

2021

2021 Annual Report

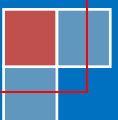
The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

PRESIDENT MESSAGE: Welcome to 2021 APQN Annual Report! In 2021, APQN with 250 members from 45 countries/territories, has entered its eighteenth anniversary, showing its vibrant, vigorous tendency of sustainable development. With the great contribution and support of all APQN members, APQN has made obvious achievements. One of the most important things is the 2021 AAC and AGM online, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 100 participants from the whole globe attended AAC to discuss the theme of “COVID-19 Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region”. One of the most remarkable things is the release of “APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance” on May 30, 2021. One of the most crucial things is to decide to elect the seventh Board Directors in the year of 2022. In 2021 APQN has published “APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance”, “APQNews (Issue 23)”, “APQNews (Issue 24)”... Let’s call for responsibility and solidarity facing the COVID-19 pandemic!



APQN Sixth Board

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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Asia-Pacific Quality Network Inc.
Trading As APQN

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region
January 30 2022

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Secretariat:
No. 202, South Shaanxi Road
Shanghai 200031, China
Tel: +86 21 54032285
Email: apqnsecretariat@163.com
Website: www.apqn.org
Code: 52310000575884994B

Chief Editor: Jianxin Zhang
Editorial Committee: Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jagannath Patil,
Deepthi Bandara, Farida Nurmanbetova, Barry Aw Yong
Layout by: Jianxin Zhang
Proofreading: Yingjie Xu

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THE NETWORK

Definition of APQN

Our Goal

**To Dissolve Boundaries
for a Quality Region**

Our Vision

To promote quality culture and develop self-sustaining organizations, being the first point of reference, will advise and support, enhance interaction and share information among member organizations.

Our Value

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

Our Purpose

1. to promote good practices in developing an effective and comprehensive quality culture of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region;
2. to foster research activities in quality assurance practices for rebuilding the employability oriented higher education in Asia Pacific Region;
3. to provide advice and expertise in order to assist in the development of new quality assurance organizations in the region;
4. to facilitate cooperation among Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and recognize each other's decisions and judgment;
5. to assist APQN members in determining the quality standards operating across national borders;
6. to ensure better-informed international recognition of qualifications throughout the region;
7. to assist in the development and application of credit transfer systems;
8. to enhance the mobility of students between institutions both within and across national borders;
9. to make the APQN members aware of and alert against the dubious accrediting practices and organizations;
10. to promote the interest of the Asia-Pacific Region by effective representation vis-à-vis interacting with other networks and international organizations.

Our Method

1. dissemination of information through APQNews, documents, journals, anthologies and books, whether in paper-based or electronic form;
2. training and development through seminars, workshops, conferences and staff capacity building;
3. developing and using databases of experts and good practices both in EQAA and international networks such as INQAAHE, CHEA/CIQG and other appropriate organizations working on accreditation and quality assurance in education;
4. recognition and dissemination of good practices through Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR), Asia-Pacific Quality label (APQL) and APQN Quality Awards (AQA) and so on;
5. other appropriate means as determined by the General Council or the Board.

Our Principle

- 1) procedure-based
- 2) capacity building
- 3) self-reliance and information-sharing
- 4) sustainable development for final goal

APQN

APQN is a non-profit, non-government organization.

APQN is an organization established under the name of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network Inc. (APQN).

APQN intends to operate as a regional network in association with the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education Incorporated (INQAAHE).

The Board

The sixth Board Directors were elected at 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM): Jianxin Zhang from China, Galina Motova from Russia, Deepthi Bandara from Sri Lanka, I-Jung Grace Lu from Chinese Taipei, Farida Nurmanbetova from Kazakhstan.

Ms. Pingping Liu from China, APQN Secretary/Treasurer, is an ex officio director, and Mr. Le Fang is the administrator. The fourth host of the Secretariat is Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) from China, whom took office in August, 2019 after the third host of the Higher Education Evaluation Center (HEEC) of the Ministry of Education in China.

Dr. Jagannath Patil, the Immediate Past President, specially appointed professor of NIAD-QE at Tokyo in Japan, adviser of NAAC at Bengaluru in India, is a director co-opted as APQR Chairperson.

APQN President
Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang
(Elected)



CHINA

APQN Vice President
Prof. Dr. Galina Motova
(Elected)



RUSSIA

APQN Secretary/Treasurer
Ms. Liu Pingping
(Ex-Officio)



CHINA

Immediate Past President
Dr. Jagannath Patil
(Co-opted)



INDIA

APQN Board Director
Ms. Farida Nurmanbetova
(Elected)



Kazakhstan

APQN Board Director
Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara
(Elected)



Sri Lanka

APQN Board Director
Mr. Barry Aw Yong
(Co-opted)

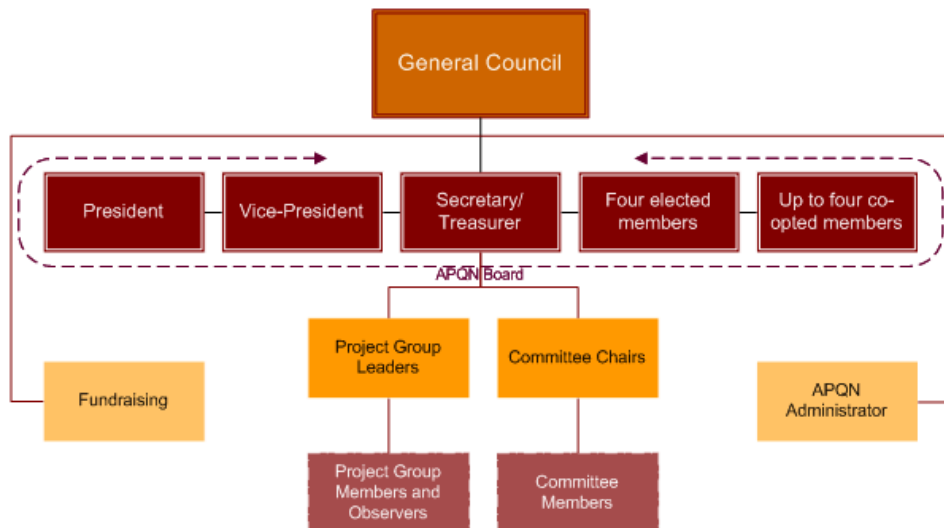


Singapore

Organizational Structure

The governing bodies and authorities of APQN are the General Council and the Board.

The General Council is comprised of Full Members, Intermediate Members, Associate Members, Institutional Members and Individual Members of APQN, each represented by one nominated person.



The General Council: 250 Members

As of December 2021, the number of APQN members of all types has reached 250 from 45 countries/territories (Fig.1).

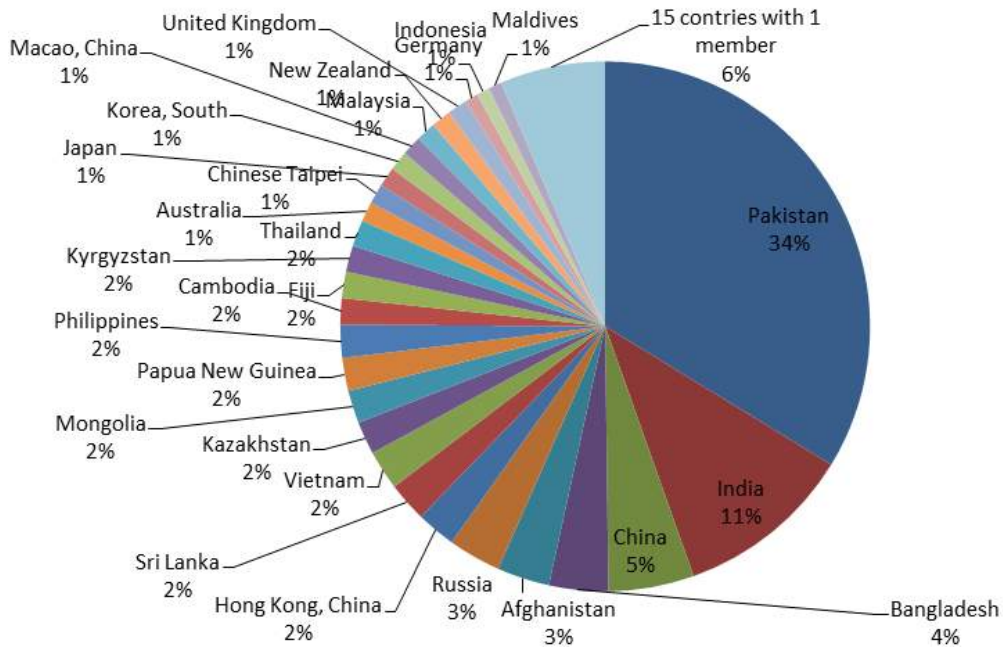


Fig.1 Country/Territory Distribution of APQN Members

Among them, there are 48 Full members, 20 Intermediate members, 152 Institutional members, 17 Associate member, 12 Observers and 1 Individual member (Fig. 2).

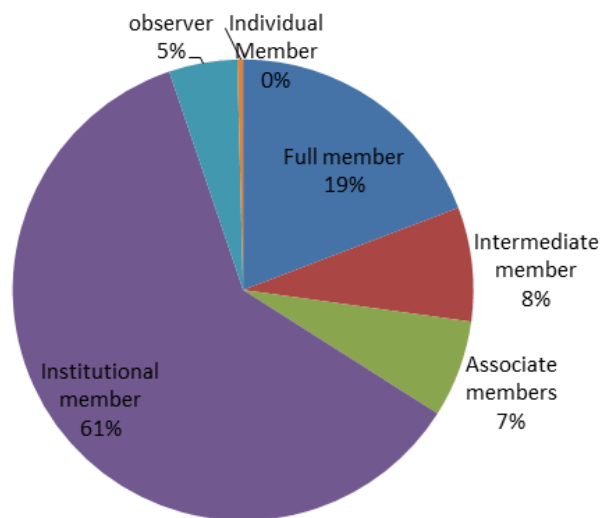


Fig.2 Types of APQN Members

Below is the list of APQN 250 members in 2021:

No	Agency	Country /Territory	APQN Status
1	American University of Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Institutional
2	Balkh University	Afghanistan	Institutional
3	Herat University	Afghanistan	Institutional
4	Kandahar University	Afghanistan	Institutional
5	Kardan University	Afghanistan	Institutional
6	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Department of Ministry of Higher Education of Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Intermediate
7	Shaheed Prof. Rabani Education University	Afghanistan	Institutional
8	The International Centre of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Education	Australia	Full
9	The Office of the Australian Qualifications Framework Council (AQFC)	Australia	Associate
10	The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)	Australia	Full
11	American International University-Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Institutional
12	BSB Cambrian Education Group	Bangladesh	Institutional
13	International Culture University	Bangladesh	Institutional
14	IUBAT—International University of Business Agriculture and Technology	Bangladesh	Institutional
15	School of Business, Independent University	Bangladesh	Institutional
16	Southern University Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Associate
17	University Grants Commission of Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Associate
18	University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Institutional
19	Quality Assurance & Accreditation Division, Department of Adult & Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Bhutan	Bhutan	Intermediate
20	Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council (BDNAC)	Brunei Darussalam	Intermediate
21	Accreditation Committee of Cambodia	Cambodia	Full
22	Build Bright University	Cambodia	Institutional
23	International University	Cambodia	Institutional
24	Beijing Education Evaluation Institute	China	Full
25	China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center	China	Full
26	Chinese Academy of Science and Education Evaluation	China	Full
27	Dianchi College of Yunnan University	China	Institutional
28	Evaluation Center of Chinese Education Quality (ECCEQ)	China	Full
29	Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education, P. R. China (HEEC)	China	Full
30	Kunming Medical University	China	Institutional
31	Shanghai Educational Evaluation Institute	China	Full
32	Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, China	China	Institutional
33	Tongji University	China	Institutional
34	Wuhan Golden Apple Technology Development Service Limited (Golden Apple Ranking)	China	Full
35	Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center	China	Full

36	Fu Jen Catholic University	Chinese Taipei	Institutional
37	Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan	Chinese Taipei	Full
38	Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association	Chinese Taipei	Full
39	Agency for Science and Higher Education	Croatia	Observer
40	Fiji Higher Education Commission	Fiji	Full
41	Fiji National University	Fiji	Institutional
42	Secretariat for the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment	Fiji	Intermediate
43	University of the South Pacific	Fiji	Institutional
44	ASIIN e.V.	Germany	Observer
45	Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA)	Germany	Observer
46	Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education	Hong Kong, China	Associate
47	Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications	Hong Kong, China	Full
48	Hong Kong Police College	Hong Kong, China	Associate
49	Joint Quality Review Committee Limited	Hong Kong, China	Full
50	Quality Enhancement and Accreditation Office	Hong Kong, China	Institutional
51	University Grants Committee	Hong Kong, China	Full
52	Arts, Science and Commerce College	India	Institutional
53	Camp Education Society Dr Arvind B Telang College of Arts, Science & Commerce	India	Institutional
54	Chettinad Academy of Research & Education	India	Institutional
55	Dhanwate National College	India	Institutional
56	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	India	Institutional
57	Dr. D. Y. Patil Arts, Commerce and Science College	India	Institutional
58	Goswami Ganesh Dutta Sanatan Dharma College	India	Institutional
59	Govt. College of Education, M.A.Road, Srinagar, J&K	India	Institutional
60	JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research	India	Institutional
61	K L University (Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation)	India	Institutional
62	K.L.E.Society Basavaprabhu Kore Arts, Science and Commerce College, Chikodi	India	Institutional
63	Kamla Nehru Mahavidyalaya	India	Institutional
64	Mahatma Gandhi Mission's MGM University	India	Institutional
65	MBAtrek Private Limited	India	Institutional
66	MIER College of Education	India	Institutional
67	National Assessment and Accreditation Council	India	Full
68	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College	India	Institutional
69	School of Management, Bennett University	India	Institutional
70	School of Management, Sambhram Academy of Management Studies	India	Institutional

71	Shri. Govindrao Munghate Arts & Science College	India	Institutional
72	SSESA's Science College	India	Institutional
73	Symbiosis International University	India	Institutional
74	The Bhopal School of Social Sciences	India	Institutional
75	Shri Shivaji Arts & Commerce College Amravati	India	Institutional
76	Indonesian Accreditation Agency For Higher Education In Health (IAAHEH/ LAM-PTKes)	Indonesia	Institutional
77	National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education	Indonesia	Full
78	The University of Tehran	Iran	Institutional
79	Al Mustaqbal University College	Iraq	Institutional
80	Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation	Japan	Full
81	Japan University Accreditation Association	Japan	Full
82	National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)	Japan	Full
83	Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)	Kazakhstan	Full
84	Independent Kazakhstan Agency for Quality Assurance in Education	Kazakhstan	Full
85	Independent Kazakhstan Center of Accreditation (IKCA)	Kazakhstan	Full
86	JSC "Republican Scientific and Methodological Center of Technical and Vocational Education Development and Qualification Assignment"	Kazakhstan	Associate
87	The Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQA)	Kazakhstan	Full
88	Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing Education	Korea, South	Full
89	Korean Council For University College Education(KCCE)	Korea, South	Full
90	Korean Council for University Education	Korea, South	Full
91	Private Universities Council	Kuwait	Observer
92	"EdNet" Agency for quality assurance of educational field	Kyrgyzstan	Full
93	Agency for the Accreditation Educational Programs and Organizations	Kyrgyzstan	Intermediate
94	International School of Medicine	Kyrgyzstan	Institutional
95	Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education Lao PDR	Laos	Associate
96	Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ)	Macao, China	Associate
97	Macao Polytechnic Institute	Macao, China	Institutional
98	Macau University of Science and Technology	Macao, China	Institutional
99	Asian Institute of Finance	Malaysia	Institutional
100	Finance Accreditation Agency	Malaysia	Intermediate
101	Malaysian Qualifications Agency	Malaysia	Full
102	Institute for Academic Development, Villa College	Maldives	Institutional
103	Maldives Qualifications Authority	Maldives	Intermediate

