack human & finance resource
6. Accountability mechanism is not complete...

Insight into the Future for EQA of the EQAAs



Insight into the Future- Quality Culture



Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: Insight into the Future



APQN fifth President: Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang

Inaugural Address at 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Colombo

Dear APQN members, dear brothers and sisters in APQN big family, Good afternoon!

Today is a special day for me, special for the new Board of Directors (2019-2022) and special for 222 APQN members.

It is special because APQN just celebrated its 15th Anniversary. Founded in 2003, under the leadership of the founders, pioneers and 5 Presidents - Mr. Peter Cheung, Ms. Concepcion Pijano, Dr. Antony Stella, Dr. Jagannath Patil and Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN has made remarkable achievements. The 15-year efforts gave APQN the vitality of sustainable development and left us the spiritual legacy.

It is special because with the effort of the Voting Independent Committee as well as all the relative candidates within 5 months, new Board of Directors of the 6th Board have been elected. The Directors are Jianxin Zhang from China, Galina Motova from Russia, Deepthi Bandara from Sri Lanka, I-Jung Grace Lu from Chinese Taipei, David Lambuckly from Vanuatu, Farida Nurmanbetova from Kazakhstan.

It is special because we embrace the new Secretariat: the Higher Education Evaluation Center (HEEC) of Chinese Ministry of Education(CME). At the 3rd Board Meeting in Bali Island in Indonesia, after the bidding procedure, HEEC successfully won the bidding and was chosen to be the host of APQN Secretariat. Mr. Aijun Zhou, HEEC deputy general director, is the Secretary as well as Treasurer, Dr. Shuo Wang is the Administrator.

It is special because we, the sixth Board of Directors, solemnly pledge to carry on APQN spiritual legacy forward.

I still remember, 3 years ago, on the sunny day of May in 2016, at the inaugural address of the 5th Board in “Paradise” of Fiji Island, I made the speech on 3 aspects: “Thanks, Pressure and Hope”. Today, I’d like to add 2 points “Legacy and Commitment”.

First of all, I’d like to say “Thanks”.

Thank you very much for your trust on me to be re-elected as APQN President! Thank you very much for your trust on the Board of Directors of the 6th Board! Thank you for your great support and love! It is our great honor and privilege to be trusted by all of you. Your support is our biggest motivation. Thank you!

Second, I’d like to say “Legacy”.

On a sunny day 16 years ago (2003) in Hong Kong, China, a small core group of QA professionals by doing pro bono service with a common wish for excellence in quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region had a meeting... and APQN came into being! After 16 years, their efforts gave APQN the vitality of sustainable development and left us the following spiritual legacy.

1. The Spirit of Dedication. Dedication is the passion and love for the cause of education quality bonded by the affection and friendship among our members. In the call of this spirit, the Board of Directors fulfill their duties in their respective positions in their home countries while completing APQN work as a dedicated cause without compensation.

2. The Spirit of Sharing. Sharing means selflessness, generosity and a global perspective that reflects the conduct and morality of APQN. APQN is an organization of shared information, experiences, theories, and practices in quality assurance. The current and the previous APQN Boards have been working hard to create an atmosphere of mutual trust, win-win cooperation and sharing culture.

3. The Spirit of Serving. Serving means that the Board of Directors should satisfy the requirements of higher education in the changing Information Age, answer the calls for excellent quality by the stakeholders, EQAAs, HEIs and the whole society, meet their needs and fulfill the duties entrusted. Being a Board director is not a privilege, but an increased responsibility for service. To serve the members whole-heartedly, satisfy their needs and help APQN going forward.

4. The Spirit of Innovation. It is to improve and create new methods and new paths based on the needs of APQN members and the limited financial and human resources. The Board of Directors should consider APQN as their own careers, do everything possible to contribute in their areas of expertise, and constantly improve creative function of APQN.

5. The Spirit of Sustainable Development. Sustainable development is to meet the present needs of the members without compromising future needs. It contains three key concepts: 1) diversity – to understand and accept the distinctiveness of all countries/regions of the Asia-Pacific Region; 2) equality – to make sure all members enjoy the same rights as prescribed in “APQN Constitution”; and 3) harmony – to promote harmonious relationship among APQN members, other international organizations and stakeholders in the QA field.

The new Board of Directors, especially I myself, together with 222 members in the APQN big family, pledge to inherit and carry on APQN’s spiritual legacy: Dedication, Sharing, Serving, Innovation and Sustainable development.

Third, I’d like to say “Commitment”.

Thank you again for your trust to elect us. We, especially me, are aware of the importance of the position of APQN President and Board Directors. All we can

repay you is our commitment, our hard work, our enthusiasm and our continuous love for APQN, for its prosperity and its sustainable development..

Today is a big day, it is our new starting point, a new challenge, a new opportunity. I feel, we, the new Board of Directors, are just like pupils sitting in the classroom facing the examination paper with many questions to be answered: 1) How to make APQN, this non-profit QA organization survive with limited finance? 2) How to make APQN, this non-government organization functions? 3) How does APQN, this regional QA network, can promote excellent quality both in external and internal QA? 4) How can APQN move forward with sustainable development...

Today, we, the Board of Directors, solemnly pledge to be devoted to APQN, to reach the goal of *"Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region"*, we will try our best to do things for APQN, *"to be committed to the quality of higher education, to be supportive of both internal and external QA in the Asia-Pacific Region."* Let's join hands together, to walk shoulder to shoulder on the way to the bright future.

Me myself, I'd like to repeat my promise during this term as APQN President: "Do not ask what APQN can do for me, but ask what I can do for APQN." I'd like to quote Petclair: *"If I have a strong commitment to my goals and dreams, if I wake up every day with a passion to do my job, everything is possible!"* If we, all APQN members, have strong commitments to our goals and dreams, if we wake up every day with passions to do our jobs, everything is possible! Thank you!



The 6th President: Jianxin Zhang

The 6th Board Director: Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Aijun Zhou, Jagannath Patil, Deepthi Bandara, I-Jung Grace Lu, David Lambuckly, Farida Nurmanbetova

Speech at Global Summit

Respected Hon'ble H. E. K. Nagaraj Naidu, Indian Ambassador to UN, Dr. H. R. Nagendra, Hon'ble Chancellor of S-VYASA, Bengaluru, Dr. Geetha Krishnan Gopalakrishna Pillai, World Health Organization, Dr. Jagannath Patil, GYAS Convener, dear colleagues and friends, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

On this beautiful day, in the largest city and largest port in the USA - New York, Global Yoga Accreditation Summit (GYAS) entitled "Beginning of a Conversation towards a Global Ecosystem in Yoga Higher Education through Accreditation" is held after the great efforts since last August by NAAC, India, It is in cooperation with PMI-UN, USA, and with the global partner, Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN). On behalf of all APQN Board Directors and 222 members from 42 countries/territories, I'd like to express my sincere greetings to all the participants, and express my heartfelt thanks, and my warm congratulations to NAAC for hosting this great event! (Claps)

Today, we must warmly congratulate GYAS because the key essence and ever-lasting spirit of yoga has been greatly stressed by way of the GYAS. Yoga, "the treasure of the world", is originated in India with a history of over 5,000 years. Yoga is more about harmonizing oneself with the universe. It is the technology of aligning individual geometry with the cosmic, to achieve the highest level of perception and harmony. For thousands of years, yoga has been based on ancient Indian philosophy of "harmony". It is a very useful instrument for promoting social harmony in this contradictory and diversified globe, too. Yoga's harmony can also be found at the core of Chinese Confucian ethics: "天人合一" "harmony between human and nature", which has been firmly stuck to, for over 2,000 years in China.

Today, we must warmly congratulate GYAS because it is heartening that NAAC is striving to offer yoga accreditation worldwide. In 2016, NAAC and APQN held the first Global Summit on Quality Assurance entitled "Next-Generation QA of Higher Education: a Shared Vision and Commitment for Fostering Partnership beyond Borders", which was counted as the major landmark in the international history of HE quality assurance. 3 years later, today, another landmark in yoga education QA is witnessed by us: it is Global Yoga Accreditation Summit. NAAC has developed 7 criteria to serve as basis for Yoga Accreditation: 1) curricular aspects; 2) teaching-learning and evaluation; 3) research, innovations and extension; 4) infrastructure and learning resources; 5) student support and progression; 6) governance, leadership and management; and 7) institutional values and best practices. I am sure, this undertaking by NAAC will greatly promote the Global Ecosystem in Yoga HE in this globe.

Today, we must warmly congratulate GYAS because it will be counted as a

milestone in both national and international history of HE quality assurance. The topics of GYAS will focus on 5 points: 1) the state-of-the-art of yoga in HE systems and its accreditation; 2) thoughts on mainstreaming yoga into the HE systems; 3) issues related to yoga accreditation and recognition within the HE system ambit; 4) suggestions to take the agenda forward in the HE system; 5) the ideas/suggestions/principles to be included in yoga accreditation worldwide. The Yoga Accreditation urgently needs co-ordination and co-operation amongst various bodies dealing with the QA bodies in Yoga worldwide, as well as the HEIs/institutions/programmes worldwide. It has brought various stakeholders in the field of Yoga from India, USA, China and other countries worldwide. We are here to amalgamate the harmonization between the traditional philosophy and modern practices through Yoga Accreditation.

