

Report on 2018 Annual General Meeting

The 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place post-closing ceremony of APQN Academic Conference (AAC) in the Jubilee Hall at the Le Meridian, Nagpur, India, on the 24th of March, 2018. The AGM registration began at 15:10 during the afternoon tea break. 48 members from 40 countries and territories for the AGM and were attended by 35 participants.



At 15:30 the AGM commenced by welcoming new members that joined in 2017 by awarding them with member certificate and a short introduction by the chairperson of the AGM, President of APQN, Dr Prof Jianxin Zhang. In the second agenda, APQN president reported the activities and projects that were carried out in 2017 including ongoing projects continued in 2018. These included all in a year's work in 2017, APQN's goal and tasks in 2018 and offering thanks.

It was noted that APQN as the largest and most influential not for profit and non-governmental international and regional network in the Asia Pacific Region has 208 members as of 31st December 2017 from 40 different countries/territories. Institutional members rank the highest (120) with 58% while full members who are mostly QAAs ranks the second largest (41) covering 20%. Intermediate has 22 members covering 11% while associate has 15 members covering 7% and observer stands at 10 members in total with 4% coverage in the overall APQN membership categories.

In 2017, 11 new members joined APQN. According to Prof Li Yaogang, APQN Secretary/Treasurer report the new members that joined are as follows: (1) Quality Assurance and Accreditation Directorate (QAAD), Ministry of Higher Education (MoE), Afghanistan, (2) Tongji University, (3) The Bhopal School of Social Sciences, (4) Goswami Ganesh Dutta Sanatan Dharma College, (5) Indonesian Accreditation Agency For Higher Education In Health (IAAHEH/ LAM-PTKes), (6) Independent Kazakhstan Center of Accreditation" (IKCA), (7) Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), (8) CECOS University of IT & Emerging Sciences Peshawar, (9) Government College Women University, Sialkot, (10) The Millennium University College and (11) National School of Business Management (NSBM).

The president reported the successful completion of the 2017 APQN conference & AGM in Moscow by NCPA that was attended by 27 countries & region with a total of 114 participants with the theme "*New horizons: Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region*". The efficacious completion of 2017 APQN awards and AGM attended by 54 participants from 31 member organization was also noted. The proceedings publication for 2017 AAC was launched during the opening ceremony of the 2018 Academic Conference & AGM in Nagpur, India.

APQN's other projects such as "staff capacity building" was also recorded and in 2017 Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) & Japan National Institution for Academic Degrees & Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) took this initiative by sharing QA practices and strengthening their relationships. The Vice President of APQN from HEACT also highlighted their collaboration with MQA and renewed their mutual recognition during the one week

exchange program participated by four colleagues from MQA. APQN also supported the 9th higher education international conference in Macao by Macao Polytechnic Institute from 22nd to 23rd November 2017 which was attended by over 30 renowned experts and scholars from U.K, Portugal, Ireland, Japan, Mauritius, Vietnam and China. A MoU was also signed between INQAAHE and APQN in Macao for partnership project agreement for external quality assurance landscape. The aim of the survey is to conduct an in-depth study on the higher education landscape & state of affairs of internal & external quality assurance in different regions all over the world; 2) to better understand the trends, challenges & needs peculiar to each region; 3) to produce a synthesis report on each of the identified regions & worldwide, in general; & 4) to produce recommendations on future investments.

APQN President, Prof. Jianxin Zhang was also invited to attend the 30th Annual National Conference of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges & Universities in the Philippines (AACUP) on March 6-8, 2018 in Manila where she presented and gave the insight of *“APQN’s 14-year Development, Major Projects & its Emphasis on Staff Capacity-Building”*.

APQN President, Prof. Jianxin Zhang also attended the UNESCO Regional Conference on QA and made a presentation on the topic *“Aligning Institutional, National & Regional Strategies to Strengthen Quality Assurance: Efforts from APQN & CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG)”* on May 15, 2017. UNESCO IIEP also joined hands with APQN & UNESCO Bangkok Office to organize an online course on *“Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education for Southeast Asian universities”* from 9th October to 15th December 2017. The 4th workshop for program evaluators organized by the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) for evaluators (PEs) in collaboration with QAA and Higher Education Commission was held from September 28-30, 2017 in Islamabad. APQN President, Prof. Jianxin Zhang attended the training workshop as a resource person representing APQN.