104	The Accreditation Council for Administrative, Accounting and Related Sciences (CACECA)	Mexico	Observer
105	GAZARCHIN Institute	Mongolia	Institutional
106	Health Sciences University of Mongolia	Mongolia	Institutional
107	Ikh Zasag International University	Mongolia	Institutional
108	Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation	Mongolia	Full
109	University of the Humanities	Mongolia	Institutional
110	University Grants Commission of Nepal	Nepal	Intermediate
111	Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities	New Zealand	Full
112	Cornell Institute of Business and Technology	New Zealand	Observer
113	New Zealand Qualifications Authority	New Zealand	Full
114	Abasyn University	Pakistan	Institutional
115	Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan	Pakistan	Institutional
116	Air University, Islamabad	Pakistan	Institutional
117	Allama Iqbal Open University	Pakistan	Institutional
118	Balochistan University of Engineering & Technology, Khuzdar	Pakistan	Institutional
119	Beaconhouse National University	Pakistan	Institutional
120	Capital University of Science and Technology	Pakistan	Institutional
121	CECOS University of IT & Emerging Sciences Peshawar	Pakistan	Institutional
122	COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT)	Pakistan	Institutional
123	Dawood University of Engineering and Technology	Pakistan	Institutional
124	Fatima Jinnah Women University	Pakistan	Institutional
125	Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science & Technology	Pakistan	Institutional
126	Government College University Faisalabad	Pakistan	Institutional
127	Government College Women University, Sialkot	Pakistan	Institutional
128	Greenwich University Karachi	Pakistan	Institutional
129	Hazara University	Pakistan	Institutional
130	Higher Education Commission	Pakistan	Intermediate
131	Indus University	Pakistan	Institutional
132	Institute of Business & Technology-Biztek Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC)	Pakistan	Institutional
133	Institute of Business Administration, Karachi	Pakistan	Institutional
134	Institute of Business Management	Pakistan	Institutional
135	Institute of Management Sciences	Pakistan	Institutional
136	Institute of Space Technology	Pakistan	Institutional
137	International Islamic University Islamabad	Pakistan	Institutional
138	Iqra University	Pakistan	Institutional
139	Islamia College Peshawar (Chartered University)	Pakistan	Institutional
140	Jinnah Sindh Medical University	Pakistan	Institutional
141	Khadim Ali Shah Institute of Technology (Pvt) Ltd	Pakistan	Institutional
142	Khushal Khan Khattak University	Pakistan	Institutional
143	Khyber Medical University	Pakistan	Intermediate
144	King Edward Medical University, Lahore-Pakistan	Pakistan	Institutional
145	Lahore College for Women University	Pakistan	Institutional

146	Lahore School of Economics	Pakistan	Institutional
147	Mehran University of Engineering & Technology	Pakistan	Institutional
148	Mohammad Ali Jinnah University	Pakistan	Institutional
149	National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council	Pakistan	Intermediate
150	National Business Education Accreditation Council	Pakistan	Intermediate
151	National Defence University	Pakistan	Institutional
152	National Testing Service-Pakistan (NTS)	Pakistan	Associate
153	National Textile University	Pakistan	Institutional
154	National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (FAST National University)	Pakistan	Associate
155	National University of Medical Sciences	Pakistan	Institutional
156	National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)	Pakistan	Institutional
157	NED University of Engineering & Technology	Pakistan	Institutional
158	New Ports Institute of Communication and Economics (NICE)	Pakistan	Institutional
159	Pakistan Institute of Development Economics	Pakistan	Institutional
160	Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design	Pakistan	Institutional
161	Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University	Pakistan	Institutional
162	Preston University	Pakistan	Institutional
163	Quality Assurance Directorate, Bahria University	Pakistan	Institutional
164	Quality Enhancement Cell, National University of Modern Languages	Pakistan	Institutional
165	Quality Enhancement Cell, University of Haripur	Pakistan	Institutional
166	Quality Enhancement Cell, Kohat University of Science & Technology	Pakistan	Institutional
167	Riphah International University	Pakistan	Institutional
168	Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Balochistan	Pakistan	Institutional
169	Sarhad University of Science & information Technology	Pakistan	Institutional
170	SBK Women University Quetta Pakistan	Pakistan	Institutional
171	Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University	Pakistan	Institutional
172	Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences	Pakistan	Institutional
173	Shaheed benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar	Pakistan	Institutional
174	Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science & Technology (SZABIST)	Pakistan	Institutional
175	Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMI University)	Pakistan	Institutional
176	Sukkur institute of Business Administration	Pakistan	Institutional
177	The Superior College, Lahore	Pakistan	Institutional
178	The University of Agriculture, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Pakistan	Institutional
179	The University of BRANCH Faisalabad	Pakistan	Institutional
180	The University of Sindh	Pakistan	Institutional
181	University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir	Pakistan	Institutional
182	University of Balochistan	Pakistan	Institutional
183	University of Central Punjab	Pakistan	Institutional

184	University of Engineering & Technology, Taxila	Pakistan	Institutional
185	University of Gujrat	Pakistan	Institutional
186	University of Karachi	Pakistan	Institutional
187	University of Management and Technology (UMT)	Pakistan	Institutional
188	University of Peshawar	Pakistan	Institutional
189	University of Science & Technology, Bannu	Pakistan	Institutional
190	University of the Punjab, Lahore	Pakistan	Institutional
191	University of Wah	Pakistan	Associate
192	Women University Mardan	Pakistan	Institutional
193	Ziauddin University	Pakistan	Institutional
194	University of Education, Lahore	Pakistan	Institutional
195	Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology	Papua New Guinea	Associate
196	Divine Word University	Papua New Guinea	Institutional
197	National Training Council Secretariat	Papua New Guinea	Intermediate
198	Pacific Adventist University	Papua New Guinea	Institutional
199	Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment	Papua New Guinea	Institutional
200	Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines Inc.	Philippines	Full
201	Asia Theological Association	Philippines	Intermediate
202	International Distance Education Accreditation League, Inc.	Philippines	Associate
203	Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities	Philippines	Full
204	Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation	Philippines	Full
205	Altai State University	Russia	Institutional
206	Association for Engineering Education of Russia	Russia	Full
207	Kazan Federal University	Russia	Institutional
208	Minin University	Russia	Institutional
209	National Center of Public Accreditation (NCPA)	Russia	Full
210	Russian Register-Certification	Russia	Full
211	The Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career Development (AKKORK)	Russia	Full
212	The National Accreditation Agency of the Russian Federation	Russia	Full
213	Samoa Qualifications Authority	Samoa	Full
214	Jazan University	Saudi Arabia	Observer
215	EduValue Pte. Ltd.	Singapore	Associate
216	Horizon College of Business & Technology	Sri Lanka	Institutional
217	National School of Business Management (NSBM)	Sri Lanka	Institutional
218	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Intermediate
219	South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine (Pvt) Ltd.	Sri Lanka	Institutional
220	Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology	Sri Lanka	Institutional

221	Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Institutional
222	ASEAN University Network	Thailand	Observer
223	Asian Forum on Business Education	Thailand	Observer
224	Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment	Thailand	Full
225	Office of the Higher Education Commission	Thailand	Associate
226	National Agency for Academic Assessment and Accreditation (NAAAA)	Timor Leste	Intermediate
227	Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board	Tonga	Intermediate
228	Higher Education Quality Council of Turkey	Turkey	Full
229	British Accreditation Council	United Kingdom	Observer
230	The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education	United Kingdom	Observer
231	UK NARIC	United Kingdom	Observer
232	Vanuatu Training Council	Vanuatu	Intermediate
233	Center for Educational Testing and Quality Assessment, Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam	Institutional
234	Center for Quality Assurance, Foreign Trade University	Vietnam	Institutional
235	General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation	Vietnam	Full
236	Hanoi National University of Education (HNUE)	Vietnam	Institutional
237	Institute for Education Quality Assurance of Vietnam National University, Hanoi	Vietnam	Institutional
238	Vietnam Vocational Education and Training Accreditation	Vietnam	Intermediate
239*	Malalay Institute of Higher Education	Afghanistan	Institutional
240*	Bangladesh Accreditation Council	Bangladesh	Intermediate
241*	CamEd Business School	Cambodia	Institutional
242*	Shanghai Publishing and Printing College	China	Institutional
243*	YÖDAK (Higher Education Council)	Cyprus	Full
244*	National Theological Association (NTA)	India	Associate
245*	The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education	India	Institutional
246*	Hannah Cuthbertson	India	Individual
247*	Public Foundation Independent Accreditation Agency "BILIM-STANDART"	Kyrgyzstan	Full
248*	Jinnah University For Women	Pakistan	Institutional
249*	Quality Enhancement Cell Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences	Pakistan	Associate
250*	Salim Habib University	Pakistan	Institutional

Note: The organizations with "*" are APQN new members in 2021.



Welcome to Join APQN



We warmly welcome all QAAs, HEIs and those who have interest in QA to join APQN!

Membership of APQN is valuable for quality managers/officers, who would join a community of colleagues working with quality assurance of higher education.

As an APQN member you can embrace what is being offered in the region, and share in the delights of learning and expanding your own knowledge base. Specifically, full members (there might be some differences with other 3 categories) will be able to:

- Participate in APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and AGM as well as APQN online forum;
- Gain your branding through using APQN logo in your website or relative documents;
- Develop different kinds of collaborations across the distinguished network of QAAs and HEIs through AACs;
- Co-organize international seminars, workshops or forums together with APQN in your local context;
- Have the right to apply for APQN Award which occurs once every year;
- Have access to over 180 consultants in Consultant Data Base and get advice on different and specific QA matters;
- Receive the electronic APQNews twice every year and Annual Report;
- Publish your qualified research paper on APQN Academic in Proceedings during AAC every year;
- Have the right to apply for Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR) for QAAs; and
- Have the right to apply for the accreditation of APQN Quality Label for HEIs.

The following steps for you to join APQN big family

1) Application Process for APQN Members:

<http://www.apqn.org/members/application-process-for-members>

2) Choose the right membership category for your agency.

<http://www.apqn.org/members/membership-criteria> (for universities, it is “institutional member”.)

3) Fill in application forms with all the required information.

<http://www.apqn.org/members/directory/entry/add>

4) Inquiring. If there is no feedback from APQN Secretariat after you submit your application for one month, please contact Administrator at APQN Secretariat (apqnsecretariat@163.com) for questions.

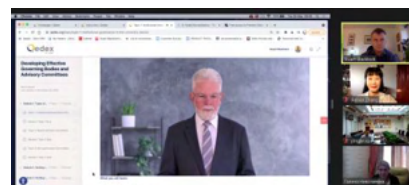
APQN First Board Meeting in 2021 was Held

APQN Board Meeting in 2021 was held at Zoom online at 16:00-18:00, May 25, 2021. It was chaired by APQN President, Jianxin Zhang. The attendees included Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang (APQN President), Prof. Galina Motova (APQN Vice President), Dr. Jagannath Patil (Immediate Past President), Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara, Mr. Le Fang and Ms. Yingjie Xu. The special guests are Stuart Blacklock (CEO of Qedex Platform in the U.K.), Barry Aw Yong (Director of EDUVALUE) and Alan Go from EDUVALUE in Singapore.

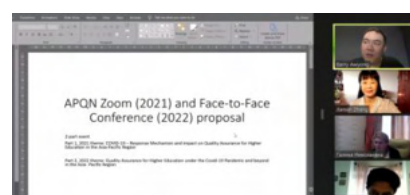


The meeting consisted of 3 parts: (1) Discussion on Qedex Platform (16:00-16:45 PM); (2) Discussion on 2021+2022 AAC/AGM (16:45-17:20 PM); (3) Discussion on Matters concerning on APQN sustainable development (17:20 -18:00 PM).

First of all, Stuart Blacklock (Qedex CEO), presented Qedex platform to APQN Board Directors. APQN-Qedex in partnership by QASPIR will create relevant courses to meet the needs of APQN Members and especially, the needs of the HEIs as its Institutional members. All of the courses come from requests through Qedex, Needs Assessment Surveys, and the linkage is https://qaspir.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bfIGx4uaxykx6Mm. QASPIR is offering Qedex to APQN and its members, as a means of improving academic quality and student success.



Second, special guests, Barry Aw Yong (Director of EDUVALUE) and Alan Go from EDUVALUE in Singapore presented the proposal of APQN Zoom (2021) and Face-to-Face



Conference (2022) to APQN Board. It has been decided:

1. AAC and AGM are made up of two parts: (1) 2021 theme: COVID-19 - Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region; (2) 2022 theme: Quality Assurance for Higher Education under the COVID-19 Pandemic and beyond in the Asia- Pacific Region.

2. Timeline for Zoom Conference (2021)

Time	Items
June 15	The release of the announcement of 2021 and 2022 AAC & AGM, and call for papers for the webinar of 2021 AAC
July 26-September 26	1) Marketing & promotion (with global invitation to submit papers) 2) Online registration is open
September 25	Deadline for paper submission and the review panel review the papers
September 26-October 10	1) The review panel review the papers 2) Inform the authors of the review results 3) Releasing guideline for presentation PPT
November 1	Releasing the Programme of the Webinar of 2021 AAC and AGM
November 25	Webinar of 2021 AAC and AGM

Last but not least, the Board discussed matters concerning on APQN sustainable Development. It is approved that Barry Aw Yong (Director of EDUVALUE) is co-opted as APQN Board Directors due to his active participation in APQN’s mission of “Enhancing the Quality of Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region” and "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region". Call for Nominations for APQN Board Directors of the seventh Board will be made next April, 2022. It is approved that QASPIR will be a partner with APQN that will be based on a profit-sharing business model and sponsorship model as well.

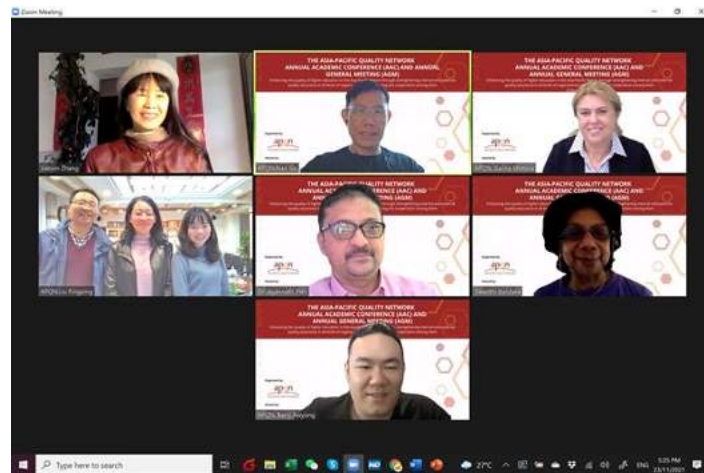


The Board meeting at Zoom was the first one since the COVID-19 pandemic. It is very decisive and efficient and will promote APQN sustainable Development.