Ladies and gentlemen, at today's GYAS, let's "Think Globally, and Act Locally", as UNESCO's slogan goes! Let's begin a "Conversation towards a Global Ecosystem in Yoga HE through Accreditation". Let's work on the ever-lasting theme of both individual and social harmony for a better and sustainable world.



Ladies and gentlemen, hope we can make full use of this global summit to exchange theoretical ideas and practical experience! Hope we can join hands and strive for Global Ecosystem in Yoga HE through Accreditation. Hope GYAS a great success! Thank you!

APQN President: Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang on April 27, 2019



Yoga Workshop in the morning of April 28

2019 Annual Academic Conference (AAC)

Background of 2019 AAC

In February 2018, Prof Jianxin Zhang, President of the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) invited the Quality Assurance Council (QAC) of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka to host the 15th Annual Academic Conference (AAC) of APQN in Sri Lanka in 2019. This invitation was forwarded to the Chairman of the UGC by the Director, QAC who placed it before the Commission for consideration. Recognizing the importance of hosting the APQN conference in Sri Lanka at a time when Sri Lanka is poised to bring in a new dimension to its quality assurance of higher education, the Commission granted approval for this invitation and request.

1. Agreement

Thus, in March 2018, the Chairman, UGC and Director, QAC traveled to Nagpur, India where the AAC 2018 was held, and the agreement to hold the APQN AAC 2019 in Sri Lanka was signed by the Chairman, UGC and the President APQN.

2. Dates and Location

The location of the AAC was decided to be the historic Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo from 28th to 31st March 2019.

3. Theme and Sub themes

The theme of this year's APQN conference was Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: Insight into the Future. It comprised 4 sub themes as follows: (1) Innovative approaches to the development of internal QA: transforming challenges into opportunities; (2) Application of new technologies in evaluation and accreditation of programs, Institutes and long distance; (3) Cultural diversity and its implications for the quality of Cross Border higher education; (4) Role of institutions and students in the enhancement of Quality Culture in higher education.

4. Organizing Committees

The international organizing committee comprised the 5th APQN Board of Directors and the APQN Secretariat chaired by the APQN President, while the local organizing committee comprised the Standing Committee on Quality Assurance of

the UGC chaired by the Director, QAC. Continuous correspondence took place between the two committees to organize a successful AAC 2019.

5. Visa Arrangements

The local organizing committee was able to arrange with the Department of Immigration in Sri Lanka, to provide gratis visa for all individuals who registered for the conference with on line payment before 10th March 2019.

6. Conference Program

The highlights of the program at the time of announcement of the AAC 2019 on the APQN website in September 2018, was as follows:

Day 1: Conference Registration, Full day Conference Tour

Day 2: Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speech, Plenaries, Parallel Sessions, Cultural Show, Quality Awards Ceremony

Day 3: Keynote Speech, Plenaries, Parallel sessions, Workshop, AGM, Closing Ceremony

Day 4: Half a day City tour

7. Conference Registration

Registration for the conference was opened from November 2018. An early bird registration deadline of 25th February 2019 was made available. All registrations were on line. Payment options of both on line and on site was made available.

The detailed registration numbers are as follows:

Total number of participants – 151
Number of international participants – 98
Number of local participants - 53
Early bird registration/ members – US \$ 250 (44)
Early bird registration/ non- members –US \$ 280 (26)
Regular/ members - US \$ 300 (5)
Regular / non- members – US \$ 330 (23)

The local organizing committee declared a discounted registration fee for local participants recognizing the importance of attendance at the conference by the academic community of Sri Lanka.

The 151 participants were from 31 countries around the world with a majority of participants from the Asia Pacific region.

8. Conference Website

Announcements regarding the conference were posted in the APQN website from time to time. A dedicated conference website was launched by the hosts in February 2019. This comprised a home page and other pages which provided information on conference program, registration options, keynote speakers, accommodation and travel, about Sri Lanka, and contact possibilities.

9. Conference Tours

A full day tour to the world- renowned elephant orphanage at Pinnawela was arranged for the participants on 28th March 2019 with a payment of US \$ 14/participant and US \$ 10 /accompanying person. A half a day city tour of Colombo was arranged for all participants at no cost on the 31st March 2019.

10. Abstract Booklet

A highlight of the AAC 2019 was the compilation of an abstract booklet which was distributed to all registrants of the conference with the other conference material for easy reference during presentation. The booklet comprised abstracts of the keynote speeches, all plenary presentations, and all parallel presentations. It also contained names of all participants with their country and email address, information of members of the organizing committees and acknowledgement of sponsorship for the conference.

11. APQN 15th Anniversary Brochure

A copy of this brochure which contained the 15- year history and highlights of the impressive journey of APQN, compiled by the APQN 5th President and edited by the 5th APQN Board of Directors was also distributed to all registrants of the conference.

12. Conference Proper

The conference proper was held very successfully as scheduled from 29th to 30th March 2019 at the BMICH, Colombo Sri Lanka.

(Written by Prof Deepthi C. Bandara, Chairperson/Local Organizing Committee, Consultant/Quality Assurance Council, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka)

2019 AAC Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka

1. Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held in the morning of 29th March 2019 from 9.00 am o 10.30 am. The chief guest at this ceremony was the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe.



The detailed program of the opening ceremony was as follows.

8:50 - 9:00	Invitees take their seats
9:00 - 9:10	Lighting of oil lamp by dignitaries – The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Sri Lanka, The Minister of Higher Education, The Chairman/UGC, The President/APQN, The Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education
9:10 - 9:15	National Anthem
9:15 - 9:22	Welcome address by Prof Mohan de Silva, Chairman, University Grants Commission
9:22 - 9:35	Video presentation on “History of Higher Education in Sri Lanka”
9:35 - 9:50	Welcome Remarks and Theme Address by APQN President, Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang
9.50 - 10:00	Address by Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
10:00 - 10:08	Address by Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, the Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka
10:08 - 10:15	Cultural Item of Drumming – performed by school boys from Sri Lanka
10:15 - 10:25	Release of “Brochure of APQN 15th Anniversary” by the 5 th APQN Board of Directors, and awarding Memorable Certificates of Appreciation by Prof Mohan de Silva, Chairman/UGC on behalf of the Prime Minister
10:25 - 10:30	Release of APQN publications: 1) 2018 Anthology by Prof. Galina Motova; 2) 2016 Anthology by Dr. Jagannath Patil
10:30	End of Ceremony



2. Recipients of Memorable Certificates of Appreciation

The following persons were awarded certificates of appreciation for their commitment and outstanding contribution towards the quality assurance community of the Asia Pacific region.

Prof Jianxin Zhang – China; Dr. Jagannath Patil – India; Prof Deepthi Bandara – Sri Lanka Dr. Galina Motova – Russia; Dr Manuel Corpus – Philippines; Dr. Angela Yung Chi Houi – Chinese Taipei; Ms Malini Nair – Prasad – Fiji (In absentia)

3. Group Photograph

A group photograph was taken of all participants at the entrance steps of the BMICH after the opening ceremony.



4. Keynote Speeches

There were two keynote speeches in the AAC 2019. The date and time, topic, speaker and his designation, chair and commentator of the sessions were as

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

follows.

1st Keynote Speech- On 29th March 2019 from 11.20 am to 12.20 pm

Topic: Cultural Diversity and its Implications for the Quality of Cross Border Higher Education

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jamil Salmi, Global Tertiary Education Expert, former World Bank tertiary education coordinator, Morocco

Chair and Commentator: Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President

2nd Keynote Speech - On 30th March 2019 from 9.00am – 10.00 am

Topic: Institutional Quality Begins at Home: Building Inclusive Internal Culture(S) of Enhancement

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Peter J Wells, Chief of Higher Education, UNESCO

Chair and Commentator: Prof Deepthi C. Bandara, University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka



5. Plenary Sessions

There were 4 plenary sessions in AAC 2019.

The date and time, topic of session, chair and commentator of the session, panel speakers' names, their affiliation and title of their presentation were as follows.

