

Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance of Higher Education:

2015 APQN Conference and AGM Successfully Held in Kunming, China

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2015 Conference and AGM was held in Kunming, China in April 17-19, 2015 and hosted by Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Centre (YHEEC), Yunnan University (YUN) and Yunnan Association of Higher Education (YAHE). 192

representatives from 28 countries/territories within and outside the region had participated in the Conference.



The theme of 2015 APQN Conference was “Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance of Higher Education”. The 6 sub-themes were as follows:

- 1.quality assurance mechanism of cross-border higher education (CBHE), international accreditation and international cooperation;
- 2.internal quality assurance, including programme accreditation, project accreditation, course accreditation etc.;
- 3.professional accreditation, quality labels, and rankings;
- 4.quality assurance of Open Educational Resources (OERs), Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in post-traditional provisions;
- 5.teacher assessment and student learning outcomes assessment;
- 6.qualifications frameworks , quality assurance and quality information systems.



In the opening ceremony, Dr. Zhu Huashan, Deputy Director-General of Yunnan Provincial Department of Education in China, Dr.

Jagannath Patil, President of APQN and INQAAHE, and Prof. Lin Wenxun, President of Yunnan

University and Chair of the Local Organising Committee, respectively delivered the well-prepared welcome speeches.

Dr. Judith Eaton, President of Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), U.S.A made the keynote speech with the title “Changing Role of QA agencies: Regulation, Autonomy and Internationalization”, while Prof. Rujhan Mustafa, CEO of Malaysian Qualifications Agency(MQA),



Malaysia presented the other keynote speech on “Asian Perspective on Globalization and Diversification of HE Quality Assurance”. Both speeches gave the audience the ideas and experiences of “globalization and diversification” to stimulate discussions.



In the session for Special Plenary Addresses with Prof. Dong Yunchuan, Deputy Director of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center (YHEEC) in China as the Chair and Commentator, Prof. Dr.



Wu Yan, Director-General of Higher Education Evaluation Center (HEEC) of the Ministry of Education in China and Mr. Wang Lisheng, Director-General of China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC) in China respectively presented “How to Suit HE Diversity in Chinese Context: Five-in-One QA System” and “Internationalization of China Higher Education: Cross Border Education & Quality Assurance”, which gave the overall scene of the quality assurance of higher education in China.



The 3 panel discussions are respectively focused on the topics on: 1. quality assurance mechanism of cross-border higher education: collaboration, challenges and prospect; 2. quality label: professionalism, excellence and quality assurance of QA agencies; and 3.Improving Relevance and Quality of Undergraduate Education: Course assessment, Teacher Assessment and Learning outcomes.10



panelists, including Prof. Angela Yung-chi Hou, Prof. Zhang Jianxin, Prof. Keith Morrison have shared their research findings and academic ideas as well as their own experience or practice with the plenary participants

on the relevant topics.

In the 5 Parallel Sessions, 32 papers covering the 6 sub-themes had been orally



presented, which were selected by peer review from the 56 submitted papers. The topics for the 3 workshops were “Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education”, “Internal Quality Assurance” and “Quality Label”, which were



respectively facilitated by Dr. Fabrizio Trifiro, Prof. Muhammad Moinuddin Ali Khan and Dr. Zia Batool, Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang and Associate Prof. Liu Kangning. In addition, 12 posters had been demonstrated in the Conference venue.

In the evening of April 17, 2016 APQN Conference reached to a climax because of the APQN Award Ceremony, which was held in Zhigongtang the historic site of Chinese Imperial Examination. The ceremony is made of 6 dancing and singing programs and 6 rounds of trophies and certificate awarding. President Patil expressed his heart-felt congratulations to all the 8 winners and invited 12 distinguished guests on stage to award them the trophies and certificates.



The Conference was successfully completed in the afternoon of April 18, 2015. Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Centre (YHEEC), Yunnan University (YUN) and Yunnan Association of

Higher Education (YAHE), the joint hosts of the Conference and AGM were respectively awarded the trophies for successfully hosting the Conference, which conveyed the sincere gratitude of APQN and all the participants. Dr. Jagannath Patil said, “I have no words to thank you enough for love and affection showered by your team on APQN colleagues during this conference. This conference has set very good standards, and expectations will be high for the next host.”