(Written by Jianxin Zhang and Yingjie Xu)

APQN Second Board Meeting in 2021 was Held

APQN second Board Meeting in 2021 was held at Zoom online at 17:00-18:30, Nov. 23, 2021. It was chaired by APQN President, Jianxin Zhang. The attendees included Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang (APQN President), Prof. Galina Motova (APQN Vice President), Ms. Pingping Liu (APQN Secretary/Treasurer), Dr. Jagannath Patil (Immediate Past President), Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara (Board Director), Barry Aw Yong (Board Director), Mr. Le Fang and Ms. Yingjie Xu (Secretariat staff). Special guest was Alan Go (local organizer of 2021 and 2022 AAC, from EDUVALUE, Singapore).



The meeting discussed 10 items, among which the followings are important for APQN sustainable development:

1. Preparation Report of 2021 AAC and AGM. There were 377 registers online. The rehearsal was done at 16:00-17:00 on Nov. 23. The instructions of the events for chairs have been distributed one week ago. The presenters have been informed by e-mails, WeChat and WhatsApp. The PPTs have been collected and standby.

2. The tasks of following-up actions of 2021 AAC and AGM should be completed before December, 2021. 1) The Report of 2021 APQN Academic Conference; 2) The Report of 2021 Annual General Meeting; 3) The Minutes of 2021 APQN 2nd Board Meeting as well as Report of 2021 APQN 2nd Board Meeting; 4) Summarization of 2021 APQN Academic Conference.

3. Two Service Agreements of Publication have been signed: 1) Service Agreement for Publication of APQN Anthology (2019&2021 AAC); 2) Service Agreement for the Publication of APQN Research on the COVID-19 Impact in Higher

Education.



4. The theme and sub-theme of 2022 AAC and AGM have been discussed. 2022 AAC and AGM are tentatively to be held from 24-27 November 2022 by APQN and EDUVALUE in Singapore. The theme is “Exploring New Normal of HE Quality Assurance 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 in post-COVID pandemic; 4) Quality Assurance of Online and Blended Teaching and Learning; 5) Redefining Role of Government and Private Sector.

5. About the 9th Online Forum and the 4th Global Summit. The 9th Online Forum and 4th Global Summit may be held in the middle of June, and the theme, venue, chair and others keep open for further discussion. APQN encouraged its members to apply for it.

6. It has been decided to “Call for Nominations for Board Directors of APQN seventh Board”. The current sixth Board will come to term next year. It’s time to begin the election of the seventh Board Directors. It is decided that the Independent Council will be assigned and the relative things must be done.

Major issues were discussed and decided at the meetings, which laid the foundation for the implementation of activities and events of APQN.

(Written by Jianxin Zhang)

2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was Held

The 2021 APQN Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held virtual by Zoom video-conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, at 19:15-19:40, on November 25, 2021. It was chaired by APQN Board Director, Dr. Jagannath Patil. The participants included Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang (APQN President), Prof. Galina Motova (APQN Vice President), Ms. Pingping Liu (APQN Secretary/Treasurer), Dr. Jagannath Patil (Board Director), Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara (Board Director), Barry Aw Yong (Board Director), Mr. Le Fang (Secretariat Administrator), Ms. Yingjie Xu (Secretariat Administrator), special guest Alan Go (Local Organizer of 2021 AAC & AGM, from EDUVALUE, Singapore) and 138 representatives from APQN members.



The AGM commenced by welcoming all participants by Dr. Jagannath Patil. It was the first time that the AGM was held online. Also, it was the first time that the Board decided to keep this meeting open to all the attendees instead of for members only.

President Jianxin Zhang gave the APQN president report for 2020 and 2021. In her report, President Jianxin Zhang first introduced APQN Administration and Status - APQN now has 250 APQN members from 45 countries/territories, being the largest and most influential non-profit and non-government

international/regional network in this Region.

APQN Response Mechanism including 11 APQN actions under COVID pandemic was highlighted, including APQN survey on the COVID impact in HEIs, APQN survey on the COVID impact in HEIs in QAAs, Interviews with APQN Board Directors on COVID impact on HE quality, APQN 8th online forum, MPI-APQN 12th International Conference, Survey of online-teaching quality in the Asia-Pacific Region, APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance, survey on Effectiveness of Online Teaching, MPI-APQN 13th International Conference, AAC on COVID Response Mechanism & Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region, and Book on APON Research on the COVID Impact in Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region.

APQN's tasks/focuses in 2022 were also put forward, including: 1) 2022 AAC & AGM on 24-27 November in Singapore; 2) Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR), with inspirational target, quality hallmark, basis for cross-border education as the purpose. 8 QAAs have been awarded, and 2 new applications from Samoa Qualifications Authority, Samoa and EdNet Agency for quality assurance in education, Kyrgyz Republic, are under review; 3) APQN Quality Label for HEIs: Online-teaching Quality Assurance, aiming at developing quality criteria for online teaching for both HEIs & non-traditional providers, developing a PDCI plan to maintain good quality for online teaching in HEIs and non-traditional HE providers, developing a feasible and efficient action plan to implement high-quality online teaching; 4) APQN 9th Online Forum & Global Summit on QA: Online forums has been conducted 8 times in the past years with over 220 participants and the 9th Online Forum on QA will be held in the middle of 2022. Global Summit has been held 3 times and the 4th one is tentatively planned to be held in India. APQN members are encouraged and welcomed to apply for cooperation with APQN to hold both of them. 5) Call for nominations for Board Directors of seventh Board: an Independent Council with 3 vote counters (Zhang Jianxin, President of APQN, Xu Yingjie, Administrator of APQN Secretariat and a representative from APQN members) will be form in December 2021, and the formal notice of "Call for nominations for APQN Board members (2022-2025)" will be sent to all full and intermediate members.

As the end of the report, President Jianxin Zhang offered thanks to all APQN members, APQN sixth Board directors, former presidents and pioneers and all the quality assurance networks and organizations.

After the report from APQN President was report from APQN

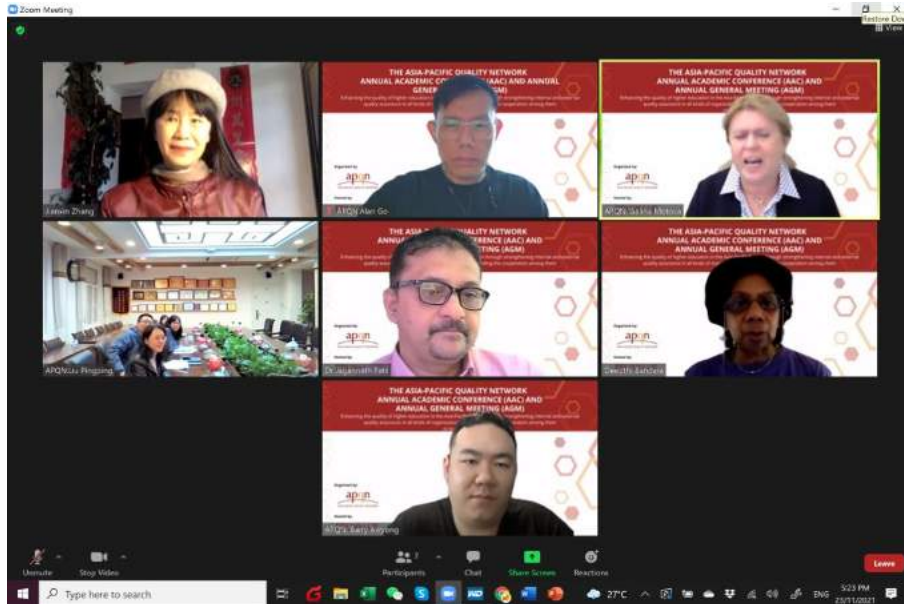
Secretary/Treasurer by Ms. Pingping Liu. Ms. Pingping Liu started her report by showing the structure of Secretariat Team, with Ms. Pingping Liu as the Secretary/Treasurer, both Mr. Le Fang and Ms. Yingjie Xu as administrators and Ms. Cunyao Fan as the accountant. The Routine work of the secretariat, such as information updating, project forwarding, question solving and website maintenance, was then introduced. Special attention was paid to APQN members. APQN welcomed 4 new members in 2020 and 9 new members in 2021. The types and distribution of 250 APQN members from 45 countries/territories were also demonstrated. In the report, the Financial Statement was presented in an open and transparent way: the total income was USD 51,449.75; the total expense was USD 25,251.4; the balance was USD 26,198.35; the total funds available at the end of 2020 were USD 215,839.98. The 2021 audit work will be made in January 2022. Secretariat will provide the final financial statement to all APQN members after auditing. The report reviewed the major Events and projects in 2020 and 2021, including APQN 2021 AAC and AGM, cooperation project between APQN and the University of Macau, APQR Council Meeting and memorandum of understanding. In closing of the report, Ms. Pingping Liu conveyed her sincere gratitude to the APQN Board, Singapore host, and all APQN members and friends for their trust and support to APQN Secretariat as always.

The announcement of the 2022 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) by Barry Aw Yong brought participants with expectation for APQN next year. 2022 AAC and AGM are tentatively to be held from 24-27 November 2022 by APQN and EDUVALUE in Singapore, with the Theme of “Exploring New Normal of HE Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region” and Sub-themes of “Digitalization of Quality Assurance”, “Information Technology Innovations in Higher Education Accreditation”, “Internationalization of Quality Assurance”, “Quality Assurance of Online-Based Teaching and Learning” and “Redefining Role of Government and Private Sector”.

At last, Dr. Jagannath Patil gave the closing remarks of 2021 AAC and AGM. Despite the pandemic, APQN is moving and doing well in connecting members with activities. He believed that with the shared experience and expertise of APQN members, we will move faster and becoming closer. Through Zoom, participants commented that the conference was well-organized, beneficial and fruitful. They expressed thanks for APQN Board, Secretariat and the host EDUVALUE, and looked forward to the upcoming physical meetings.

The AGM 2021 was a successful conference and of great importance for the

further development of APQN.



(Written by

Yingjie Xu from APQN Secretariat)

Solution to Members with Unpaid Fee for above Three Years

It's been more than two years since the COVID-19 outbreak sent shockwaves globally. As a member-driven international organization, APQN has been acutely aware the financial difficulties some of its members are having at this unprecedented time, and it has the responsibility to weather the hard times with its members together.

After deep discussion and vote, the Board of APQN has decided the following solution for this issue: those members with financial difficulty could apply to postpone the payment of outstanding fee for the approval of the Board. Thus, APQN members are allowed to postpone the payment of outstanding fee in response to their financial challenges as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. An application (see Attachment) is requested to submit for the Board to approve. It is worth noted that the membership fees of 2022 should be paid as the priority, and the application for postponing is only limited for the outstanding part. And by the end of 2022, the Board will further discuss membership status of members without any reply.

We hope this solution will in some way alleviate the financial strain members are currently facing and work with all of our members together to make APQN better.

ATTACHMENT: Application of Postponing Payment of Outstanding Fee

Institute			
Country		Invoice Number	
Membership type		Email address	
Outstanding fee			
Reasons for application: 1. reasons for the postponing, 2. evidence for the payment of 2022 membership fees, 3. the postponed amount and the deadline of the payment and 4. commitment for the payment)			
		By:	(Signatures)
		Date:	

ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

2022 APQN NEW YEAR GREETING



December 25, 2021

Dear APQN members, colleagues and friends: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On the occasion of New Year, APQN sixth Board Directors, are extending our festival greetings and best wishes to 250 members from 45 countries/territories, extending our sincere appreciation and deep respect to those who care and support the sustainable development of APQN! We'd like to thank you for your continual support of our goal of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region" and our enhancement of "Quality Culture".

Bells are ringing, and New Year is coming. It's time for us to reflect on the past year and to celebrate New Year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it's an unusual year in 2021 for all people in this planet as well as APQN. It's an unprecedented scenario in the world history of education. APQN suffered the same and had to cancel all face-to-face QA activities.

Fortunately, under the leadership of the sixth Board, since the beginning of 2020, APQN has carried on 12 activities to fight against the COVID pandemic: 4 online surveys, 1 online forum, 3 international webinars, 1 interview, 1 online-teaching standard and 2 books to be published very soon.

In 2021, we completed over 60 tasks, among which the most crucial is to have released "APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance" on May 31; the most important is to have held 2021 APQN Academic Conference and Annual General meeting (online) on November 25, the most memorable is to have published "APQNews (Issue 23)" "APQNews (Issue 24)" and APQN Annual Report (2021)...

Dear all, the passing year was full of unexpectedness, difficulties and challenges but APQN still sticks to its four principles - procedure-based, capacity building, self-reliance & information-sharing and sustainable development for the final goal. As we all know, the post-COVID-19 era is a new path for APQN to enhance “Quality Culture”. We believe, if we have a strong commitment to our goals and dreams, if we wake up every day with a passion to do our job, everything is possible!

On the New Year’s Day, we sincerely wish all members “Happy New Year”, 12 months of happiness and good health. A new year brings new beginnings. See you at 2022 AAC and AGM in Singapore on November 24-27, 2022!

Sincerely yours, 

APQN Board Directors:

Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jagannath Patil,

Deepthi C. Bandara, Farida Nurmanbetova, Barry Aw Yong



2022 APQN New Year Greeting

December 31, 2021

Dear APQN members, colleagues and friends: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On the occasion of New Year, APQN sixth Board Directors are extending our festive greetings and best wishes to 250 members from 48 countries/territories, extending our sincere appreciation and deep respect to those who care and support the sustainable development of APQN. We'd like to thank you for your continual support of our goal of “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region” and our enhancement of “Quality Culture”.

Bells are ringing, New Year is coming. It's time for us to reflect the past year and to celebrate New Year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it's an unusual year in 2021 for all the persons in this planet as well as APQN. It's an unprecedented scenario in the world history of education. APQN suffered the same and had to cancel all face-to-face QA activities.

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Dear all, the passing year was full of unexpectedness, difficulties and challenges but APQN still sticks to its four principles - procedure-based, capacity building, self-reliance & information-sharing and sustainable development for final goal. As we all know, the post-COVID-19 era is a new path for APQN to enhance “Quality Culture”. We believe, if we have a strong commitment to our goal and dream, if we wake up every day with a passion to do our job, everything is possible!

On the New Year’s Day, we sincerely wish all members “Happy New Year”, 12 months of happiness and good health. A new year brings new beginnings. See you in 2022 AAC and AGM in Singapore on November 24-27, 2022!

Sincerely yours: *Jianxin Zhang*

APQN Board Directors: Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jagannath Patil,
Deepthi C. Bandara, Farida Nurmanbetova, Barry Aw Yong




2021 AAC and AGM is a Great Success

APQN and EduValue are proud to host the virtual APQN 2021 AAC and AGM Webinar Event on November 25 (Thursday), 2021, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm (GMT+8). Over 350 persons have registered from Bangladesh, Hong Kong, and other countries/territories. Among the represented are China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, the Russian Federation, Vietnam, and Kyrgyzstan.

The Asia-Pacific Quality Assurance Conference and AGM (APQN AAC & AGM) is an annual Asia-Pacific event that brings together Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs), government regulators, and organizations working in the field of quality assurance to discuss and advance quality assurance in higher education.



1. An unprecedented APQN virtual conference

The event, which was originally scheduled to take place in Singapore in November 2020, has been pushed back to November 2021 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to the uncertainties of global concern about travel restrictions and the emergence of new COVID-19 variants, EduValue recommended to the APQN Board in May 2021 that a virtual APQN 2021 be held. The APQN Board of Directors approved an unprecedented APQN virtual conference for the first time.