Plenary Session 1 on 29th March 2019 from 13.30 to 14.30 pm

Topic: Academic Quality and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Chair and Commentator: Dr. Manuel Corpus (Board Director) from Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP), Philippines

Panel Speakers:

1. **Reconsidering Evidence in Academic Quality by Sheelagh Matear from Academic Quality Agency (AQA) for New Zealand Universities, New Zealand**
2. **Updating our Conceptions of "Quality" in Higher Education: The Case of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) by Jeanette Baird from the LH Martin Institute at the University of Melbourne, Australia – this paper was read by another person since the author could not be present at the conference, by Dr. Shuo Wang from HEEC, China**

Plenary Session 2 on 29th March 2019 from 14.30 to 15.30 pm

Topic: World-Class Quality and Standards

Chair and Commentator: Dr. Galina Motova (Board Director) from the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia

Panel Speakers:

1. World-Class Disciplines Evaluation in Mainland China: Case Study of Chinese Postgraduate Education and Discipline Evaluation by Junping Qiu, Rui Zhang and Jing Tian from Chinese Academy of Science and Education Evaluation of Hangzhou Dianzi University, China
2. Good Practices and Bench Marking Approach to Quality Improvement Based on International Good Practices Project by Jagannath Patil from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India

Presentation on APQN Terminological Alignment Project by Syun Tutiya from National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Japan

Plenary Session 3 on 30th March 2019 from 10.00 am to 11.30 am

Topic: Launching of the “South Asia: Challenges and Benefits of Research Collaboration in a Diverse Region” World Bank-Elsevier Report

Chair and Commentator: Dr. Cristian Aedo, Education Practice Manager for South Asia, The World Bank. Washington, DC, USA

Presenters:

1. Research collaboration in South Asia: key findings from the World Bank-Elsevier Report by Maria de Kleijn-Lloyd. Senior Vice President of Analytical Services. Elsevier. Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
2. Research collaboration in SAR: Pointers for Action by Francisco Marmolejo. Lead Higher Education Specialist for India and South Asia. The World Bank. New Delhi, India.
3. Discussion panel on Policy and Programmatic Implications moderated by Prof. P.S.M. Gunaratne, Vice Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.



Plenary Session 4 on 30th March 2019 from 13.30 pm to 14.30 pm

Topic: Quality Assurance of Transnational Education (TNE)

Chair and Commentator: Dr. Aijun Zhou (Board Director) from HEEC, China

Panel Speakers:

1. **China Higher Education Quality Assurance and International Cross-Border Education Quality Assurance Cooperation by Qiao Wenjun from China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC), China**
2. **Collaborative Cross-border Joint Quality Assurance: Good Practices and Challenges by Fabrizio Trifiro from UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and Clara Chong from Hong Kong Council for the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), China**



6. Parallel Sessions

There were 6 parallel sessions in AAC 2019. Altogether there were 21 presentations scheduled to be presented in 5 parallel sessions while one parallel session was a workshop. The date and time, sub theme of session, chair and commentator of the session, panel speakers' names, their affiliation and title of their presentation were as follows.

Parallel Session 1 on 29th March 2019 from 16.00 -17.00 pm

Sub-theme 1: Innovative Approaches to IQA Development

Chair: Dr. Farida Nurmanbetova from ECAQA, Kazakhstan

Speakers:

1. **Improvement of Medical Teaching Quality Supervision on Regular and Self-organizing Basis and its Practice: Taking Kunming Medical University as an Example by Jianyun Yu, Lin Zhao, Ying Liu, Ying Ma, Xiaocha Liang, Zhenghui Tang, Zhongji Zhang, Song Li from**

Kunming Medical University, China

2. **Measuring Service Quality in Higher Education: A Case Study from Pakistan** by Reema Zahid from Quality Enhancement Cell / Management of KASBIT, Pakistan
3. **Comparisons of QA systems, Review standards and Procedures, and Transparency in Taiwan and Indonesia: Capacity Building for Transnational Education** by Pin-Chuan Hsu from Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei
4. **Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Nepal: Status and Issues** by Deepak Kumar Khadka from University Grants Commission, Nepal

Parallel Session 2 on 29th March 2019 from 16.00 -17.00 pm

Sub-theme 2: Application of New Technologies in QA

Chair: Dr. L-Jung Grace, Research fellow of HEEACT, Chinese Taipei

Speakers:

1. **The Improvement and Changes of Peer Review Mechanism in New Cycle of Program Accreditation in Taiwan** by Chun-chi Chih from Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei
2. **Innovative Technologies for Establishing an Institutional System for Quality Assurance and its Independent Assessment** by Arkady Vladimirtsev, Aleksandra Zvezdova & Vera Silaeva from Certification Association "Russian Register", Russia
3. **Introduction of an Online Review Tracker in managing applications for Review, Registration Accreditation and Recognition for higher and technical education in PNG** by Wilma Sharon Paka from Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, Papua New Guinea



Parallel Session 3 on 29th March 2019 from 17.05 – 18.30 pm

Sub-theme 3: Cultural Diversity for the quality of Cross Border Higher Education

Chair: Aw Yong Jun Barry from EDUVAUE, Singapore

Speakers:

1. External and Internal Quality Assurance Systems in Higher Education: A Comparative Study between NIAD-QE in Japan and KUAI in Korea by Kim, Sounghee & Cho, Shinichi from NIAD-QE, Japan, Oh Yejin from KUAI, Korea
2. Standardization in quality assurance standards framework -International comparison and inspiration to China by Xilu Donga, Bjørn Stensaker & Junping Qiu from Institute of Education Sciences, Wuhan University, China; University of Oslo, Norway
3. Campus Management System (CMS): a tool to ease Continual Quality Improvement (CQI) implementation process in Outcome Based Education (OBE) Approach by Arisha Maham, Sheema Haider & Sameer Virani, QEC of Indus University, Pakistan
4. Role of Assessment of Students' Satisfaction and Loyalty in Establishing Trust-based Quality Culture at Higher Education Institutions in Pakistan by Ainee Jamal & Riaz Ahmad from Quality Enhancement Cell, Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Pakistan
5. Fostering Internal Quality Assurance: Nurturing Quality Research Culture in Higher Education Institutions by Abdul Saboor Zahid from National Defence University, Pakistan

Parallel Session 4 on 29th March 2019 from 17.05 – 18.30 pm

Sub theme 4: Quality in Higher Education in Sri Lanka

Chair: Jackson Chun- Chi Chih; from HEEACT, Chinese Taipei

Speakers:

1. Reflections on the Quality Assurance Process in Higher Education in Sri Lanka by Dayalatha Lekamge, Faculty of Education, Open University of Sri Lanka
2. An Approach to Recognize Non-State Higher Education Service Providers in Sri Lanka by Colin N. Peiris, Windhya Rankothge and Anuradha Karunasena from Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, Sri Lanka
3. Compliance towards Quality Assurance System (QAS) in Higher Education (HE): A Systematic Literature Review by Chani Vasana Imbulgoda, University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka
4. Staff Reward and Recognition Scheme to Motivate Academic Staff in Higher Education: Case Study in SLIIT, Sri Lanka by Anuradha Karunasena, Windhya Rankothge, Colin N. Peiris from Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), Sri Lanka
5. Faculty Initiatives for Enhancement and Assurance of Quality in Teaching & Learning at SLIIT by Anuradha Karunasena, Windhya Rankothge & Colin N. Peiris from Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, Sri Lanka

Parallel Session 5 on 30th March 2019 from 11.50 am to 12.50 pm

Sub-theme 1: Innovative Approaches to IQA Development

Chair: Dr. Angela Yung Chi Houi from HEEACT, Chinese Taipei

Speakers:

1. Development of Internal Quality Assurance and its Challenges in Taiwan Higher Education from University and Students' Perspectives by Angela Yung Chi Hou; Jackson Chun- Chi Chih; Shao Ren Lin; Ying Champing Chuan Hsu, Wenhsing Kuo, Chia Yi Lin, Liao, Yu-Rong from Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei
2. Manage Reform in Undergraduate Stage of Medical Elite Education under the Background of Mass Higher Education by Sun Wen, Dong Jian, the Third Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University, China
3. Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Analysing Issues for Way Forward by Atif Shahab

- from Quality Enhancement Cell of Institute of Business Management, Karachi, Pakistan
4. Research on construction of Teaching staff based on Capacity Outcome in accordance with the need of local Industry -A way of development of applied technology-based universities by Zhang Lingfei from Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China

Parallel Session 6 on 30th March 2019 from 11.50 am to 12.50 pm

Workshop: APQN Quality Label (APQL) for the HEIs

Chair: Prof Jianxin Zhang, Dr. Jagannath Patil and Dr. Galina Motova from APQN Board

7. Cultural Show, Gala Dinner and Quality Awards Ceremony

These were held at the “On Golden Pond” Auditorium of the Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo from 19.30 to 22.00 pm on 29th March 2019.

Cultural Show- The Cultural show which comprised 4 traditional dance items and 2 song items were performed by students of the University of Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka.



Quality Awards Ceremony-The Awards Ceremony was compered by Dr. Jagannath Patil.

The participants at the awards ceremony were All APQN members, all registrants, and all local participants. The agenda, awards and recipients were as follows:

- Address by APQN President
- Announcement of Award Category 1: Host of APQN Secretariat for 9 Years (2009-2018)- Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI), China
- Announcement of Award Category 2: APQN Award of Staff Capacity Building - Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), Chinese Taipei
- Announcement of Award Category 3: APQN’s Best/Model Internal QA Award-Internal Quality Assurance Unit (IQA) of the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), Sri Lanka
- Announcement of Award Category 4: APQN Quality Champions Award-Dr. Manuel T. Corpus, AACCUP President, Philippines

- Announcement of Award Category 5: Best Consultant - Engr Salim Ahmed Khan, Pakistan
- Announcement of Acceptance to APQR: The Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health (IAAHEH, LAM-PTKes)
- Announcement of Award Category 6: Successful Hosting APQN Academic Conference- The University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka
- Group photos were taken of all the Winners

8. Conference Closing

This was held on 30th March 2019 from 14.30 to 15.30 pm. The chair is Dr. Jagannath Patil (Former APQN President). The agenda of the session was as follows.