To ensure the smooth and quality transition of APQN procedures and activities and the need for transparent sustainable development of quality assurance in higher education, APQN Procedure Manual (Version 3) was revised & updated by the president Prof. Jianxin Zhang (cha.1-12) & and Vice President Prof Angela Hou Yung-chi (cha.13-14). The current version 3 was uploaded to APQN website on November, 2017. The hard copies were also launched during the opening ceremony of the 2018 Academic Conference & AGM in Nagpur, India. Apart from producing annual reports, APQN President released two APQNews issue 15 & 16 in 2017 with over 50 articles to update its members on the APQN activities, news and projects.

Higher Education Evaluation & Development (HEED) is a quality English journal founded by HEEACT & has been jointly published with APQN since 2014, thus becoming APQN membership journal. Prof Angela Hou emphasized that HEED is a scholarly refereed journal aimed at encouraging research in higher education evaluation and development, raising the standard of evaluation research, and sharing outcomes of evaluation and higher education worldwide in 2017, there were 8 academic papers published with more than 3000 downloads after shifting the publishing platform to Emerald publishing. 3 of 8 papers were submitted by APQN members.

Way forward, the President of APQN highlighted and re-emphasized the boards focus for 2018 and in order to achieve APQN's goal and targets presented the APQN strategic plan for 2016-2019. The year 2018 would be more focused on capacity building with cooperation projects, staff capacity training, staff capacity building, QA capacity tools and QA consultant database to enhance the quality of higher education in Asia Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies & extending the cooperation between them through projects like Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR - for QAA) and APQN Quality Label (APQL - for HEIs). According to Vice Presidents report, HEEACT went to five universities (4 private & 1 public) to promote APQL.

The Vice President, Prof Angela Hou also highlighted the 2nd Global Summit which was held from 21st – 22nd September, 2017 was hosted by HEEACT with the theme “*Regional Cooperation and Harmonization: ASEAN Countries and East Asia in Quality Assurance of Higher Education*” was attended by 202 participants from higher education and 18 prominent expert and professional from different QAAs from countries like Catalonia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand. During the 2018 CHEA Annual conference on January 29th to 31st, Vice President, Prof Angela Hou also made presentation on *Quality Assurance Developments in Asia & sharing APQR*”.

In the effort to promote APQR, Dr Jagannath Patil mentioned that the project started giving birth as it now fully implemented and is generating revenue for APQN. In year 2017, Russian Register and National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA) were accepted onto the APQR in May and November respectively. New interest was shown from QAAs during this year's conference which shows a positive milestone for this project.

The Vice President, Prof Angela Hou, on behalf of the APQN Secretariat and Treasure/secretary also presented the annual budget and financial accounts for 2017 as highlighted on the 2017 Annual Report and forecast for 2018. Prof Li Yaogang, APQN Secretary/Treasurer report stated that the financial performance for the year then ended is in accordance with the Accounting Standards for Non-profit Organization and is true and fair view of the financial position of APQN as of March 1, 2018. The 2017 audited financial accounts were approved by the members during the 2018 AGM in Nagpur, India.



Participants of Annual General Meeting 2018, Le Meridian, Nagpur, INDIA

Four participants from Russia, Taiwan, Malaysia and Indonesia gave positive feedback towards sustainable development of APQN as participants and thanked the host and APQN members for making the 2018 ACC & AGM a success. The AGM was concluded at 16:30 on the 24th March, 2018 at Le Meridian Hotel, Nagpur, India with a group photo.

*“Through the joint-efforts of 208 members in APQN this big harmonious family, APQN is bound to achieve the ideal of “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region” ~ **APQN President, Prof Jianxin Zhang.***

MS Malini Nair
APQN Board Member, the Supervisor - APQN Secretariat