2. APQN 2021 webinar needs a new theme

The collaboration of APQN and EduValue on a new theme and timeline began in June 2021. In collaboration with APQN, EduValue began the logistics of canceling venues, refunding fees collected for the 2019 event, and re-inviting authors for academic paper submission under a strict deadline. On June 16, 2021, an email announcement for the APQN 2021 webinar was sent out, along with an invitation to submit an academic paper. The APQN received a large number of academic paper submissions, and the reviewing committee struggled to decide which papers to present, and especially which authors to present their papers. Organizer APQN and host EduValue publicized the AQPQ 2021 webinar event to potential global and Singapore attendees by the end of July 2021. Over 350 people registered for the event in total.

The APQN 2021 webinar theme was redesigned, with the main theme for the AQPQ 2021 AAC being "COVID-19-Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region." To accommodate the estimated 4-hour virtual event, the event's sub-themes were reduced from five to three, namely: 1) Quality of Internationalization under COVID-19 Pandemic; 2) Quality of Online Teaching and Learning under COVID-19 (Internal QA) ; 3) New QA Approach and Innovations under COVID (External QA)



3. Making sure the APQN 2021 webinar is successful

The keynote speaker, Dr. Peter J Wells, Chief of Higher Education, Programme Specialist from UNESCO, Paris, France, and the 9 presenters for the event were confirmed on October 21, 2021,



and the event agenda was released to all registered attendees on November 1, 2021.

The EduValue team started the crucial task of testing the Zoom conferencing systems, determining their limitations, and launching virtual event mock-up trials. A virtual backdrop in the APQN corporate color was also created. There were at least four internal rehearsals, including one with all of the speakers. A detailed timeline and scripts



for the APQN 2021 webinar Chairpersons and the event MC were distributed to all event Chairs. The virtual event was hosted by EduValue in Singapore, and staff members were assigned roles and responsibilities such as timekeeper, Zoom "director," IT support, Music "director," Q & A co-coordinators, speakers, and chairperson co-coordinators. We were frequently tense during rehearsals because we didn't know if hiccups would be caused by technological and Internet disruptions.

Despite the time differences, the EduValue team was extremely grateful for all of the speakers' cooperation and active participation in our rehearsal. We tested the PowerPoint slides as well as any videos that they intend to show during the webinar. We created FAQ and instruction manuals for all speakers to use as a reference should the need arise. We also ensure that all speakers and chairs have WeChat and WhatsApp accounts on standby in case any communications are required during the event.



4. International attendees and speakers

The AQPn 2021 webinar proved to be a successful global and regional platform for bringing together people working in higher education from China, the United

States, Europe, and Asia during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 350 people have registered from Bangladesh, Hong Kong, and other countries/territories. Among the country/territory represented are China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, the Russian Federation, Vietnam, and Kyrgyzstan.

We must express our gratitude to our wonderful speakers, without whom none of this would have been possible. Speakers from France, the United Kingdom, Singapore, China and Hong Kong participated. The colleagues from China, Chinese Taipei, Vietnam, Russia, and Omar shared their knowledge and enthusiasm for higher education quality assurance, with a focus on discussions about the future of quality assurance in higher education in the age of technological advances, particularly the need for schools to adopt better workflow by automating business processes.

APQN 2021 Webinar Panel of International Speakers



Mr. Barry Aw Yong, APQN Board Director and founder of the EV Education Group in Singapore, presided over our speakers in Session 1: Quality of Internationalization under COVID-19 Pandemic. The session began with Yahan Yang, research fellow at the Center for China and Globalization and APQN volunteer project member, and Dr Jianxin Zhang, APQN President, Chief Expert of Higher Education Evaluation Center, and Professor from Yunnan University in China, presented their insights and findings on "APQN Survey: the COVID-19 Impact in Higher Education Institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region." Dr. Fabrizio Trifiro, Head

of Quality Benchmark Services, Ecctis / UK ENIC, UK, then presented on "*Improving the Recognition Climate for TNE Qualifications through Cross-Border Cooperation.*" Dr Jing Tian, Lecturer of Hangzhou Dianzi University, presented the topic "*World-Class Universities Evaluation: History and Characteristics-from the Perspective of Chinese Academy of Science and Education Evaluation*" on behalf of the research team mates led by Dr Junping Qiu, Senior Professor of Hangzhou Dianzi University, Dean of Chinese Academy of Science and Education Evaluation, China, and team mates Dr Rui Zhang, Associate Professor of Chinese Academy of Science and Education Evaluation, China.

Session 2: Quality of Online Teaching and Learning under COVID-19 (Internal QA), chaired by Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara, APQN Board Director, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, began with Dr Wafa Al-Maawali, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Rustaq, Oman, and Dr Munira Al-Siyabi, Department of English Language and Literature, Ms. Carmen Chik, Superintendent of Police, Hong Kong Police College, Hong Kong, China, presents an interesting video in the following paper, "HKPC Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education." The third speaker for session saw Ms. Arianna Fang Yu Lin, PhD candidate, National Chengchi University, Chinese Taipei presenting a paper on "Quality and Inequality: Students' Learning Experiences and Perceptions toward Online Learning amidst COVID-19" with Dr Angela Yung Chi Hou, Professor, National Chengchi University, Chinese Taipei, providing a closing remark on participating in APQN 2021.

Ms. Liu Pingping, APQN Secretary/Treasurer and Vice Director of Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI), China, presided over Session 3: New QA Approach and Innovations under COVID (External QA). Mr. Alan Go, Lead Strategic Researcher, Singapore, delivered a paper titled "Stopping Fake Certificates and Transcripts – Is Digital and Blockchain Technology the Answer?" Ms Ho Dac Hai Mien, Vice-Director of the Centre for Education Accreditation at Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City, presented on "Quality Assessment for Distance Higher Education Programmes in Vietnam: Introduction, Benchmark, and Lessons Learned." The third speaker, Dr Galina Motova, Deputy Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation, APQN Vice-President, and Editor-in-Chief of the journal "Accreditation in Education," Russia, presented the paper "Aggregated ranking as a tool for evaluating the quality and positioning of Asia-Pacific universities at the global level," which she co-authored with Dr Vladimir Navodnov, Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation, Honored Worker of Education of the Russian Federation.

Many participants asked questions after each session of the webinar, but due to time constraints, questioning and answering were limited to a maximum of three questions after each session. The number of questions asked was encouraging, indicating that the participants were interested in the various topics presented during the four-hour webinar.

5. Looking forward to APQN 2022 in Singapore

The APQN committee and Board of Directors hope to meet everyone in person at APQN 2022 in Singapore. EduValue will continue to host the APQN 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on many aspects of our professional and personal lives. The organizing committee felt that the APQN 2022 event should be an event that fosters optimism, agility, and better innovation by examining the new normal affecting higher education quality assurance as a result of the pandemic's global learning experience. APQN 2022's main theme will be "Quality Assurance for Higher Education: Exploring the New Normal of Higher Education Quality Assurance in the Asia Pacific Region." The event is set to take place from November 24 to November 27, 2022, so mark your calendars and prepare to meet in person in Singapore

(Written by Alan Go, Lead consultant, EduValue, Singapore)

MPI-APQN 13th International Conference was Held

The Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) and the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) jointly organized “The 13th Higher Education International Conference on Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era” from 22nd to 23rd November, 2021 via Zoom platform. Over 30 experts from England, Portugal, Australia, Japan, Turkey, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, cross-straits, Hong Kong and Macao presented their papers. The online conference attracted 200 experts and PhD candidates from all over the world to participate. They actively engaged in exchanging views and interacting freely during the conference.

The 13th Higher Education International Conference on Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era

第十三屆高等教育國際學術研討會——
後疫情時代的教育創新與教學質量保證



Professor Im Sio Kei, President of MPI delivered the opening speech, remarking that due to the impact of the pandemic, different countries/territories around the world have continued to adjust their teaching models in response to the development of the pandemic, with these models differing significantly from traditional teaching models. MPI and APQN actively took on the role of building a platform and cooperating for the seventh time in hosting the higher education international conference in exploring education innovation and quality assurance in the post-pandemic era. It was hoped that through this “cloud discussion”, a platform for exchanges and sharing between Macao and universities and

institutions around the world would be built, and thus contribute to the new development of higher education.

Professor Jianxin Zhang, President of APQN congratulated the successful convening of the conference on behalf of 250 member organizations from 45 countries/territories. She expressed her gratitude towards MPI for the cooperation building a platform for higher education since 2014. She exclaimed that the conference theme of this year was a good theme for educators who were still affected by the pandemic. By recognizing the importance of educational innovation, online teaching and online learning, new evaluation standards and direction can be established for good higher education quality.

This conference invited famous scholars of higher education quality assurance to deliver keynote sessions. Professor João Guerreiro, President of the Management Board of the Portuguese Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES) presented “Quality Assurance is Decisive for Higher Education”. He compared the distance learning mechanism with the current practice adopted in emergency situations, and found that the differences between the two were substantial. In the case of distance learning, there are specific pedagogical models, asynchronous sessions, specific and flexible curricular structures, adaptation to the diversity of student profiles, more pronounced autonomous work procedures, appropriate formative and summative evaluation criteria, etc. He exclaimed that it was worth stressing the importance of quality assurance procedures to ensure that the accreditation of higher education courses maintained good international practice.

Dr. Jagannath Patil, Chairperson of Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR) and former President of APQN, delivered “Quality & Mobility beyond Borders: Exploring Innovation in the New Normal”. He pointed out that in response to the pandemic and the acceleration of education demand, the two latest trends in the digital transformation of the education industry are the expansion of distance education and the continuous innovation of education technology. He suggested that countries/territories should support the construction of IT infrastructure and train educators to shift to digital teaching under the new normal. In addition, he also suggested that the evaluation institutions should construct a framework of accreditation for online courses, and actively engage in building a bridge to the digital future.

Ms. Vicki Stott, Chief Executive of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in the United Kingdom, delivered “Innovation in Quality Assurance in the

Post-Pandemic Era”. She expressed that the assessment methods in the post-pandemic era needed to be continuously innovated. Special attention should be paid to protecting academic integrity and tackling cheating, plagiarism and academic misconduct in the online landscape. She pointed out that evaluation agencies must ensure that online inspections can replace on-site campus visits and face-to-face dialogues with students when conducting quality evaluations under the pandemic. The internal evaluations should ensure that the procedures meet the requirements.

Professor Jianxin Zhang, President of APQN, presented “The Development of APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance”. Online surveys were conducted through the APQN platform since the outbreak of the pandemic, showing that the quality of online higher education teaching in the Asia-Pacific region was not optimistic. The researchers developed “APQN standard for online-teaching quality assurance”. APQN Standard consists of five criteria: online-teaching environment, teachers’ online teaching, learners’ online learning, presentation of online-teaching outcomes and online-teaching quality assurance. It provides a reference for the high-quality development of online teaching.

In this two-day conference, more than 30 scholars presented papers in six parallel sessions exploring innovations, teaching and learning quality assurance of higher education in the post-pandemic era. In addition, the application of information technology under the trend of online education, etc. were discussed actively. The participants exclaimed that they benefited from the exchanges at this conference.

The 13 th Higher Education International Conference on Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era	
第十三屆高等教育國際學術研討會—— 後疫情時代的教育創新與教學質量保證	
Overall Programme Rundown	
22/11/2021 (Mon)	Keynote Sessions
16:00 – 16:15	Opening
	• Speech by Prof. Im Sio Iai, President of Macao Polytechnic Institute
	• Speech by Prof. Jianxin Zhang, President of Asia Pacific Quality Network
16:15 – 18:15	Keynote 1 – Prof. João Pinto Guimarães, President of Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3SE)
	Keynote 2 – Dr. Jagannath Pasi, Chairperson of Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR) & Former President of Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN)
	Keynote 3 – Mr. Voon Boon, Chief Executive, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)
	Keynote 4 – Prof. Jianxin Zhang, President, Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN)
18:15 – 18:30	Break
18:30 – 20:30	Parallel Session 1 (ENGL)
	Parallel Session 2 (ENGL)
	Parallel Session 3 (CH)
23/11/2021 (Tue)	Parallel Sessions 4-6
15:00 – 17:00	Parallel Session 4 (ENGL)
	Parallel Session 5 (ENGL)
	Parallel Session 6 (CH)

Zoom Meeting Information	
22/11/2021 (MON), 16:00-18:30 (UTC+6, Macao Local Time)	Keynote Sessions
Zoom Meeting	
https://zoom.us/j/98866317081?pwd=Q2FkZWVlYVY1Y1Zlcm9pOjY1bnZkdz09	
Meeting ID: 988 6631 7081	
Passcode: 972460	
22/11/2021 (MON), 18:30-20:30 (UTC+6, Macao Local Time)	Parallel Sessions 1-3
Parallel Session 1 (CH)	Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/94567665807?pwd=ZUJhbnVlYVY1Y1Zlcm9pOjY1bnZkdz09	
Meeting ID: 945 6766 5807	
Passcode: 618108	
Parallel Session 2 (ENGL)	Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/97516151187?pwd=ZUJhbnVlYVY1Y1Zlcm9pOjY1bnZkdz09	
Meeting ID: 975 1615 1189	
Passcode: 229815	
Parallel Session 3 (CH)	Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/9187111161?pwd=ZUJhbnVlYVY1Y1Zlcm9pOjY1bnZkdz09	
Meeting ID: 918 7111 6196	
Passcode: 05183	
23/11/2021 (TUE), 15:00-17:00 (UTC+6, Macao Local Time)	Parallel Sessions 4-6
Parallel Session 4 (ENGL)	Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/9191949891?pwd=ZUJhbnVlYVY1Y1Zlcm9pOjY1bnZkdz09	
Meeting ID: 919 1949 8999	
Passcode: 694984	
Parallel Session 5 (ENGL)	Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/9281143666?pwd=ZUJhbnVlYVY1Y1Zlcm9pOjY1bnZkdz09	
Meeting ID: 928 1436 6632	
Passcode: 461892	
Parallel Session 6 (CH)	Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/975166217?pwd=ZUJhbnVlYVY1Y1Zlcm9pOjY1bnZkdz09	
Meeting ID: 975 1662 1872	
Passcode: 721674	

(Written by Macao Polytechnic Institute)

APQN Survey on Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance

Although online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic is a helpless action, it has brought a new perspective to the reform and development of world education. Online teaching integrating the technologies of “Internet +” and “Intelligence +” will become the “new normal” of future education. However, this change in teaching environment has brought discomfort and challenges to education administration, teachers' teaching and learners' learning, and has had a great impact on teaching quality. How to ensure online-teaching quality has become the focus and hot topic of educational research. At APQN 8th forum entitled “Influence of COVID-19 on Higher Education Quality Assurance” held on July 28, 2020, an urgent demand made APQN decide to develop APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance.

Therefore, APQN research team conducted a survey on “APQN Online-Teaching Quality Assurance Standard” (hereinafter referred to as “APQN Standard”). The key elements of the survey were developed by Delphi Method at the beginning of 2021. The survey consists of three parts with 64 questions scored by Likert Scale (scale 1-5): 1) basic information; 2) satisfaction; 3) importance.

From March 23 to May 30, 2021, the research team distributed the online survey (<https://www.wjx.cn/vj/PiMFEzV.aspx>) to 242 APQN members, more than 1,200 participants of APQN previous academic conferences and some universities in the Asia-Pacific Region. At the end of the deadline, after excluding those from non-Asia-Pacific Regions, 721 valid respondents from 32 countries/territories in Asia-Pacific Region were included.

By analyzing the “satisfaction” part of the survey, APQN received the following information: (1) online-teaching support services, especially in teaching technology, still need to be improved; (2) teachers' teaching behaviors greatly need to be improved in the process of online teaching; (3) learners' learning behaviors are unsatisfactory, greatly affecting online-teaching quality.