- Announcement of the next host of 2020 AAC by APQN President and Presentation by the local Host: EDUVALUE, Singapore (15 min)
- Announcement of the next host of 2019 APQN Global Summit and Presentation by the local Host: AACUP (10 min)
- APQN-HEEC Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Hosting Secretariat, APQN-EDUVAUE Hosting Agreement, APQN- AACUP Hosting Agreement, HEEACT-JIHEE MoU and other signings (10 min)
- Closing Remarks by the Chair of the Programme Committee (PC), APQN President, Jianxin Zhang (5 min)
- Closing Remarks by the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Prof Deepthi Bandara from UGC, Sri Lanka (5 min)
- Comments, feedback, acknowledgements from the participants (10 min)
- Conference Closing



(Written by Prof Deepthi C. Bandara, Chairperson/Local Organizing Committee, Consultant/Quality Assurance Council, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka)

THE BOARD & GENERAL COUNCIL

APQN 1st Board Meeting Held in Colombo of Sri Lanka

At 17:00-19:00 on March 28, 2019, APQN 1st Board Meeting in 2019 was held at Hybrid of BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The topic is “2018 Annual Report and Preparation of 2019 AAC & AGM”. It was chaired by APQN fifth President, Jianxin Zhang.

A total of 12 attendees included Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang (APQN President), Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi (Vice President), Ms Pingping Liu and Mr. Aijun Zhou (Secretary/Treasurer); Board Directors: Prof. Galina Motova, Dr. Jagannath Patil, Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara, Dr. Manuel T. Corpus; Administrators: Lingfei Zhang and Shuo Wang. Special guests from the host of 2020 AAC: Aw Yong Jun Barry, Chief Executive of EDUVAUE, Singapore, together with his assistant.

The meeting discussed 5 items, including the following: 1) brief report from the local organizer of 2019 AAC and AGM; 2) brief report from the chair of Programme Committee; 3) brief introduction of the host of 2020 AAC (EDUVAUE from Singapore); 4) discussion on APQN Website; and 5) brief report from the 5th Board Directors (2016-2019).

The Board discussed about 2020 AAC and AGM. It is decided that 2020 AAC will be held at Singapore Management University on April 24-28 (Wednesday-Saturday), 2020. The Board also decided that Jagannath Patil continued to be leader of APQN Website to deal with the relative things with Kramah Software India Pvt. Ltd. At the end the President; Vice-president and Secretary/Treasurer gave a very brief report on what they have done in 2018. More information can be read in APQN Annual Report.



(Written by Jianxin Zhang)

APQN 2nd Board Meeting Held in Colombo

At 17:00-18:50, March 30, 2019, APQN 2nd Board Meeting in 2019 was held at Hybrid of BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka, The topic is “The Sustainable Development of APQN”. It was chaired by APQN sixth President, Jianxin Zhang.



A total of 10 attendees included Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang (APQN President), Aijun Zhou (Secretary/Treasurer), as well as Board Directors: Prof. Galina Motova, Dr. Jagannath Patil, Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara, Dr. I-Jung Grace Lu, Dr. Farida Nurmanbetova and Shuo Wang (Administrator). Special guests from the host of 2020 AAC: Aw Yong Jun Barry, Chief Executive of EDUVAUE, Singapore, together with his assistant.

The meeting discussed 10 items: 1) 2020 APQN Academic Conference (AAC); 2) finance principles; 3) discussion on the process of APQN membership; 4) discussion on APQN-RR Joint Project on APQN Quality Label with “Russian Register”; 5) discussion on collecting data of Quality Information Portal; 6) discussion on Vice President, co-opted Board Directors; 7) discussion on APQN-HEED MoU; 8) discussion on MOU INQAAHE strategic partners; 9) PC Members’ assignment as well as proposed initiatives and job allocated; 10) reviewing 2019-2020 APQN Calendar.

The Board decided to accept the Finance Principles which have been passed by the fifth Board on March 20, 2019. APQN finance has a veto over APQN leadership of the Board if the annual finance appears “deficit”. Some measures must be taken to collect membership fee Membership. It is expected that the new account will be open within 3 months (before July).

The Membership Committee is made up of 6 members: Galina Motova, Jianxin Zhang, Aijun Zhou, Deepthi C. Bandara, Farida Nurmanbetova and Shuo Wang. The process of reviewing the applicants of APQN New Members must be completed within 2 months.

The Board appointed Galina Motova as Vice President, and Jagannath Patil is co-opted Board Directors for APQN Quality Register (APQR). The Board will co-opt one Director from institutional members, e.g. Pakistan, on condition of project.

In order to realize APQN vision of “*being a self-sustaining Network*” and its sustainable development, at the second Meeting, the board decided to stop the MoU without any payment. The Board also suggested that HEED can use the logo and brand name for distribution of the journal without APQN financial payment, then the new MoU can be signed in order to realize our common and shared value of “*being committed to the quality of higher education in the region*”.

The Board meeting ended with the decision of making “APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022)” for sustainable development of APQN.

Proposed Initiatives, Assignments and Tasks Allocated for APQN Board Directors:

Director	Assignments and Tasks Allocated
Jianxin Zhang	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To be leader of “<u>Call for Paper for 2020 AAC</u>” and responsible for all the relative tasks, including the Agreements, inviting keynote speakers, AAC timeline and programme, including the Agreements, inviting keynote speakers, AAC timeline and programme, etc., together with EDUVALU, Singapore. 2) To be leader of <u>Annual General Meeting(AGM)</u>, <u>the Board Meetings</u> and responsible for all the relative tasks, including programme, report on behalf the Board, chairs, etc. 3) To be leader of “<u>Call for the Host of the Applications for Hosting 2021 AAC and AGM</u>” and responsible for all the relative tasks. 4) To be leader of <u>APQN Quality Label (APQL)</u> for the HEIs, and responsible for all the relative tasks, including project, the site review, certificates, etc. 5) To be leader of revising <u>APQN Constitution</u> together with Jagannath Patil 6) To be leader of the Proposal of <u>APQN Individual Membership</u>, 7) To be leader of “<u>Three-year Strategic Plan for APQN Sustainable Development(2019-2022)</u>” 8) To be leader of “<u>Global Summit on Quality Assurance</u>” and responsible for all the relative tasks, including the Agreement, c etc., t 9) To be leader of publishing two issues of “<u>APQNews (Issue 19 & 20)</u>” 10) To be leader of publishing “<u>APQN Annual Report (2019)</u>”
Galina Motova	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To be leader of <u>the Membership Committee</u> and responsible for all the relative tasks, such as reviewing the new applications, up-dating the contacts of APQN members, etc. 2) To be leader of <u>the Finance Committee</u> together with the Secretary/Treasurer and the President
The Secretariat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To be treasurer of <u>the Finance Committee</u> and responsible for all the relative tasks, including collecting APQN membership fees, to pay the bills which has been approved by the Board with signature of President or Vice President. 2) To be the leader of <u>Communication</u> with all APQN members, including to circulate the 5 “Calls” and other relative information to APQN members 3) To be executive leader of APQN website, including paying for the service party according to the contract, updating and up-loading information, managing APQN membership status, etc. 4) To be leader of “<u>Call for 2020 Applications for Sponsorship</u>” and responsible for all the relative tasks.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To be the leader of “<u>Call for 2020 APQN Quality Award</u>” and responsible for all the relative tasks, including voting, agenda and chair of the Awarding Ceremony 2) To be the leader of <u>APQN website</u> and responsible for all the relative tasks,

Jagannath Patil	<p>such as negotiation, signing contract, etc. together with the Secretary</p> <p>3) To be chair of Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR), and responsible for all the relative tasks, including APQR website, the site review, certificates, etc.</p> <p>4) To be leader of <u>“Good Practice for External Quality Assurance Agencies”</u> launched by NAAC and responsible for all the relative tasks.</p> <p>5) To be leader of <u>“Global Yoga Accreditation Summit”</u> and responsible for all the relative tasks.</p>
Deepthi C. Bandara	<p>1) To be leader of <u>“Staff Capacity Building (SCB)”</u> and responsible for all the relative tasks, including implementation of 2019.</p> <p>2) To be leader of publishing <u>2020 AAC Anthology</u> which was held in Sri Lanka, including the agreement, the up-dated template, contact with authors, publication, releasing the Anthology, etc.</p>
I-Jung Grace Lu	<p>1) To be leader of the <u>Quality Information Portal</u> and responsible for all the relative tasks, including the template, the website plan, etc.</p> <p>2) To be leader of <u>On-line Forum</u> held once every two years (the next is in 2021), and responsible for all the relative tasks, including up-dating the traditional media, the contents, the forum results, the certificates, etc.</p>
Farida Nurmanbetova	<p>1) To be leader of <u>Reviewing AAC Papers</u> and responsible for all the relative tasks, including contact with the authors and presenters, etc.</p>
David Lambuckly	–

(Written by Jianxn Zhang)

APQR Council Meeting in 2019 was Held in Sri Lanka

The 3rd APQR Council Meeting was held on March 28, 2019 at 19:00 (Thursday) at Hybrid in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on eve of APQN Annual Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2019.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Jagannath Patil, Chairperson, APQR and Co-chaired by Prof. Angela Yung Chi Hou, APQN Vice-President. Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President and other APQR Council members also participated. APQN Board Members Ms. Liu Pingping, APQN Secretary/Treasurer and Mr. Zhang Lingfei, APQN Administrator attended as special invitees.