With the tendency of online teaching becoming an important and indivisible part of normal teaching activities, to develop APQN Standard is not only the objective need of educational reform, but also the inherent requirement of high-quality development of online teaching.

Based on the “importance” part of the survey, APQN received the opinions about APQN standard from stakeholders, and then developed a comprehensive and systematic “APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance”, which includes five primary dimensions, 14 secondary dimensions and 46 specific standards. The framework is as bellows (see figure 1):

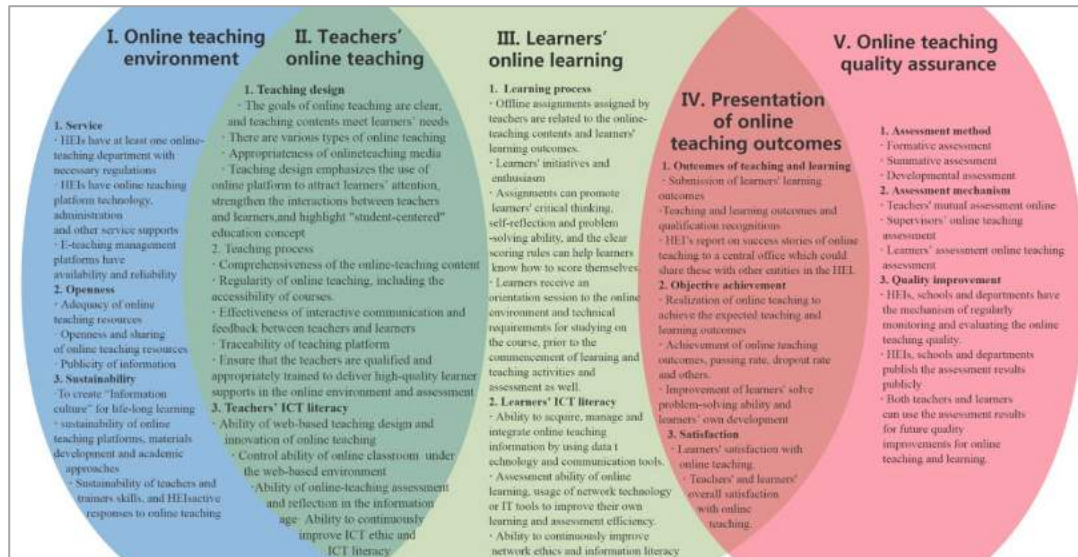


Figure 1 Framework of APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance

Overall, APQN Standard not only improves and innovates the existing standards of different countries/territories in the world, but also reflects its own QA characteristics in six aspects: scientific QA evaluation ideas, the diversified QA evaluated, diversified QA evaluators, comprehensive QA criteria, dynamic QA process and effective QA results.

Quality assurance is an eternal topic in the field of education. Let's call for responsibility and solidarity. Let's fight for "Enhancing the Quality of Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region"!

(Written by Panpan Huang from APQN project team)

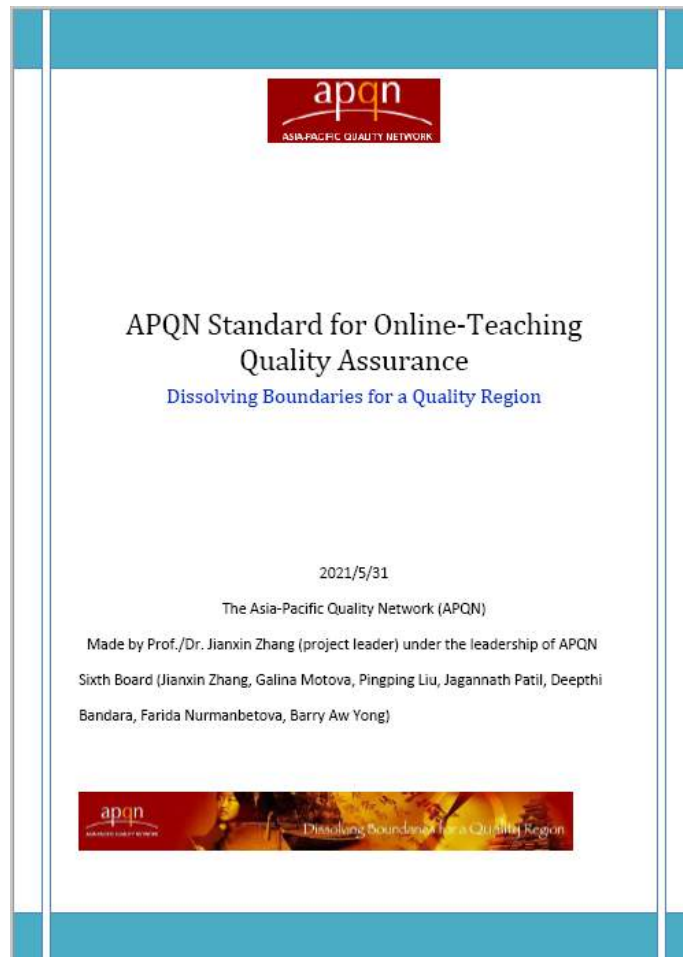
Release of APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance

In the past year (2020), since campus lockdown restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, online teaching has emerged onto the global higher education stage as a leading means of “adjusting to new environments”, which suggests becoming a “disruptor” in higher education where operations are typically embedded in historical constancy.

Naturally, the definition of “quality” in higher education (HE) should be redefined amidst the rapidly changing expectations and conditions brought on by 2020. How do internal quality assurance (IQA) and external quality assurance (EQA) monitor newly online teaching provision

in higher education and develop future provision in a reliable and efficient manner? What is the quality of online courses and what are the outcomes of such training? Can we trust the quality of online education and the qualifications of graduates who have been trained online?

The results of “APQN survey on COVID-19 impact in Higher Education Institutions” conducted from March to May in 2020, showed that 68% of the respondents are “not satisfied” with online teaching, while “APQN Survey on Effectiveness of On-line Teaching” conducted in July 2020, showed that 34% respondents think online teaching is “inefficient”. At APQN 8th forum entitled “Influence of COVID-19 on Higher Education Quality Assurance” held on July 28, 2020, an urgent demand made APQN decide to develop APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality



Assurance.

After the key elements of standard for online-teaching quality assurance were developed by Delphi Method at the beginning of 2021. Based on the Survey of “APQN Standard for Online Teaching Quality Assurance” conducted in April, here is the final version of “APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance”, endorsed by the 6th Board of APQN.

The principles include (1) information principle; (2) "teaching by learning" principle; (3) development principle; (4) validity principle; (5) objectivity/evidence principle.

Based on the 5 principles, APQN standard consist of 5 criteria, 14 indicators and 46 observation points: (1) service, openness, sustainability in criterion 1 embodies “information principle”; (2) teaching design, teaching process and teachers’ ICT literacy in criterion 2 and “learning process”, “learners’ ICT literacy” in Criterion 3, embody "teaching-by-learning principle”, (3) objective achievement and satisfaction in Criterion 4 embodies “development principle”;(4) assessment method, assessment mechanism and quality improvement in Criteria 5 embody “validity principle”; and (5) objectivity principle is applied to all 5 criteria.

In order to realize the for missions of “Enhancing the Quality of Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region” and the final goal of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region", APQN aims the following 3 aspects: (1) to develop quality criteria for online teaching for HEIs and non-traditional HE providers; (2) to develop a PDCI (plan-do-check-improvement) plan to maintain quality standards for online teaching in HEIs and non-traditional HE providers; (3) to develop a feasible and efficient action plan to implement high-quality online teaching.

(Released by APQN Board on May 31, 2021)

APQN-Ecctis MOU is Signed

On July 13, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Asia-Pacific Quality Network and National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom is signed by the President of APQN (at the time of signing Prof. Dry Jianxin Zhang) and the Chief Executive of Ecctis (at the time of signing Dr. Cloud Bai-Yun).

In a spirit of amicable cooperation, APQN and Ecctis/UK ENIC agree to enter into a MOU. Both parties are committed to working towards building a partnership that provides platforms and opportunities for cooperation in supporting the growth of quality transnational education in the Asia-Pacific Region, through enhanced quality assurance and facilitated recognition of TNE qualifications of demonstrated quality and standards.

To these ends, APQN and Ecctis, in accordance with the framework of British laws and regulations, the APQN Constitution, and the Chiba Principles, will pursue cooperation in the following areas:

1. Information Exchange

While respecting each other's copyright and other intellectual property rights, and having regard for the confidentiality of the information and relevant Data Protection legislation the two parties might share relevant information that might assist in a collaborative approach to the quality assurance of TNE in the Asia-Pacific region. This might include information sharing with APQN member quality assurance bodies. Information might include for example expressions of interests from providers to undergo UK NARIC TNE Quality Benchmark (TNE QB) in an APQN member country, or information about concerns regarding TNE providers operating in an APQN member country.

2. Cooperation in quality assurance

Whenever appropriate and possible the two parties will work to develop a cooperative approach in the external monitoring of TNE between Ecctis and APQN's member quality assurance bodies. This might include: 1) facilitating joint quality assurance activities as part of the TNE QB scheme and local quality assurance activities; 2) including local reviewers in TNE QB reviews; 3) including TNE QB reviewers in local quality assurance activity; 4) consulting with APQN on issues related to the implementation and review of TNE QB, and the recognition of TNE

qualifications reviewed through TNE QB.

3. Capacity Building

Utilizing both parties' resources and strengths, the two parties might also explore developing training opportunities for quality assurance practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region, and internationally, with a focus on TNE.

4. Dissemination

Each party will use its respective channels to disseminate the other's relevant activities, including the outcome of quality assurance, accreditation and/or quality benchmarking exercises.

5. Other collaboration

For mutual benefits, the two parties might from time to time explore collaboration in other areas, including conducting joint research on issues of mutual interests. This MOU is a voluntary statement of the intention of cooperation between the two parties, is not intended to create any legally binding obligations, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party.

This MOU will be in force for a period of three years from the signing date and can be extended depending on the mutual interests of both parties. This MOU may be varied at any time by mutual agreement of both parties in writing. It can also be discontinued by either of the parties with a minimum of 30 days' notice in writing to the other party.



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Asia-Pacific Quality Network

And

National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between
 Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN),
 of No. 202, South Shisanxi Road, Shanghai, 200031, P.R. CHINA
 and
 Ecctis / UK National Information Centre (UK ENIC
 of Suffolk House, Suffolk Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 2ED, United Kingdom

- including local reviewers in TNE QB reviews.
 - including TNE QB reviews in local quality assurance activity.
 - including with APQN an focus related to the implementation and review of TNE QB, and the recognition of TNE qualifications reviewed through TNE QB.
 3. Capacity Building: Utilizing both parties' resources and strengths, the two parties might also explore developing training opportunities for quality assurance practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region, and internationally, with a focus on TNE.
 4. Dissemination: Each party will use its respective channels to disseminate the other's relevant activities, including the outcome of quality assurance, accreditation and/or quality benchmarking exercises.
 5. Other collaboration: For mutual benefits, the two parties might from time to time explore collaboration in other areas, including conducting joint research on issues of mutual interests.
 This MOU is a voluntary statement of the intention of cooperation between the two parties, is not intended to create any legally binding obligations, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party.
 This MOU will be in force for a period of three years from the signing date and can be extended depending on the mutual interests of both parties. This MOU may be varied at any time by mutual agreement of both parties in writing. It can also be discontinued by either of the parties with a minimum of 30 days' notice in writing to the other party.
 Any collaborative projects that are entered into under the terms of this MOU shall be negotiated and agreed by both parties and will be discussed in detail in writing prior to that will be entered into the MOU or, if considered necessary, a formal legally binding contract.
 Each party will cover its own costs in implementing the terms of this MOU. For particular areas of cooperation, funding might be sought from other sources. Where specific projects are entered into that arise out of collaboration governed by this MOU, any financial arrangements between the two parties will be made and agreed on a case by case basis and formalized and documented separately from this MOU.
 The President of APQN and the Chair of UK ENIC, Dr. Jianxin Zhang and the Chief Executive of Ecctis (at the time of signing Dr. Clive Bai-Yun) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of this MOU. The responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Signed at Shanghai, China
 on July 13, 2021
 APQN-APQC QUALITY NETWORK
 Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang
 President

Signed at Cheltenham, UK
 on July 13, 2021
 Ecctis / UK ENIC
 Dr. Clive Bai-Yun
 Chief Executive

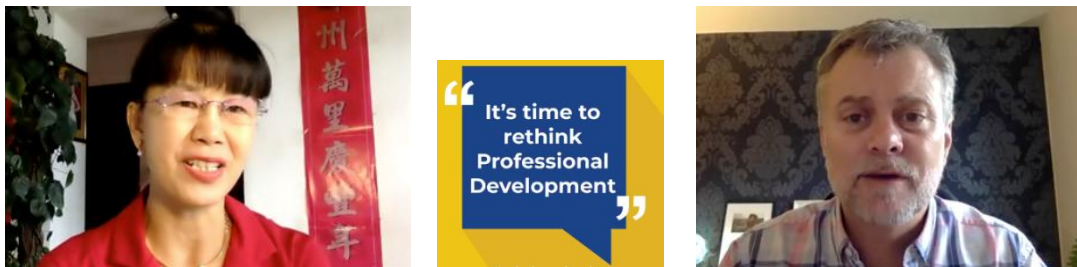
Signature

 Signature


(Written by Jianxin Zhang)

APQN-Qedex Webinar on Professional Development

On October 5, 2021, APQN and Qedex held a Webinar themed with “Supporting faculty and staff in professional and career development”. 58 participants from the Asia-Pacific Region attended the webinar. Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President made an opening speech. Mr. Stuart Blacklock, CEO of QASPIR, introduced Qedex, and walked through many of the features that are bringing together higher education institutions (HEIs) from all around the world.



The webinar revealed the need for further discussions and knowledge sharing on how to create, sustain and engage faculty in their professional development.

The inaugural webinar for APQN members to view the highly innovative professional development platform, Qedex, revealed several areas in which institutions must consider how they approach professional development and engage faculty in their pursuit of lifelong learning and in improving student learning.

APQN President commented, “Qedex meets the need to provide an innovative approach to engaging faculty and staff in professional development and meeting accreditation or government requirements”.

With positive responses from the participants, Qedex clearly meets institutional objectives for professional development at an extremely affordable price. However, the survey identified that a professional development strategy is not yet a part of an institutions strategy to improve student learning.

With 62 attendees it provided a small, but nonetheless meaningful snapshot of how Professional Development is perceived and how it is currently being developed across APQN members.

Professional development is mostly seen as an important aspect of academic quality and student success with over 60% of the institutions indicating that it is mission critical to its success and 24% currently looking to deploy a strategy. 11% indicated it has no importance.



As shown below, only 22% of institutions have a professional development strategy, while 58% do not have a strategy, however 17% are looking into establishing one. The observation of both questions indicates that although most institutions find PD mission critical, there is no real professional development strategy available to make meaningful improvements. This results professional development activity mostly likely to be used within the individual colleges or faculties of an HE institution. This will lead to disparate data and reporting of faculty effectiveness and ultimately being unable to identify strengths and opportunities to make more meaningful improvements.



The biggest challenge for an HEI is to find a sustainable and systematic approach for professional development. Almost 50% of institutions identified that a lack of resources within their budget is the biggest challenge and how to effectively implement a professional development strategy. 30% of institutions found motivating faculty to participated in professional development, whilst 18% had no way of measuring its effectiveness. Less that 5% felt that had it all under control.



“Why can’t we just tell faculty to do this?”

Human Resources at a university can mandate professional development for staff in the same manner as corporate HR mandates it. Having Human Resources at a university trying to mandate faculty professional development or even to have a role in it, though, is vehemently disliked by academics.