Dr. Jagannath Patil (Adviser, NAAC & Chairperson, APQRC) welcomed all participants and gave brief report on APQR activities in last year including APQR review process of “Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health” (IAAHEH) based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Later Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President, and Prof. Angela Yung Chi Hou, APQN Vice-President, spoke about the promotion of APQR together with Board members. Dr. Jagannath Patil Informed about possible following Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs) would likely to inclusion on APQR review process: 1) Finance Accreditation Agency (FAA), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 2) Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), Kazakhstan; 3) Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA), Mongolia; and 4) Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care (ECAQA), Kazakhstan.

During the meeting, following issues are discussed and agreed as follows: 1) an amount of about 4000 USD earmarked towards expenses of APQR Secretariat; 2) APQR may be registered as legal entity at a suitable location / country.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the Chair.



(Written by Dr. Jagannath Patil)

STRATEGIC PLAN

APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

In order to realize the final goal of “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region”, the Sixth Board of APQN made the APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022) .It got approved on May 30, 2019.

The sixth Board began its term on March 30, 2019 in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. To realize the mission of *“being a self-sustaining Network, the first point of reference for advice or support, efficient in its operations and open in its information sharing”*, this Strategic Plan is made as the guidance for the new general council in the next three years (2019-2022)¹.

The sixth Board will take on the persistent mission with new attitude and new perspectives. The five principles of the sixth Board are: 1) target-orientated principle; 2) project-orientated principle; 3) SMART Project principle (specific, meaningful, agreed-upon, results-oriented and tractable); 4) Win-Win Principle; and 5) principle of sustainable development. The five key words are “procedure-base, capacity-building, self-reliance, information-sharing and sustainable development”. APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022) will complete the following seven goals and actions along with ten targets in the next three years.

APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022)	
1. Vision and Mission	<p>1.1 Vision: to be a self-sustaining Network, the first point of reference for advice or support, efficient in its operations and open in its information sharing.</p> <p>1.2 Mission: to enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region through strengthening quality assurance work of both internal and external organizations and extending the cooperation among them.</p> <p>1.3 Value: to be committed to the quality of higher education; to be supportive of both internal and external quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region.</p>
2. Strategic Objectives	<p>2.1 To promote good practice in the maintenance and improvement of quality in higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region.</p> <p>2.2 To facilitate research in the region into the practice of quality management in higher education and its effectiveness in improving the quality of higher education in the region.</p> <p>2.3 To provide advice and expertise to assist in the development of new quality assurance organizations in the region.</p> <p>2.4 To facilitate links between quality assurance organizations and acceptance of each other's decisions and judgments.</p> <p>2.5 To assist APQN members in determining standards of institutions operating across national borders.</p> <p>2.6 To permit better-informed international recognition of qualifications throughout the region.</p> <p>2.7 To accredit external QAAs and HEIs to guarantee the good quality of them;</p> <p>To enhance the mobility of students among HEIs both within and across national</p>

¹ Based in “APQN Strategic Plan (2012-2015) and Strategic Plan (2016-2019), this new Strategic Plan (2019-2022) was made by the sixth President, Pro/Jianxin Zhang in May 2019. It has been greatly improved and approved by the Board Directors in June, 2019.

	<p>borders.</p> <p>2.8 To establish effective working relationships with relevant international and sector groups who can contribute to the work of APQN, includes INQAAHE, (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education) UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), World Bank, APEC(Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation), ASEAN(Association of Southeast Asian Nations),,, AQAN (ASEAN Quality Assurance Network),,, ANQAHE (Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education), ECA (Economic Commission for Africa), AUN(ASEAN University Network), ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education), CHEA(Council of Higher Education Accreditation)and others.</p>	
3. Principles	<p>3.1 Target-Orientated Principle: 2019-2020 will be the year of administration building, 2020-2021 is the year of capacity building and 2021-2022 is the year of sustainable development.</p> <p>3.2 Project-Orientated Principle: all the activities are acted by way of project. All the projects under APQN budget (such as APQN website, publication of Anthology and others) can get financial support from APQN. The payment can only happen after the project completed and the report has been submitted and the payment should be based on the ToR/Agreement/Contract signed by two parties. APQN owns intellectual property rights for the paid products or fully-supported projects.</p> <p>3.3 SMART Project Principle: all APQN activities should meet the requirements of being “Specific, Meaningful, Agreed-upon, Results-oriented and Tractable”. Five components of a project should be included: 1) initiation; 2) planning and design; 3) execution and construction; 4) monitoring and controlling systems; and 5) completion and reaching the goal.</p> <p>3.4 Win-Win Principle: APQN members are encouraged to conduct self-fundraising projects, review, publish, research, survey, have seminars/workshops/ conferences, by using APQN logo, brand and fame in order to enhance the capacity-building and promote the sustainability.</p> <p>3.5 Principle of sustainable development: APQN development must meet the present needs of its members without compromising the needs of the members in the future. It contains three key concepts: diversity, equality and harmony.</p>	
4. Goals and Actions	Goal	Key Actions
	4.1 Establish ongoing financial viability and stability	<p>4.1.1 Explore the ideal belief of an “APQN fraternity” whereby any person with a special connection to APQN can be called forth to provide advisory, training or other consultancy services on a pro bono basis.</p> <p>4.1.2 As all of the non-profit networks, the main income is membership fee. For the sustainable development of APQN, all members must pay annual membership fee to be involved in all kinds of APQN activities, as well as receive the electrical version of APQN’s Annual Report, APQNews, AAC anthologies and other information.</p> <p>4.1.3 Explore additional funding sources externally which can include donation, in-kind contributions, commissioned work, sponsorship of events or publications, with all kinds of philanthropists and stakeholders, just as “Guidelines for APQN Project by Self-fundraising”.</p> <p>4.1.4 Explore additional funding sources internally which can include APQR, APQL, training workshops on a user pay principle, sponsorship of events or publications by all the members.</p> <p>4.1.5 Increase income and reduce expenditure, e.g. to establish the reporting and reviewing system on the current cycle of conferences, workshops and projects before giving all the financial support.</p>
	4.2 Develop the	4.2.1 Identify options for QA services, and encourage the staff

	<p>website to provide a platform for the communication for all members</p>	<p>capacity building program by providing support to accepting hosts.</p> <p>4.2.2 Design, develop and facilitate the web-based discussion forum for the members.</p> <p>4.2.3 Expand the possibility of adding new category of APQN membership – individual status. APQN accepts individual members of external quality assurance agencies (EQAAs), higher education institutions (HEIs) as well as other fields with the interest in contributing towards the development of quality assurance, accreditation and evaluation in higher education, from within and outside the Asia-Pacific region.</p> <p>4.4.4 Ensure as much as possible wide regional participation and membership category on the Board through co-option.</p>
	<p>4.3 Populate and maintain the consultant database and make information accessible to all</p>	<p>4.3.1 Upgrade existing database to maintain relevance and up-dated, especially Virtual Library, Database of Consultants and others.</p> <p>4.3.2 Promote the Quality Information Portal (QIP) in the 2021 Online Forum and make QIP sustainable and keep functioning.</p> <p>4.3.2 Canvass its members to identify relevant requirements for quality assurance, e.g. APQR for the QAAs and APQN Label for the HEIs.</p> <p>4.3.3 Establish the transparency and responsibility for ensuring currency of information, such as APQNews, APQN awards, APQN anthologies, APQN publications and others.</p>
	<p>4.4 Ensure APQN annual conference efficiently and effectively</p>	<p>4.4.1 Actively promote APQN academic conference (AAC) and annual general meeting (AGM), such as the conference theme, the venue and the sponsorship.</p> <p>4.4.2 Review the submitted papers, and arrange the AAC presentations in 2 categories (plenary session, parallel session) to those have been accepted.</p> <p>4.4.3 Publish the series of AAC anthologies.</p>
	<p>4.5 Complete the research projects facilitate the requests, support and advice for training or others</p>	<p>4.5.1 Develop the project procedure to encourage all new researches and action plans, e.g. “Welcome Your Idea for APQN Collaborative Research”.</p> <p>4.5.2 Establish the process to obtain and build new physical and online opportunities for delivering training provision, editing and storing existing training material available across the network.</p> <p>4.5.3 Identify and develop more opportunities for institution members which cover half of the total members, e.g. co-organizing QA conferences with Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI).</p> <p>4.5.4 Identify and develop opportunities for non-member use that provides a monetary return to APQN.</p>
	<p>4.6 Strengthen relations with other international, regional and national networks/organizations within and outside the Region</p>	<p>4.6.1 Promote the communication with more international, regional and national quality assurance and networks/organizations, such as INQAHE, ENQA ANQAHE, AQAN, CHEA and others.</p> <p>4.6.2 Expand the exchange of Newsletter, Database of Consultants, Journals, Anthologies and other information with more international, regional and national quality assurance and networks/organizations.</p>
	<p>4.7 Broaden the base of services to its members</p>	<p>4.7.1 Strengthen ongoing initiatives such as Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR), Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL), Quality Information Portal, Consultant Database and so on.</p>

	to ensure visibility and sustainability of network activities	<p>4.7.2 Contribute to capacity building in terms of National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and promote interoperability of NQFs within region.</p> <p>4.7.3 Explore other value-added services to its members and stakeholders which can generate revenue for network as well as serve the needs of its members.</p>
5. Targets	<p>5.1 Raise more funds by seeking sponsorship, support and in-kind contributions from all kinds of relative stakeholders.</p> <p>5.2 Ensure all countries/territories in the region have access to an accreditation agency – national or regional, establish Qualification Framework.</p> <p>5.3 Conduct capacity building workshops on evaluators on a user pay principle.</p> <p>5.4 Asia-Pacific Quality Register(APQR) to be implemented in 2019 -2020.</p> <p>5.5 APQN Quality Label (APQL) to be implemented in 2019 -2022.</p> <p>5.6 Continue to publish the series of AAC anthologies, APQN Annual Report and APQNews.</p> <p>5.7 Continue to establish QA Consultant Database.</p> <p>5.8 Continue to establish Quality Information Portal along with on-line forum.</p> <p>5.9 Continue to establish mutual relationship with other international, regional and national QA networks/organizations.</p>	

APQN sixth Board: Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Aijun Zhou, Jagannath Patil, Deepthi Bandara, Grace I-Jung Lu, Farida Nurmanbetova
May 30, 2019



Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region: APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

The Sixth Board of APQN

May 30, 2019

THE PROJECT

Global Yoga Accreditation Summit Held in New York

On April 26-27th 2019, Global Yoga Accreditation Summit was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York. It is jointly organized by NAAC, PMI-UN & APQN. H. E. K. Nagaraj Naidu, Indian Ambassador to UN, Dr. H. R. Nagendra, Hon'ble Chancellor of S-VYASA, Bengaluru, Dr. Geetha Krishnan Gopalakrishna Pillai, World Health Organization, Geneva, Prof. Jianxing Zhang, President of APQN, China & Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser of NAAC & Convener were present.



April 26th 2019: In a historical move by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the Global Yoga Accreditation Summit: Beginning of a Conversation towards a Global Ecosystem in Yoga Higher Education through Accreditation (GYAS) was organized at the UN Hall, UN Headquarters, New York, USA.

In close collaboration with the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, GYAS was represented by over 40 key stakeholders best comprising international and national inter and intra governmental policy makers, key leaders of accreditation bodies and networks, quality assurance agencies, representatives of prominent yoga higher education providers, yoga experts, fraternity from the medical and psychology fields etc.

The inaugural was marked with the presence of dignitaries on the dais - H.E.K. Nagaraj Naidu, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative at India's Permanent Mission to UN; Padmashri H. R. Nagendra, Hon'ble Chancellor of S-VYASA; Dr. Geetha Krishnan Gopalakrishna Pillai, World Health Organization, Geneva; Prof. Jianxing Zhang, President of APQN, China and Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser of NAAC & Convener - GYAS.

This was followed by a key note address by Dr. H. R. Nagendra who outlined the context of yoga education and recognition around the world. The lead presentation on "NAAC's framework on Yoga Higher Education Accreditation and

discussions on proposed global initiatives” was given by Dr. Jagannath Patil, Convener of GYAS.

The session titled “State—Art o Yoga Higher Education: Recognition and Accreditation in India, USA and around the world” was facilitated jointly by Dr. Manjunath N.K, S-VYASA, India and John Kepner, IAYT, USA. Key panelists included Swami Atmapriyananda, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational Research Institute, India; Dr. Chinmay Pandya, Dev Sanskriti University, India; Dr. Dinesh Patel, Harvard University, USA; AntoniettaRozzi, Italy Yoga Accreditation, Italy; Dr. Lisa C Kaley-Isley, IAYT, UK; Melissa Schwartz, Meridian University, USA; Dilip Sarkar, IAYT, USA; Dr. Paran Gowda, University of Patanjali, India; Sat Bir Khalsa, Kundalini Research Institute and Kripalu Centre for Yoga and Health, USA; Diane M Finlayson, Maryland University of Integrative Health, USA; Dr. C. Rajan Narayanan, Life in Yoga Institute & Foundation, USA and Dr. Micheal de Manincor, Western Sydney University, Australia. The first session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. M. S Shyamsundar, Adviser of NAAC, India.

The second session hosted in the premises of Gayatri Chetna Kendra in New Jersey started with a round table symposium on “Exploring Shared understanding and common protocol for Yoga Higher Education accreditation worldwide & Creating Global Ecosystem for promotion of Yoga Higher Education through Harmonization and Accreditation” was jointly facilitated by Dr. Christopher Key Chapple, Director Yoga Studies, Loyola Marymount University, USA and Dr. Richa Chopra, Chief Counsellor and member-IQAC, Sri University, India and chaired by Dr. Chinmay Pandya.

Deliberations were put forward with the active participation from Dr. Moxraj, Indian Embassy, Washington DC; Dr. Indranill Basu Ray, St. Francis Hospital, USA; Shri Muralidhar Venkatrao, Washinton DC, USA; Prof. Dr Usha. S Nayar, Adelphi University’s Ruth S. Ammon School of Education, USA; Dr. Swami Satya Prakash, VISHWA, Canada; Dr. Arun K Garg, CINS, Canada.

GYAS through the co-ordination and co-operation amongst various stakeholders led to the general consensus on developing global framework “New York ~ Bengaluru Vision Statement 2019 towards a Global Ecosystem in Yoga Higher Education through mainstreaming, collaboration and accreditation” to be released worldwide on the 21st of June 2019 that marks the International Day of Yoga, after further worldwide consultations.

This vision statement will strive to nurture and groom both artistic and scientific temperaments towards the vast reservoir of Yogic knowledge firming itself on Traditional philosophical foundations, Authenticity of curriculum, Research, innovation and extension of yogic ecosystem, Yoga as a key tool for promotion of health and prevention of diseases and Application of the domain.

Further the vision statement will ensure the promotion of Yoga Programs that are well contained within a homogeneous international standard quality

framework within the Higher Education ambit amalgamating a harmonization between the traditional philosophy and modern practices. And raise the benchmark on scientifically approaching the study of Yoga and provide further impetus to the growth and promotion of Yoga and unearth the techniques and innovatively adopt them for the benefits of the modern society.

GYAS was firmed on a recent desk-top study in progress (2019), undertaken by NAAC, an Autonomous Institution of University Grants Commission of India revealed that nearly 60 University departments and a large number of other Higher Education Institutions such as colleges and stand alone yoga institutions etc., within the country are offering various levels of yoga programmes – which add up to almost 200 in number. Further, the study revealed that though there are thousands of Yoga sets ups both in the West and other parts of the world offering a multitude of trainings however, main stream programmes offered under the higher education ambit is almost negligent – not exceeding ten in numbers.

In order to create the pertinent space for authentic yoga into the mainstream education and make it as a career choice, NAAC has taken the historic initiative on coming out with the First Draft of The Yoga Accreditation Manual, finalized on the 6th March 2019 at Bengaluru for all Yoga programs within a HEI in the country. This also implied that Yoga programs offered are well contained within a homogeneous international standard quality framework.

Pinning the origins of Yoga to the Indus Valley and furthering the scope of accreditation outside the Indian territory, the GYAS was set on the vision to enable co-ordination and co-operation amongst various bodies dealing with recognition /accreditation bodies in Yoga worldwide through mutual dialogue and processes towards creating a global ecosystem in mainstreaming Yoga Programs and its accreditation within the higher education ambit amalgamating a harmonization between the traditional philosophy and modern practices.

The delegates appreciated the visionary effort by NAAC under patronage of Shri. R. Subrahmanyam, IAS, MHRD Secretary, Prof. D.P. Singh, UGC Chairman, Dr. Virander S. Chauhan, Chairman, Executive Committee (EC) of NAAC and Prof. S.C. Sharma, Director, NAAC



Bhandari, Chairman Jaipur Foot, USA and officials at permanent mission of India to UN extended valuable

support to organize event at UN headquarters at New York, USA.