There are ways for instance, to ensure faculty book groups on topics around anti-racism were not mixed into the HR anti-racism training mix of events run by HR, knowing that faculty simply wouldn’t attend if they perceived that HR was in any way attempting to help them develop as teachers. No institution is unique in

having faculty that only abide HR-based development on topics like the mandatory annual training in safety, sexual harassment prevention, and cyber security -pretty much all topics everyone understands the government and other entities require organizations to provide.

By a “re-valuing” professional development in addition to a “re-thinking” is that the very best way to get more and better faculty development is for promotion and tenure guidelines and post-tenure review to be more than box-checking and journal impact factor ratings-related.

If an institution is intentional about continuously improving teaching and learning, a valuing in word and deed by leadership and then substantive evidence-based development and benchmarks that make clear the institution is serious about faculty teaching well and proving it is the greatest point of leverage in existing structures for faculty professional development.

A proven way forward to accomplish this that isn’t usually thought of negatively by faculty is the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. It is a process rooted in the research methodologies in which faculty are trained, and it results in improved teaching & learning.

A question might be “In re-thinking professional development, how might we raise its profile and enhance its perceived value among faculty?”

If professional development seeks to improve what faculty do - teaching, research, service - then it needs to be truly valued, rewarded, celebrated, and systematized.

Conclusion

This small yet very insightful survey has identified the need for a further and broader study of how professional development is perceived and how it is developing across the Asia Pacific Region. The need to remain competitive in a changing higher education landscape with the rapid adoption of online or distance learning, will require institutions to urgently invest in professional development for both faculty and staff to ensure its survival.

APQN and Qedex are committed to supporting faculty and staff development across the Asia Pacific region and will soon be launching a larger and more in-depth study to identify ways of assisting institutions to increase performance and student success.

(Written by Qedex, UK)

About Qedex

Qedex is a global community that supports institutions, faculty, and administrative staff in professional development. With an end-end professional development process Qedex can help institutions create and implement an effective strategy; provide global ideas from quality instructors to improve teaching and learning; and support institutions to develop adjuncts and administrative staff. Operated by QASPIR, a private organization headquartered in the United Kingdom with offices in India, UAE and USA, Qedex offers institutions a highly affordable platform where its faculty and staff can continue their lifelong learning.

Qedex is a global community and free to join: www.qedex.org

To enquire for institutional professional development and a special APQN discount, please contact: sbarnes@qaspir.com



Partnership Formed between APQN and QASPIR

On June 8, 2021, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is officially signed by Jianxin Zhang, the President of Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), and Stuart Blacklock, the CEO of Quality Assurance Strategic Planning and Institutional Research (QASPIR). The signing marks a successful and mutual-beneficial cooperation established between APQN and QASPIR.

In April, 2021, QASPIR expressed the cooperation intention and sent the proposal to APQN, which was the start of this partnership. In the next month, led by President Jianxin, the APQN Board started a heated discussion. During the discussion, APQN got a clearer understanding on QASPIR and the Qedex Platform offered by QASPIR. On May 25, 2021, an online meeting was held by the APQN Board, in which Stuart Blacklock was invited to present the Qedex Platform.

APQN-Qedex in partnership by QASPIR will create relevant courses to meet the needs of APQN Members and especially, the needs of the HEIs as its Institutional members. The new innovative platform is Qedex, designed to provide equitable, accessible and affordable professional development, which is a provider of campus-wide consulting for continuing professional development, strategic planning, assessment, accreditation, risk management, and institutional effectiveness. All of the courses come from requests through Qedex's [Needs Assessment Surveys](#).



ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK



QASPIR

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is made and entered into on this 28th day of May 2021.

By and Between

Quality Assurance Strategic Planning Institutional Research (QASPIR Consulting Ltd), a company located at 9 Cambridge Avenue, Wilmslow, Cheshire, UK, represented by its CEO, Mr Stuart Blacklock, hereinafter referred to as "QASPIR".

And

Asia Pacific Quality Network, having its office at No. 202, South ShaanXi Road, Shanghai, 200031, P.R. CHINA, represented by its President, Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang, hereinafter referred to as "APQN".

other's satisfaction. In case the dispute does not get resolved in an amicable manner, the parties can terminate the agreement by serving a notice of one month in advance.

In event of termination (and even after 1 month notice), those APQN Members that have already signed up prior to the termination (and which will continue to pay the annual fees), APQN would continue to receive the 15% revenue till end of MOU Term (3 Years).

JURISDICTION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

As referred in the clause under "Termination of MoU" any dispute or breach of the terms shall be referred to and resolved by both Parties. In case of any legal dispute, all unresolved matters shall be dealt with amicably.

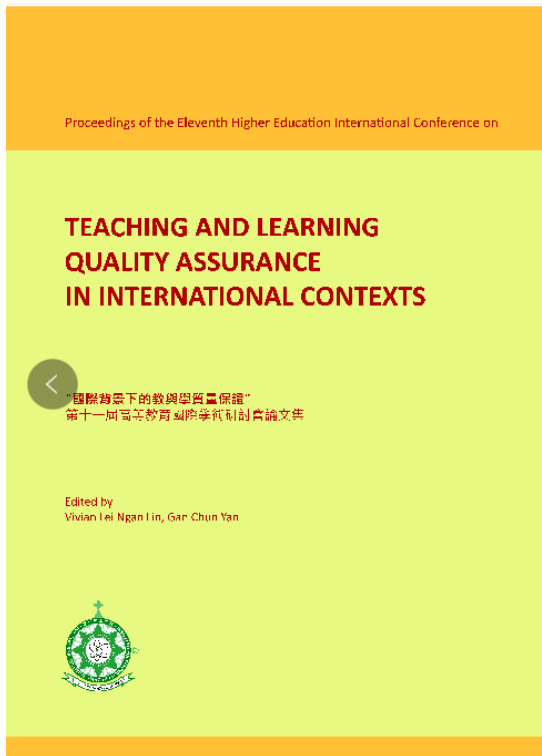
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this MoU and have set their hand and seal in this MoU as of the date and year set forth below.

<p>Quality Assurance Strategic Planning and Institutional Research (QASPIR)</p> <p>Sign: </p> <p>Name: Stuart Blacklock Designation: CEO Date: June 8, 2021</p>	<p>APQN</p> <p>Sign: </p> <p>Name: Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang Designation: President, APQN Date: June 8, 2021</p>
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(Written by Yingjie Xu)

MPI's Proceedings of 11th Higher Education International Conference

To discuss the rapid flow of global international students under the internationalization of education, explore the development of quality assurance of cross-border higher education, promote the improvement of the quality of higher education in Macao, and play the role of an exchange platform, the Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) has published the Proceedings of 11th Higher Education International Conference on Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in International Contexts.



The proceedings include 19 selected papers that have been presented in the 11th Higher Education International Conference on Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in International Contexts. The paper authors are from different countries /territories such as Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao. In addition, the transcriptions of three keynote speeches during the conference have been included in the proceedings, including “Monitoring of historic heritage – case study of King John’s Library (Biblioteca Joanina) of University of Coimbra” by Professor Alfredo Dias, Vice-Rector of University of Coimbra, Portugal, “A New QA approach: The implementation of self-accreditation policy in Taiwan higher education and its challenges to university internal quality assurance capacity building” by Professor Angela Hou, Board Member, International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQA/AHE), and “Warwick’s approach to embedding a culture of teaching excellence based on evidence” by Ms Maureen McLaughlin, Director of Education Policy and Quality, University of Warwick.

The “11th Higher Education International Conference on Teaching and Learning

Quality Assurance in International Contexts” co-organized by MPI and the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) was held at MPI from November 19 to 21, 2019. More than thirty experts and scholars from more than 12 countries /territories in the field of quality assurance in higher education gathered in Macao to present papers to discuss the current trends in higher education teaching and learning, international and regional comparative research on quality assurance systems, as well as to exchange and share the development trends of teaching and learning quality assurance around the world in the international context.



(Written by Vivian Lei Ngan Lin and Gan Chun Yan from Macao Polytechnic Institute)

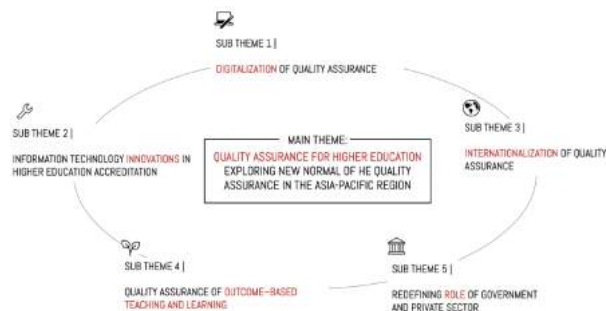
Welcome to 2022 AAC and AGM

APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) are annual highlight events to discuss and advance quality assurance in higher education in Asia-Pacific Region. The Board of APQN is delighted to announce that the next AAC and AGM will be hosted by EDUVALUE, in Singapore from 24th to 27th Nov 2022.

The target audience for the AAC and AGM are primarily those associated with quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region, including APQN Members and Observers, the Board, the Committees and various Project Groups. In addition, other higher education institutions (HEIs), quality assurance agencies (QAAs), and organizations working in the field of quality assurance in any part of the world are welcomed to attend AAC events which are open to all registered delegates while AGM are only for APQN members. For more information, please visit www.eduvalueglobal.com/apqn.

Conference main theme is *“Quality Assurance for Higher Education Exploring New Normal of the HE Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region”*.

5 Sub-themes are as follows: 1) Digitalization of Quality Assurance; 2) Information Technology Innovations in Higher Education Accreditation; 3) Internationalization of Quality Assurance; 4) Quality Assurance of Outcome-Based Teaching and Learning; and 5) Redefining Role of Government and Private Sector.



Delegates do block your dates and look out for our official announcements for registrations. Authors who are interested to submit academic papers you can start your research and preparation!

We look forward to seeing you all at APQN 2022 ACC in Singapore!

APQN Board and the Local Organizing Committee

REPORTS BY THE BOARD

President Annual Report by Jianxin Zhang

APQN President
Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang
(Elected)



CHINA

We have unusually and uniquely spent over 600 days of 2020 and 2021, they are once-in-a-century years. The COVID-19 Pandemic attacked all the global human being in a threatening and horrible manner. In this battle without gunpowder smoke, more than 7 billion people in the world, no one is an "outsider", let alone a "bystander".

All the members in APQN big family are the same, we have been impacted enormously by the COVID-19 pandemic. On February 22 last year, facing the unprecedented pandemic, APQN Board had to postpone 2020 AAC & AGM for the first time; on December 26, APQN Board had to release the second postponement. In June this year, APQN Board finally released the third decision to hold 2021 AAC & AGM online. Today is the realization of this third decision. In the history of APQN 18-year development, we have never canceled AAC & AGM, nor have we ever held online AAC & AGM.

However, for the past two years, though we "stay at home" because of the pandemic, APQN has been functioning normally as usual. For example, 9 researches/activities on impact of COVID-19 pandemic have been carried out. "APQN 2020 Annual Report" was released on December 30 last year, and "APQN 2021 Annual Report" will also be released on December 30, 2021.

Now, I have the honor to present "2021 President Annual Report" to APQN members in order to share with 250 members of APQN General Council, the fearless efforts and encouraging progress of APQN. I'd like to thank all for your continual support of our goal of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region" and our enhancement of "Quality Culture".

I. All in a Year's Work in 2021

Looking back in the year of 2021, though we are upset because of COVID-19 Pandemic, we are happy that we take active action.

One of the most important things is the 2021 APQN Academic Conference (AAC)

and Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held online. On November 25, over 100 participants from the whole globe attended AAC to discuss the theme of “COVID-19 Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region”.

One of the crucial things is the release of “APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance” on May 30, 2021. APQN Standard puts forward 5 principles, 5 criteria, 14 indicators and 46 observation points, providing quality criteria of online teaching for HEIs and non-traditional HE providers.

One of the most memorable things is the release of “APQNews (Issue 23)” and “APQNews (Issue 24)”. The two issues published a total of 45 articles, from which, the members know the co-operation network, QA activities, QA researches and conferences in the Asia-Pacific Region.

In 2021, APQN has been involved in many activities and completed many tasks. Table 1 shows the list of APQN activities carried out in year 2021.

Table 1: List of APQN Activities Carried out in Year 2021

Month	Activity	Status
Before January 30	1. Final Version of 2020 APQN Annual Report	Completed
	2. Attending CHEA/CIQG’s Exploring Virtual Quality Assurance: Standards, Policies and Practices for the Future on Thursday, January 28	Completed
	3. First draft of APQN General Standard for Online Teaching Quality Assurance	Completed
	4. The Board’s Approval of "Request for Quotation and Information for Programme Review for Four Portuguese Programmes of the University of Macau"	Completed
Before February 28	1. Release of “2020 APQN Annual Report”	Completed
	2. Approval of APQN Standard for Online Teaching Quality Assurance	Completed
	3. Proposal of “2021 APQN Proposed Budget on Finance” by the Finance Committee	Completed
	4. Approval of Programme Review for 3 History Programmes of the University of Macau	Completed
	5. Academic Review of MPI-APQN 12 th Higher Education International Conference	Completed
Before March 30	1. Distribution of the Survey on “APQN Standard for Online Teaching Quality Assurance”	Completed
	2. First brief draft of the Programme of 2021 AAC & AGM in Singapore	Completed
	3. Endorsement of the Survey of "business model" of Accreditation Agencies conducted by Stefan Handke, Professor from HTW Dresden University of Applied Sciences, Germany	Completed
	4. APQR Council agrees APQR Research Project led by Jianxin Zhang and Jagannath Patil	Completed
	5. The Secretariat together with the Review Committee have completed and approved applications of 3 new members.	Completed
	6. The Secretariat is making invoices for all categories of members, and is planning to send e-mails to charge membership fees in early April	Completed
Before April	1. First draft of “APQN Standard for Online Teaching Quality	Completed

30	Assurance”	
	2. Attending Webinar as a resource person on topic “Improving Quality of higher Education through International Accreditation” organized by ILMA University (APQN member) on April 13, 2021	Completed
	3. Distribution of Survey on the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR)	Completed
	4. Payment to Kramah Software India Pvt.Ltd. for APQN website	Completed
	5. APQN Board agreement of participation in a research on “Regional Research on Climate Displacement and the Right to Education” organized by UNESCO Bangkok, Section for inclusive quality education (IQE), led by the Agency for quality assurance in the field of education “EdNet”, Kyrgyzstan	Completed
	6. Seek Opinions on QeDex Platform to APQN Proposal	Completed
Before May 31	1. Release of “APQN Standard for Online Teaching Quality Assurance” on May 31, 2021	Completed
	2. APQN attended Webinar “Students’ Engagement in Quality Assurance in Higher Education” organized by ECAQA (Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality assurance in Higher Education and Healthcare) in Kazakhstan, on May 18, 2021	Completed
	3. 2021 APQN Board Meeting (Online) held on April 25, 2021	Completed
	4. Discussion on APQN-Qedex Cooperation held on May 25, 2021	Completed
	5. Announcement of Personnel Changes of APQN Board Directors (Co-opted Barry Aw Yong as APQN Board Director)	Completed
Before June 30	1. Announcement of 2021 AAC&AGM online + 2022 AAC&AGM offline	Completed
	2. APQN-QASPIR MoU signed on June 8, 2021	Completed
	3. the QMB Annual Advisory Board Meeting on 4th June 2021	Completed
	4. APQN as international expert to conduct a webinar on “Assessment & Criteria for Accreditation of Distance Education” organized by Agency for quality assurance in education “EdNet” on June 7-8, 2021	Completed
	5. Release of “APQNews (Issue 23 2021)”	Completed
	6. Agreement of NIAD-QE University Quality Assurance Forum: “Supporting Online Higher Education: The Role of Quality Assurance in Times of Pandemic and Beyond” to be held online on September 13, 2021	Completed
Before July 30	1. APQN attending Quality Assurance of Medicine Education Forum in Peking University on July 9-11, 2021	Completed
	2. Agreement of MPI’s 13 th Higher Education International Conference on "Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era" to be held on 22-24 November 2021 through online and on-site simultaneously.	Completed
	3. APQN-Ecctis MOU is Signed on July 13, 2021 to be committed to working towards building a partnership that provides platforms and opportunities for cooperation in supporting the growth of quality transnational education in the Asia-Pacific Region.	Completed
	4. The APQR Council discussing the APQR application of EdNet Agency (the Kyrgyz Republic)	Completed
Before August 30	1. Marketing & promotion (with global invitation to submit papers)	Completed
	2. Online registration is open	Completed
	3. 2021 Service Contract of APQN website	Completed
	4. The APQR application from: 1) “EdNet” Agency for quality assurance of the educational field, Kyrgyzstan; 2) Samoa Qualifications Authority	Completed
	5. First draft of Announcement of the Qedex online Seminar to be held in September	Completed