(Written by Dr.Jagannath Patil, Advisor of NAAC, India, Convener of GYAS)

The APQL Review at SIU, India

The expert review panel of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) comprising of Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang (leader), Ms. Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic, Dr. Mark Frederik and Dr. Jagannath Patil, visited Symbiosis International (Deemed University), (SIU), India from April 4-9, 2019. This is the first ever review of the internationalization processes of an Indian University, conducted by APQN.



“Symbiosis International Cultural Centre” was established by Prof. S. B. Mujumdar, in the year 1971 for the welfare of the foreign students who came to the city of Pune to pursue their education. The guiding principle behind the establishment of Symbiosis was “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” meaning “the world is one family”. The objective of the institution was to bring international students closer to the Indian students, help them overcome the numerous problems they were facing as foreigners, and ensure that not only would they receive good education but also become goodwill ambassadors after returning to their own countries. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, conferred “Deemed to be University” on Symbiosis International University in 2002. The vision of SIU is “promoting international understanding through quality education”.

The three-day review assessed the internationalization processes and impact on different stakeholders. This included an assessment of a conducive environment which encompasses state of the art infrastructure through site visits to Hostels, Recreation & Wellness Centre(RWC), Symbiosis Centre of Health Care (SCHC), Grounds, Mess (Dining), Aqua Point, Symbiosis Studios, Symbiosis Centre for Behavioral Studies (SCBS), Multi-Faith Room, Cafeteria, Library, Symbiosis School of Culinary Arts and Biological Labs. The review panel also got the opportunity to visit Symbiosis’s Afro-Asian Museum and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Museum and Memorial.



The days then progressed with presentations on SIU’s vision, mission, governance, international linkages, extensive scholarships offered to foreign

students and Indian students for global immersion experiences, policies, procedures, foreign language programmes, support for students & faculty, research capital, quality assurance systems, and infrastructural wealth. This was validated through meetings with influential stakeholders in the Indian Higher Education policy circle at the conference, mentors and representatives from collaborating partner institutions. Focus group discussions took place with international students, Indian students studying abroad, current and past international student council members, skype interactions with graduates, observation of global classroom engagement and a detailed perusal of relevant documents.

SIU is one of the few exceptional universities that has embarked on this international journey for the heartfelt cause of enabling and



empowering international students in India. The panel was very impressed with the genesis and the progress SIU has made in this direction by not only strengthening its processes and governance but leaving a footprint on society through its visible impact. APQN President Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang declared that the panel will recommend APQL Council to grant the APQN Quality Label to SIU. This label is International Accreditation of Internationalization initiative to support, develop, improve and enhance international excellence in HEIs and programs in Asia Pacific region. SIU is the first university in India to be conferred this prestigious label and this is fitting as they are the pioneers in the field of internationalization for higher education.

(Written by Prof. Nidhi Piplani Kapur from Symbiosis International University)

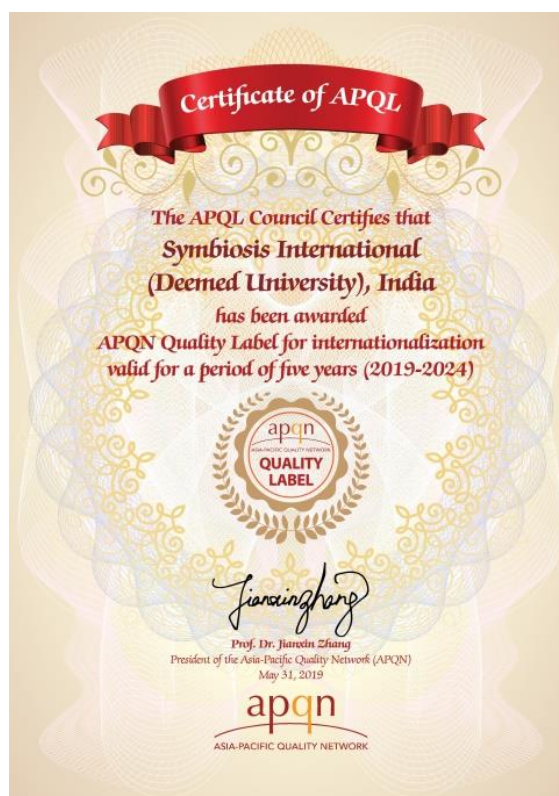


SUI was awarded the APQL for Internationalization

Following the expression of interest (EOI) of Symbiosis International (Deemed University) (SIU) to the Asia-Pacific Quality Label (APQL), the APQL Council has decided to conduct a site review, and a review panel of four experts (Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang (leader), Ms. Stamina Uvalic-Trumbic, Dr. Mark Frederik and Dr. Jagannath Patil) visited SIU, Pune, India on April 7-9, 2019.

Based on its review of documents, interviews, presentations by SIU and validation of statements in the Self-Evaluation Report (SER), the review panel finds SIU is in “Substantial Compliance” with the APQL criteria.

After a thorough analysis of the “Review Report” submitted by the review panel, the APQL Council agrees that SIU be awarded the APQL for Internationalization, which is valid for a period of five years (2019-2024). SIU can use the APQL logo in its website or in its publications.



(Written by the APQL Council)

Release of the Brochure of “APQN 15th Anniversary”

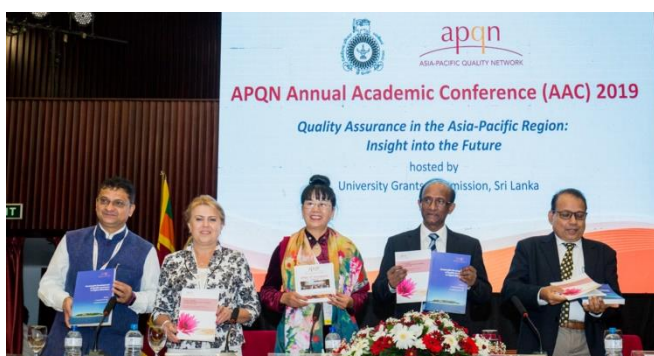
At the Inaugural Ceremony on March 29, 2019, after the address by Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, APQN 15th Anniversary Brochure was released by APQN President, Jianxin Zhang. 151 participants from 42 countries/territories witnessed it.



Founded in 2003, under the leadership of APQN founders, pioneers and 5 Presidents, APQN has made remarkable achievements. The 15-year efforts gave APQN the vitality of sustainable development and left the spiritual legacy: 1) the Spirit of Dedication; 2) the Spirit of Sharing; 3) the Spirit of Serving; 4) the Spirit of Innovation; and 5) the Spirit of Sustainable Development.

The brochure was made up of with the following 7 parts: 1) APQN at a Glance; 2) Presidency in the Past 15 years; 3) 15-Year Development and Projects; 4) Reflections of the Old Good Days; 5) Witnessing APQN Development; 6) APQN Milestones in the 15th Anniversary; and President's Message for APQN 15th Anniversary, a total of 55 pages. It is compiled and edited by Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang; the editorial committee members are the fifth Board Directors.

APQN is particularly gratified to celebrate this anniversary as the future for the great cause of quality assurance is so bright. Demand for good quality of teaching and learning, sustainable and life-long student development, excellent services from HEIs in this quality era continues to grow, and APQN is at the forefront building new, dynamic QA systems for the Asia-Pacific Region. A long, long way to go, to realize the dream of Excellent Quality in HE !



Release of the Anthology of 2018 APQN Academic Conference



On March 28 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, APQN released the Anthology of 2018 APQN Academic Conference. The theme is “Capacity Building for Next Generation Quality Assurance in Higher Education”

This publication includes 18 research papers from 13 countries with representation from various regions. The conference theme was categorized into 3 main sub themes: Excellence in Quality Assurance, Internal Quality Assurance in HEIs, and New Assessment Methodologies in Higher Education.

The varieties of issues discussed in the papers indicate that research in external quality assurance is now gaining high attention by quality professionals. We hope that new dimensions and practices shared in this publication will be useful to all stakeholders.

The Anthology of the conference papers has been published by the Russian Guild of Experts in Higher Education and can be found on the Guild’s web-site.

The Anthology is included into the national Russian Data Base of publications and citations – eLibrary.ru.

eLibrary.ru is the biggest electronic library of scientific articles, journals, books, references and materials. At the moment eLibrary contains abstracts and full-texts of over 26 mln. articles, publications and journals. 1,7 mln. individual researchers from 125 countries are registered in this resource. The authors can get a full text of each article as well as the whole collection of Proceedings through the link. Direct access link: <https://elibrary.ru/item.asp?id=37049355>



(Written by Galina N. Motova and Jagannath Patil)

THE MEMBER NEWS

The 3rd International Higher Education Conference at SIU in India

The 3rd International Conference on “Building Strategic Partnerships towards Collaborative International Learning” was jointly organized by Symbiosis International (Deemed University) (SIU) and Association of Indian Universities (AIU) from April 4th to 6th, 2019 at the picturesque SIU Lavale Campus, India. The event was supported by UNESCO,



New Delhi, India, and attended by over 200 educationists, leaders from institutions, academics, and researchers from around the world. Renowned Indian policy makers, legislators and academics participated in the discussions.

A curtain raiser in the form of a roundtable discussion on “Building a Sustainable Study in India Program” was held before the conference on April 4th. Experts representing all stakeholders included government/ministry representatives, partner universities, Australian consulate, Vice Chancellors and academics discussed the subthemes on ‘Vision and Challenges’ and ‘India gaining a competitive edge’. A special session on Health Promoting Universities was convened by University Grants Commission (UGC) at this time.

The inaugural ceremony was held on April 5th at 9:30 am with the Chief Guest Shri R. Subrahmanyam, Secretary (HE), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Guests of Honour were Mr. Eric Falt, Director and UNESCO Representative, Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India, Prof. Sandeep Sancheti, President (AIU) and Prof. Furqan Qamar, Secretary General, AIU. Prof. Hans de Wit, Director, Center for International Higher Education (CIHE), Boston College delivered the keynote address and Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, Chancellor, SIU presided over the function.

The 4 tracks included the following: 1) Collaborative International Learning 2) Building New Relationships with Tools and Technology 3) Linking Research and Community to Classroom Learning 4) The Changing Classroom. The sub-themes of the conference drew from the different areas institutes must focus on while

creating sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships to further the goal of nurturing globally prepared and yet locally relevant students/citizens/leaders for tomorrow. The track sessions were designed around the idea that institutions/stakeholders must be introspective as they devise their strategy to re-define academic and other resources effectively. Tracks focused on Building Strategic Partnerships towards collaborative international learning for all students and faculty, Integration of Study Abroad/Work Abroad experiences into the university's programme/assessments, Building and Managing Diversity in the Classroom, Case Studies from Indian and International universities and the use and challenge of technology in higher education and other challenges faced while building these competencies.

APQN President, Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang presented at Tack 1 on the topic of "Action Plan of Internationalization Quality Assurance /APQL, from perspective of APQN-INQAAHE Survey in the Asia-Pacific Region" and Dr Jagannath Patil spoke at Track 4 on the topic of "The Changing Classroom : Addressing the Quality Assurance Challenges using AI"



This conference advanced new dialogues around the subject of building global, international and intercultural competencies. The conference assumes great importance as India is now moving towards digitization in higher education. The govt's newly launched "Swayam" programme is testimony to India's commitment to integrate technology to internationalize higher education. Given this context, this conference explored "Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)" as an engine to drive internationalization efforts across institutions/universities.

More about IHE: The first two editions of the conference held in April 2017 and April 2018 were highly successful in generating valuable discussions amongst over 200 vice chancellors in each conference, senior policymakers and academics from across India with national/international experts including Dr Philip Altbach, Dr Ellen Hazelkorn, Jamil Salmi, Esther Brimmer, Dr. Darla Deardorff and Dr Jandhyala Tilak.

(Written by Prof. Nidhi Piplani Kapur from Symbiosis International University)

Seminar on Quality Assurance Held at the Open University of Sri Lanka



On 28th March 2019, a seminar on “Quality Assurance Research for Institutional Development” for the academic and administrative staff of the Open University of Sri Lanka” (OUSL) was held at the Conference Hall of the Colombo Centre. This event was organized by the Quality Assurance Team of the Committee for Research Advice on Distance Education (CRADE) of the OUSL in view of building a research culture at the OUSL. Professor Jianxin Zhang, President of the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) conducted it. Nearly 100 personnel attended the workshop including the Vice Chancellor and the Deans of Faculties. Prof G.D. Lekamge, introduced the presenter and the Vice Chancellor highlighted the importance of the theme selected for the seminar.

The Seminar was made up of 3 parts. Part 1 and Part 2 were presented by Prof Zhang. First, she talked about the Contents/Tendency of Quality Assurance Research for Institutional Development: 1) Programme Accreditation guarantees the quality of teaching-learning core; 2) Staff job-performance evaluation guarantees the quality of teaching body; 3) Assessment of students’ professional competence guarantees the quality of students’ ability; 4) Student learning outcomes(SLOs) guarantees quality of learning results; 5) Graduates’ quality evaluation guarantees the quality of teaching-learning output; and 6) Quality Culture is the Cornerstone for IQA. In the second part, she introduced the Methodology of Quality Assurance Research for Institutional Development: 1)Quantitative research: “Hard side”; 2) Qualitative research: “Soft side”; 3) Action Research: “mixing pot”; 4) Experiments Research: “comparing test”; 5) SWOC Analysis: “Strategic Way Forward”; 6) Observation: “Reading Faces & Minds”; 7) Focus Groups: “Collective Brain-Storm”; and 8) Interview: “Mutual communication”. She concluded this part by citing the proverb “Give you a fish, I’ve fed you for today; but teach you how to fish, I’ve fed you for a lifetime”.



In the third part, the Mutual Communication/Discussion from OUSL began. Eight teams of researchers presented their research proposals based on some important issues of Quality Assurance as follows:



1. Faculty of Engineering Technology- Assessment of Degree of Achieving the Learning Outcomes as Stipulated in the Course

Synopsis

2. Faculty of Health Sciences- Validity and Reliability of the Quality Assessment Tools Used in the Open University of Sri Lanka
3. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences- A Study to Assess Perceptions of 'Quality' among students of Humanities and Social Sciences
4. Faculty of Natural Sciences- Support Services and Their Effectiveness in Reducing Drop-out Rates in the Faculty
5. Faculty of Education- Investigation on Existing Practices in Facilitating the Completion of the Research Project in the Undergraduate Degree Programme
6. Centre for Educational Technology and Media-Impact assessment of Capacity Building Programmes -
7. Library- Critical success factors of ODL library services :an evaluation of the OUSL Library Service Model
8. Regional Education Service- Quality Assurance in Regional centers



Prof Zhang highly appreciated the efforts made by the research teams and spontaneously presented her valuable feedback for further improvement of the research proposals. It was emphasized that these research teams should complete their research studies at the end of 2019 and disseminate the findings as articles published in refereed journals or papers presented at International Conferences. The OUSL highly appreciated the contribution made by Professor Zhang in making the seminar a very enjoyable and productive event irrespective of her tight schedule.

(Written by G.D. Lekamge, Chair Professor, Faculty of Education)

COMING-UP EVENT

Welcome to 2020 AAC and AGM

The Board of APQN is delighted to announce that 2020 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore, on April 23 – 26 (Thu.- Sun.), 2020. EDUVAUE, Singapore will host this great event together with SMU.

The target audience for the AAC and AGM is primarily those associated with quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific region. It includes APQN Members and Observers, the Board, the Committees and the Project Groups. In addition, other higher education institutions (HEIs), quality assurance agencies (QAAs), organizations working in the field of quality assurance in the whole world are welcome to attend AAC events that are open to all registered delegates except the AGM which is for APQN members only.

The main theme of the 2020 AAC is “Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0 in the Asia-Pacific Region”. The sub-themes are: 1) Digitalization of Quality Assurance; 2) Innovations in HE Accreditation in Era of Disruptive Technologies; 3) Internationalization of Quality Assurance; 4) Quality Assurance of Outcome-Based Teaching and Learning; 5) The Role of the Governments in Higher Education 4.0.

You are invited to submit papers on a topic of your choice related to one of the topics above. Ideas for topics can be drawn from the list of theme and sub-themes, or can be of your own choice.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Singapore!



Welcome to the 4th APQN-AACCUP Global Summit (2019)

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities of the Philippines (AACCUP) is delighted to announce that the joint hosting of the fourth APQN Global Summit (APGS, 2019) will be held in December, 2019, in Manila, Philippines.

The theme is “Capacity Building of Quality Assurance”, the conference register fees is no more than 250 USD.



Based on “Higher Education Quality Assurance Principles for the Asia Pacific Region” (Chiba Principles)” and “Bengaluru Statement”, the purposes for holding APGS is “Sharing Values and Fostering Trust beyond Borders”, to strengthen collaboration and cooperation in quality assurance in the Asia Pacific region: 1)To contribute to the establishment of national, regional and international alignment in quality assurance of higher education to dissolve boundaries for a quality region; 2) To facilitate national, regional and international student and academic mobility and exchange, 3)To strengthening QA capacity building, share global information resources for next generation quality assurance in age of technology and finally promote quality culture; 4)To endeavor to foster mutual trust, confidence and understanding of higher education systems in the whole world, especially the Asia-Pacific Region; 5)To promote “Bengaluru Statement 2016 on Next-Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education: A Shared Vision and Commitment for Fostering Partnership beyond Borders”.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Manila, Philippines!





Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQNews (Issue 19, 2019)

Call for Contribution for the Next Issue

APQNews is a half-year periodical newsletter on updating APQN on developments within the Network. It also gives members an opportunity to share QA activities within their organization. All members are invited to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews.

A great way to get involved with the APQN community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your APQN colleagues? Are there any upcoming quality events that you would like to release in APQNews? APQN welcomes all contributions for the next issue of APQNews! Please kindly e-mail them to Chief Editor and APQN Administrator at: 948661302@qq.com & apqnsecretariat@163.com.

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