	6. Call for Board Members to submit papers for 2021 AAC and AGM	Completed
	7. EOI from Samoa Qualifications Authority, Samoa - Process of Inclusion on APQR	Completed
Before September 30	1. Extend the Deadline for 2021 AAC paper submission till Oct. 15	Completed
	2. Announcement of Qedex online Seminar	Completed
	3. NIAD-QE University Quality Assurance Forum: "Supporting Online Higher Education: The Role of Quality Assurance in Times of Pandemic and Beyond" to be held online on the 13th of September 2021	Completed
	4. Approval of NARIC-APQN joined TOR of "Indonesia branch campus feasibility study and overview of TNE across SEA"	Completed
	5. APQR acceptance of EIO of EdNet in Kyrgyzstan	Completed
Before October 30	1. The Qedex online Seminar to be held on Oct.5, 2021	Completed
	2. Deadline of AAC papers on Oct. 15	Completed
	3. The review panel review the papers from Oct.16-26	Completed
	4: Inform the authors the review results. Releasing guideline for presentation PPT on Oct.30, 2021	Completed
	5. Releasing the Programme of the Webinar of 2021 AAC and AGM on Oct. 31	Completed
Before November 30	1. Inform the authors the review results. Releasing guideline for presentation PPT	Completed
	2. Releasing the Programme of the Webinar of 2021 AAC and AGM	Completed
	3. Contact with presenters by WeChat and WhatsApp for rehearsal and PPTs	Completed
	4. APQN attending "Shanghai International Forum on Educational Inspection and Evaluation" on Nov.13, 2021	Completed
	5. MPI's 13th Higher Education International Conference on " Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era" organized by MPI and APQN on 22-23 November 2021 both Online and offline	Completed
	6. 2021 APQN Academic Conference(AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) organized by EDUVALUE and APQN on November 25, 2021	Completed
	7. 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 25, 2021	Completed
	8. 2021 Second Board Meeting (ABM) on November 23, 2021	Completed
	9. Service Agreement of Publishing "APQN Anthology (2019+2021)" signed by APQN and EDUVALUE on Nov.23, 2021	Completed
	10. Service Agreement of Publishing "APQN Research on the COVID-19 Impact in Higher Education" signed by APQN Secretariat and the project leader on Nov.23, 2021	Completed
Before December 30	1. Completing the Report of 2021 AAC and AGM	Completed
	2. Completing the Report of 2021 Annual General Meeting	Completed
	3. Completing the Report of 2021 APQN Second Board Meeting	Completed
	4. Completing the Summarization of 2021 APQN Academic Conference (4000 words)	Completed
	5. Completing "2021 APQN Annual Report"	Completed
	6. Completing the report of APQN 250 members from 45 countries/territories for "2021 APQN Annual Report"	Completed
	7. Release of "APQN New Year Greeting" on December 24, 2021	Completed
	8. Release of "APQNews (Issue 24, 2021)" on Dec. 30, 2021	
	9. APQN Attending "International Forum on Education Cooperation and Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region" organized by Yunnan Normal University, China on Dec. 18, 2021	Completed

Overall, APQN has completed many tasks in 2021. However, consideration

needs to be given to the long-term sustainability of the outcomes and impacts of APQN activities. This will require a proactive stance and continuity of the APQN heritage.

II. APQN's Goal and Tasks in 2022

In 2019, the sixth Board and the fourth Secretariat took the office, and we have successfully completed most of the activities. The new board made "APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022)". In 2021, based on "APQN Constitution (version 9.0)" and "APQN Strategic Plan (2019-2022)", APQN will focus on the following "1-2-3-4-5 Plan", i.e. 1 mission, 2 values, 3 visions, 4 principles and 5 tasks.

1. One Mission

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

2. Two Values

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

3. Three Visions

- 1) To promote quality culture;
- 2) To be a self-sustaining non-government and non-profit organization;
- 3) To be the first point of reference, efficient in its operations and share information among members.

4. Four Principles

- 1) Procedure-based;
- 2) Capacity building;
- 3) Self-reliance and information-sharing;
- 4) Sustainable development for final goal.

5. Five Tasks

1) To establish ongoing financial viability and stability, such as exploring additional funding sources externally which can include donation, commissioned work, and sponsorship of events or publications by governments, agencies/organizations, philanthropists and other relative stakeholders.

2) To populate and maintain the website database and make information accessible to all, such as canvassing its members to identify relevant requirements for quality assurance, e.g. APQN Quality Register (APQR), APQN Quality Label (APQL), and Consultant Database.

3) To well organize APQN Academic Conferences (AAC) and Annual General

Meeting (AGM) just as 2019 in Sri Lanka, at the same time to facilitate APQN Global Summit such as what NAAC, HEEACT and BAN-PT did in 2016, 2017 and 2018, to co-host Quality Assurance Forum just like that in Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI), to launch research projects just as self-funding project of “APQN Survey: the COVID-19 Impact in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)”, to co-train external assessors just like that of NAEAC in Pakistan.

4) To strengthen relations with other international, regional and national networks/organizations within and outside the Region, such as promoting the communication with more international, regional and national quality assurance and networks/organizations, such as INQAAHE, ENQA, ANQAHE, AQAN, CHEA, UK ENIC, QASPIR Qedex and others.

5) To broaden the base of services to its members to ensure visibility and sustainability of network activities, such as strengthening ongoing initiatives of APQR, AAC Anthology, Quality Label, Quality Award, Forum and so on.

By completing the activities mentioned above, APQN can achieve the following 10 purposes specified in “APQN Constitution”: 1) to promote good practices in developing an effective and comprehensive quality culture of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region; 2) to foster research activities in quality assurance practices for rebuilding the employability oriented higher education in Asia Pacific Region; 3) to provide advice and expertise in order to assist in the development of new quality assurance organizations in the region; 4) to facilitate cooperation among Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and recognize each other’s decisions and judgment; 5) to assist APQN members in determining the quality standards operating across national borders; 6) to ensure better-informed international recognition of qualifications throughout the region; 7) to assist in the development and application of credit transfer systems; 8) to enhance the mobility of students between institutions both within and across national borders; 9) to make the APQN members aware of and alert against the dubious accrediting practices and organizations; and 10) to promote the interest of the Asia-Pacific Region by effective representation vis-à-vis interacting with other networks and international organizations.

In 2022 APQN will focused on the following actions: (1) 2022 AAC & AGM to be held on 24-27 Nov., by APQN & EDUVALUE, Singapore; (2) Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR) to 2 new applications: Samoa Qualifications Authority, and EdNet Agency for quality assurance in education in Kyrgyz Republic; (3) APQN Quality Label (APQL) for HEIs for “Online-Teaching Quality Assurance”; (4) APQN 9th Online Forum on QA to be held in the middle of 2022; (5) Call for Nominations for Board Directors of APQN 7th Board to be completed in the middle of 2022.

The past 18 years has been a long road of challenges on which APQN achieves the vision of “to be a self-sustaining non-government and non-profit organization”. The future year is a new path of “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region”, a non-profit QA organization that restlessly enhancing HE quality in the Asia-Pacific Region.

III. Offering Thanks

As the consecutive term (2016-2021; 2019-2022) of two-term president, I have many persons to thank.

First of all, I must thank 250 members of APQN General Council who trusted me as the sixth President, all the members of APQN Board (Vice President: Galina Motova; APQN Secretary/Treasurer: Pingping Liu; Immediate Past President: Jagannath Patil; Board Directors: Deepthi C. Bandara, Farida Nurmanbetova, Barry Aw Yong and Grace Lu; Administrator: Le Fang and Yingjie Xu, who have entrusted me with administrative responsibility and supported me greatly).

Second, I must express appreciation to APQN former Presidents as well as the pioneers! Together with all the Board Directors, with the lead of the 1st President, Mr. Peter Cheung, the 2nd President, Ms. Concepcion Pijano, the 3rd President, Dr. Antony Stella, the 4th President, Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQN has made extraordinary development. With their 18-year efforts, they have left APQN spiritual legacy to us: 1) the spirit of dedication; 2) the spirit of sharing; 3) the spirit of serving; 4) the spirit of innovation; 5) the spirit of sustainable development. We have and will heritage the legacy and make APQN greater and more sustainable!

Third, I am also most grateful to all the quality assurance networks/organizations that have remained exceptionally helpful and friendly to APQN, such as UNESCO, CHEA/CIQG, INQAHHE and many others. That relationship has made APQN become one good example of mutually beneficial and friendly cooperated international QA networks.

IV. Conclusion

I have to say, in 2021, APQN has gone through the most difficult year because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We postponed AAC&AGM twice; we held online conferences without meeting each other... Luckily, we have survived all of those.

No doubt, in the upcoming New Year - 2022 APQN will still face new challenges because COVID-19 pandemic is still haunting us, but will also embrace new opportunities. The sixth Board will complete its service and the seventh Board will come to term with new energy and new enthusiasm. Strength and weakness co-exist; opportunity and threat go hand in hand. Based on the solid foundation of

APQN's 18-year development, together with all members, APQN will work harder for our mission. APQN is sure to realize the dream of sustainable development.

I firmly believe, through the joint-efforts of 250 members in APQN big harmonious family, with APQN spiritual legacy - Dedication, Sharing, Serving, Innovation and Sustainable Development - APQN is bound to achieve the ultimate goal of "*dissolving boundaries for a quality region*".

I firmly believe that all the members in APQN big family people love and care about each other; I firmly believe that all the members in APQN big family can unite as one and defeat the COVID-19 pandemic; I firmly believe that with APQN pioneering spirits, with the unremitting efforts of all APQN members, we can realize the final goal of "Dissolving boundaries for a Quality Region".

I end the report with gratitude for all those who made APQN vibrant and sustainable development possible, with high expectation for the successful administration in 2021, and with renewed appreciation for the passion and devotion so many of you have for this remarkable QA non-profit and non-government organization!

Looking forward to meeting and embracing you in person at AAC & AGM in Singapore on November 25, 2022!



APQN sixth President (2019-2022): Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang
Chief Expert of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center
Professor of Yunnan University, China
jianxin@ynu.edu.cn

Vice President Annual Report by Galina Motova

The prolonged lockdown forced all of us to reconsider many basic values: the value of life and health, the value of family well-being, the value of friendship and mutual assistance, the value of personal communication. On the other hand, forced isolation stimulated the process of digital transformation in many spheres of our life, the development of new technologies, the emergence of new scientific and technical achievements.

This year, almost all of our activities took place online. And though we really missed live communication, the work of the Board Directors did not stop and many current issues requiring discussion and solutions were resolved promptly. I participated in the discussion and approval of the project support under APQN. As the Head of the Review Committee I participated in the examination and decision-making on the admission of new APQN members. Currently, the Asia-Pacific Quality Network comprises 250 members from 45 countries/territories. The number of new members has increased compared to the previous year. This indicates that APQN is an attractive platform for communication of quality assurance professionals and confirms that APQN contributes to improving the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region through cooperation and exchange of best practices between QA agencies.

Despite the restrictions, some events in the Asia-Pacific region were held in a mixed format. I took part in the V Central Asian International Forum “Higher Education Quality Assurance: Global Trends and Regional Aspects”, which was held on October 1-2, 2021. It was dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The forum gathered more than 600 participants in offline and online formats. The International Forum was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Education and Science of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, heads of international European and Asian networks for higher education quality assurance, foreign accreditation bodies, and international organizations in the field of education (Belgium, Hungary, Germany, Netherlands, Greece, Russia, Bulgaria, Turkey, India, Latvia, Moldova), rectors of Kazakhstan’s and foreign universities, students and employers. The annual Forum is aimed at

APQN Vice President
Prof. Dr. Galina Motova
(Elected)



RUSSIA

discussing modern approaches to the development of the quality assurance system, accreditation and ranking research, and extending cooperation with international organizations and agencies.

Thanks to Dr. Jianxin Zhang, President of APQN the Official Letter of Congratulation was prepared and I addressed the participants with a welcome speech on behalf of the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and made a presentation on the topic of “International Approaches to Education Quality Evaluation”.

This year I with a great contribution by NCPA team studied new approaches and innovations in quality assessment, quality assurance and rankings. The construction of different assessment systems – in ranking and accreditation format – has currently become a relatively new trend in globalization and internationalization of higher education. The construction of global rankings of HEIs is just one example. The number of global rankings is increasing from year to year. According to the IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence, there are currently more than 100 academic rankings in the world: international, national, regional. Which one is better and which one can be trusted? Another example is the implementation of national and international accreditation in accordance with international standards.

Definitely, ranking and accreditation have different approaches, assessment methods and criteria; however, we have to admit that these are two ways to achieve the same goal - to improve the quality of education.

I presented the results of our research entitled “*Aggregated ranking as a tool for evaluation of the quality and positioning of Asia-Pacific universities at the global level*” at the Annual Academic Conference of the APQN on 25 November, which was held in the online format.

The main purpose of our research is to collect international practice of quality assessment and aggregate the results of various assessment procedures into one Global Aggregated Ranking (GAR) as a quality assessment tool.

One of the main discoveries of our research is that 23 Chinese universities are in the Top 1% of the best World Universities. If we take only the Asia-Pacific region, China, Japan, India, Russia and Turkey are among the top five countries with the best universities in this region. China is the absolute leader. But Singapore has the largest percentage for a country – 6 universities out of 9 are included in the GAR. And finally, Asia has the largest number of universities, from among those located on different continents and listed in the GAR. It is followed by Europe and North America.

The generalized results of several different assessment systems (rankings and

accreditation, which complement each other) can significantly increase the credibility of the quality assessment of each university. This study may be of interest to national education authorities and national governments responsible for strategic planning for the development of higher education. The formation of aggregated independent assessment of the quality of education can provide a comprehensive objective assessment tool for the general public.

I am grateful to all my colleagues from NCPA for the creative work in this complicated period.

The Annual Academic Conference and the Annual General Meeting of APQN were held online this year, but thanks to this we had more participants (more than 370 representatives of QAAs and universities registered for the event). The EDUVALUE team and the APQN Board of Directors have done a lot to prepare for this Conference. Before the Conference, 37 articles were collected for publication and presentation. I reviewed them all as a member of the review committee.

I thank all members of APQN for their positive, optimistic and active role in APQN events. I am thankful to the APQN Board of Directors for their support of my work, to our President Prof. Jianxin Zhang for her initiative and hard work to preserve and promote the activities of the network.

I really hope that next year the restrictions will be lifted and we will all be able to see each other in person and continue our work. I wish all APQN members, affiliates and partners favorable changes that will make our life successful and fruitful, give strength and energy to achieve all plans and projects.

APQN Vice President: Dr. Galina Motova
Deputy Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation, Russia

Secretary/Treasurer Report by Pingping Liu

The years of 2020 and 2021 were undoubtedly an unusual period: the most serious disruption in history to the lives of students, teachers and the entire educational community. With the strong support and warm help of APQN family, APQN Secretariat stays steady and steps forward. Thanks to the trust and support of Prof. Jianxin Zhang and all Board Directors, Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) was approved to host the APQN Secretariat for another new term. To effectively conduct the work of Secretariat, a team of 4 experienced staffs from SEEI has been formed - Ms. Pingping Liu as the Secretary/Treasurer, both Mr. Le Fang and Ms. Yingjie Xu as co-administrators and Ms. Cunyao Fan as the accountant, with the additional financial support from SEEI. All of them have devoted plenty of time and energy to the operation of the Secretariat. The main tasks accomplished by the Secretariat in 2020 and 2021 can be divided into four parts.

APQN Secretary/Treasurer
Ms. Liu Pingping



CHINA

1. APQN Members and the Board

The Secretariat is devoted to calling for new members, such as approaching potential members in the APQN database and non-member participants of APQN activities, answering queries in the process of application, providing timely feedback after pre-review of the application, and conducting follow-up work for the review of the Board. Currently, the number of APQN members of all types has reached 250 (Figure 1) from 45 countries/territories. As is shown in Table 1, APQN welcomed 4 new members in 2020 and 12 in 2021.

Year	Number	New Agency	Country /Territory	Membership
2020	1	"EdNet" Agency for Quality Assurance of Educational Field	Kyrgyzstan	Full
	2	National University of Medical Sciences	Pakistan	Institutional
	3	Shri Shivaji Arts & Commerce College Amravati	India	Institutional
	4	Mahatma Gandhi Mission's MGM University	India	Institutional
2021	1	Public Foundation Independent Accreditation Agency "BILIM-STANDART"	Kyrgyzstan	Full
	2	Yödak (Higher Education Council), N. Cyprus	Cyprus	Full
	3	Malalay Institute of Higher Education	Afghanistan	Institutional
	4	CamEd Business School	Cambodia	Institutional
	5	Shanghai Publishing and Printing College	China	Institutional
	6	The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education	India	Institutional
	7	Jinnah University for Women	Pakistan	Institutional
	8	Salim Habib University	Pakistan	Institutional
	9	Bangladesh Accreditation Council	Bangladesh	Intermediate
	10	National Theological Association (NTA)	India	Associate
	11	Quality Enhancement Cell Bolan University Of Medical And Health Sciences	Pakistan	Associate
	12	Hannah Cuthbertson	India	Individual

The Secretariat also actively provided necessary support for tasks assigned by the Board, such as forwarding conferences and instant notifications to members and assisting the review of new members' entry applications. Thanks for all dedicated support of APQN Board, an effective communication mode has been

well formed.

2. Events and Projects

APQN 2021 AAC and AGM originally scheduled to be held on 25th - 28th March 2021 in Singapore, were postponed and divided into two events. One was the online AAC (themed with “COVID-19: Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region”) and AGM on 25 November 2021, hosted by EduValue, Singapore. Authors of 9 papers, which were selected from 37 received ones, shared their experience and expertise, and one keynote speaker - Dr. Peter J. Wells, Chief of Higher Education, Programme Specialist from UNESCO, gave his speech at the conference. A total of 160 representatives from APQN members and other interested parties participated in the conference, and other members plan to join the face to face AAC and AGM that are tentatively to be held on 24-27 November 2022 by APQN and EduValue in Singapore. Any important decisions and updates have been informed to all members through Secretariat’s emails. The Secretariat makes every endeavor to support the Conference, such as paper collection, review, agenda-making and so on, playing an important role in connecting the Board, members, and any parties involved.

On June 8, 2021, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed by President Jianxin Zhang and Stuart Blacklock, which marked a successful and mutual-beneficial cooperation being established between APQN and QASPIR. And on July 13, 2021, the MoU between APQN and Ecc tis / UK was inked to promote information exchange, cooperation in quality assurance, capacity building, dissemination and other collaboration. APQN Secretariat actively involved in the preparation work and supported in many issues, including organizing the online meeting for cooperation discussion, summarizing the report, and contacting the webmaster for posting the news on time.

The Secretariat has also taken part in the cooperation project between APQN and the University of Macau, being responsible for the information exchange between the two sides. Besides, APQR Council Meeting was successfully held on 25th May, 2021. Majority of the Council members presented at the meeting.

3. Routine Work

Apart from what have been mentioned above, APQN Secretariat also focuses on the APQN routine work, including the followings:

1) Information updating. The Secretariat has updated information of existing members and adding new members, with detailed and thoughtful consultations provided, and uploaded records and materials of APQN 2019, 2018, 2017 Conference and AGM.

2) Website maintenance. The Secretariat has kept cooperation and communication with the website server to manage the website in 2021.

3) Project forwarding. The Secretariat has helped to forward the project information initiated by our members, such as the project and survey “Accreditation Agencies in Higher Education: Business Models, Competition and Survival” by our cooperation partner, Prof. Dr. Stefan Handke.

4) Question solving. The Secretariat has communicated effectively and solved the daily queries from members and interested parties, such as queries about logo usage, academic conference and APQN quality awards.

4. The Financial Statement

According to 2020 APQN Statement, the total income was USD 51,449.75 and the expense was USD 25,251.4. And the annual audit for the 2021 Finance Statement will be made in January 2022. Due to the COVID-19, some of our members are suffering from financial difficulties. We’ve received membership fees from 86 members in 2020, and 102 members in 2021 (by November 30, 2021). So far, the total amount of membership fee in 2021 is USD 47,011.5. The Secretariat is still working on receiving unpaid 2021 membership fees at present.

I’d like to express my sincere gratitude to President Jianxin Zhang, Vice President Galina Motova, and all the Board Directors - Dr. Jagannath Patil, Ms. Farida Nurmanbetova, Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara, Mr. Barry Aw Yong, as well as Alan Go, our Singapore colleague. And special thanks go to all APQN members and friends for their trust and support. Through our joint efforts, we can bring a promising future for APQN and enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region.

APQN Secretary/Treasurer: Ms. Liu Pingping
Deputy Director of Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute

Report from Board Directors

Jagannath Patil

It gives me great pleasure to submit a brief report on activities undertaken by me as an Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) Board Director co-opted as APQR Chairperson.

Immediate Past President

Dr. Jagannath Patil

(Coopted)



INDIA

➤ APQN Conference–2021 / APQN AGM-2021

APQN Conference and APQN Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2021 was conducted/organized online due to COVID-19 pandemic. On November 25, 160 participants from 30 countries/territories attended 3 sessions to discuss the theme of “COVID-19 Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region”. I acted as chair/ moderator of AGM and concluding session.

➤ The APQR Review of QAA's:

In 2021, APQR has received Expression of Interest (EOI) of 3 Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) to undergo the process of inclusion on APQR.

- 1) “Ed Net” Agency for quality assurance of educational field, Kyrgyzstan.
- 2) Samoa Qualification Authority (SQA), Samoa.
- 3) Chinese Academy of Science and Education Evaluation (CASEE), Hangzhou, China.

As of now following 8 QAAs are registered on APQR.

- 4) “Fiji Higher Education Commission” (FHEC) based in Suva, Fiji.
- 5) Certification Association “Russian Register” (RR) based in Saint Petersburg, Russia.
- 6) “National Centre for Public Accreditation” (NCPA) based in Russia.
- 7) “Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health” (IAAHEH) based in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 8) Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA), Mongolia.
- 9) Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), Republic of Kazakhstan.

10) Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQA), Republic of Kazakhstan.

11) Finance Accreditation Agency (FAA), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

➤ **Other highlights:**

12) Delivered special address in the V Central Asian International Forum “Higher Education Quality Assurance: Global Trends and Regional Aspects”, which was held on October 1-2, 2021. It was dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), the Republic of Kazakhstan.

13) APQR Council agreed for APQR Research Project led by Jianxin Zhang and Jagannath Patil.

14) Delivered Key note address at the 13th Higher Education International Conference jointly organized by MPI and APQN will be held online on 22-23 November 2021. The theme this year is “Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in Post-Pandemic Era”.

Apart from these issues it has been a great pleasure and privilege to be part of various APQN Board activities such as APQN Finance Committee, website and various other initiatives.

Overall it was a great experience of learning and sharing with APQN quality assurance family. We hope to continue the legacy of APQN as the torch bearer of higher education quality assurance networking in Asia-Pacific.

Dr. Jagannath Patil
Adviser, NAAC, Bengaluru, India
Former Specially Appointed Professor, NIAD-QE, Tokyo, Japan
Former President of Asia Pacific Quality Network [APQN]
Founder Chairperson, Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR)
jp.naacindia@gmail.com,

Deepthi Bandara

The year 2021 was still extraordinary, challenging and a difficult one for all of us on earth as the COVID 19 pandemic continued its relentless impact throughout the world. This was true for APQN without exception. The waves of the pandemic came and went but the catastrophic effects took its toll in all countries. As a Board Director in APQN, I had to continue to look out for alternatives, short term as well as long term to brace the new normal with respect to the Network. It extended all the way to the services I provided to the University, Government and Higher Educational Institutes to family and home. As 2021 draws to a close I feel a bit relieved because I have been vaccinated but I understand for sure that all of us still need to take all precautions against the deadly virus and its variants.

APQN Board Member
Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara
(Elected)



Sri Lanka

I feel that like in most other organizations the activities of APQN also had to be conducted at a subdued scale. I greatly appreciate the enormous commitment by President Zhang to keep the APQN alive during the extraordinary times of this year too and the cooperation and solidarity expressed by my fellow Board members in decision making and conducting activities for the Network during these trying times.

As the local coordinator of APQN AAC in 2019 in Sri Lanka I was really hoping that the APQN 2021 would be held in Singapore as planned in March 2021 when it was postponed from March 2020 and then with the postponement in November 2020. However, as we all know this could not be realized. Thus, I am hopeful that the APQN 2022 would be held in Singapore in November 2022 and that all who submitted and read papers in the 2019 AAC would have their papers published in the Anthology this year which would have the 2019 and 2020 paper submission. Still, I feel quite bad that we could not publish the 2019 sooner.

I supported the postponement of 2021 AAC and AGM to late 2021 due to the circumstances prevailing and supported again very recently for a postponement of the physical AAC to 2022 November in Singapore since a suitable time for a face-to-face conference is still not possible. I was in discussion with the Board Directors regarding amendments to the conference title for 2022 which will be announced

shortly.

I engaged in discussion and decision on the 2020 APQN statement of members and list of members with outstanding membership payment with empathy due to the difficulties members experienced due to reduced engagement in quality assurance activities because of the pandemic.

I greatly appreciate the commitment by President Zhang on developing the APQN standard for Online teaching Quality Assurance which is available now. I am glad I was able to contribute my input into the development of this document.

I continued to serve as a member of the Membership review committee for new applications.

I was also able to contribute to the APQN as a reviewer of the 37 papers that were submitted for the 2021 AAC webinar, make suggestions on the webinar program draft and take part in the webinar rehearsal and serve as a chairperson of the 2021 webinar.

I was able to participate in the 1st APQN Board meeting of APQN in May 2021 I am glad we were able to also hold the 2nd APQN Board meeting of APQN during the rehearsal period both of which were conducted online. I am truly thankful for the Zoom technology.

During the year 2021 APQN considered many proposals that were submitted and I was able to contribute to decision making with the ASEAN/INDONESIA Project - titled Indonesia branch campus feasibility study and overview of TNE across SEA, Memorandum of Understanding Between Asia-Pacific Quality Network And National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom, APQN-Qedex cooperation and Request for Quotation and Information for Programme Review for Four Portuguese Programmes of the University of Macau.

I hope the year 2022 would be a better year for all and that I am able to serve the APQN Board and its membership more constructively and productively.

Wishing you all good health and safety during these difficult times and a successful year in 2022.

APQN sixth Board Director: Prof. Deepthi Bandara
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Aw Yong Jun Barry

The Year 2021 was nothing short of an eventful year, which by itself is an understatement. I am personally very grateful and honored to APQN's current board of directors whom have nominated me as a Board Member and allow me and EduValue, to contribute greatly to the cause of APQN. This year also saw EduValue Singapore appointed as the host for the 2021 APQN Academic Conference (AAC 2021) that was held online via Zoom. The success of the event was brought about by the hard work of APQN's Board Members through many hours of planning and discussion, including vetting the many Academic Papers that were presented during AAC 2021 and EduValue's organizing team that worked hard to ensure that the event ran smoothly with all the Tech and different schedules of each speaker.

The experience of hosting the AAC 2021 was amazing and it was extremely heartening to see the passion and academic rigor that was put towards Quality Assurance for the Education Sector. I am also very excited to start preparations together with my team at EduValue for the APQN Academic Conference 2022 that hopefully will happen in person in Singapore. This event would definitely be an eye opener as we would aim to showcase the future of education through different technology and how they are going to be operationally implemented. Of course, we are also looking forward to the many speakers that would share their insights into Quality Assurance across the region and I am sure the sharing sessions would be very much useful for all of the participants.

Although I have joined APQN's Board for only a couple of months, I am very heartened to see the commitment of all of the Board Members, including the secretariat and me and my team at EduValue would definitely want to continue our contribution towards APQN's vision of dissolving boundaries for a Quality Region.

APQN Board Director: Aw Yong Jun Barry

Chief Executive of EduValue

barry@eduvale.com.sg

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/eduvaleglobal/>

www.eduvale.com.sg

www.eduvaleglobal.com

2021 REPORT ON FINANCE

2021 APQN Statement of Income and Outcome (In USD)

	Categories / Programs	Actual amount
Income		
S/N		
1	Annual Membership Fees, including Initial Joining Fees	49,138.30
2	Interest received	294.38
Total income in 2021		49,432.68
Expenses		
S/N		
1	Audit Fees APQN Account	1,731.40
2	Administrator's Salary & Administration of the Secretariat's Function	15,000.00
3	The Expenses for APQN Website in 2021	1,800.00
4	The Expenses for APQR Website in 2021	200.00
5	Honorarium for Reviewers of APQR	508.00
6	Bank Fees(including account maintenance, transfer fees and difference in exchange rate)	337.97
7	Postage Fees	67.77
Total Expenses in 2021		19,645.14
Balance for 2021		29,787.54
Balance carried forward from 2021 and the previous years		245,627.52

Notice:

1. The Administrator's Salary & Administration of the Secretariat's Function includes USD 2869.8 in the account of SEEI from those members in mainland China, as they could not be transferred directly into the USD account of the APQN.
2. The Expense for APQN Website per year is USD 3600. In March, 2021, USD 1800 was paid, and the other half amount will be paid once we received the invoice.
3. USD 508 of Honorarium for Reviewers of APQR is the fees for the Russian reviewer for IAAR. The transfer in the previous years was failed for some reason. In 2021, an alternative way of transfer had been found and succeeded.

2021 APQN Annual Report



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Chief Editor: Jianxin Zhang

Editorial Committee: Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jagannath Patil, Deepthi Bandara,
Farida Nurmanbetova, Barry Aw Yong