

# APQNews

Issue 24

December 30, 2021



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2. The Board
3. 2021 AAC & AGM
4. The Project
5. QA activities
6. Up-coming event

### Chief Editor:

Jianxin Zhang

### Editorial Committee:

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

## Issue 24

### APQN Mission Statement

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

### APQN Values:

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



# APQNews (Issue 24)

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network(APQN)  
Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

2021

APQNews (Issue 24)

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## Call for Contribution for the Next Issue

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

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

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE FOR APQNEWS (Issue 24)

Dear APQN members, dear friends and dear colleagues,

Welcome to the 24<sup>th</sup> issue of APQNews (2021)!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, just like 2020 and the first part of 2021, the second part of 2021 is still an unprecedented scenario in the world history of education. APQN suffered the same and had to cancel all face-to-face QA activities.

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.

The 24<sup>th</sup> issue of APQNews (2021) consists of 23 articles in 6 columns: 1) New Year Greeting; 2) the Board; 3) 2021 AAC & AGM; 4) the Project; 5) QA activities; and 6) Up-coming event, which provides detailed information on APQN activities, projects and sustainable development for the second part of 2021.

It is worth mentioning that APQN held 2021 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General meeting (AGM) online on November 25. The main theme was "*COVID-19-Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region*" with three sub-themes: 1) Quality of Internationalization under COVID-19 Pandemic; 2) Quality of Online Teaching and Learning under COVID-19 (Internal QA); and 3) New QA Approach and Innovations under COVID (External QA). Over 350 people registered for the event in total.

As always, we are happy to share valuable information on upcoming QA events: 2022 APQN Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting will be hosted by EDUVALUE, in Singapore from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022. The main theme is "*Quality Assurance for Higher Education Exploring New Normal of the HE Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region*". We are looking forward to seeing you all at APQN 2022 ACC in Singapore!

Last but not least, I cordially invite all of you to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews (Issue 25). Please kindly e-mail them to APQN Administrator at: [apqnsecretariat@163.com](mailto:apqnsecretariat@163.com). Please stay tuned for APQNews!

Best regards,



Chief Editor of the 24<sup>th</sup> Issue of APQNews: Jianxin Zhang

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## 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



**Galina Motova:** *I agree this congratulations turned out to be good, informative and sincere.*

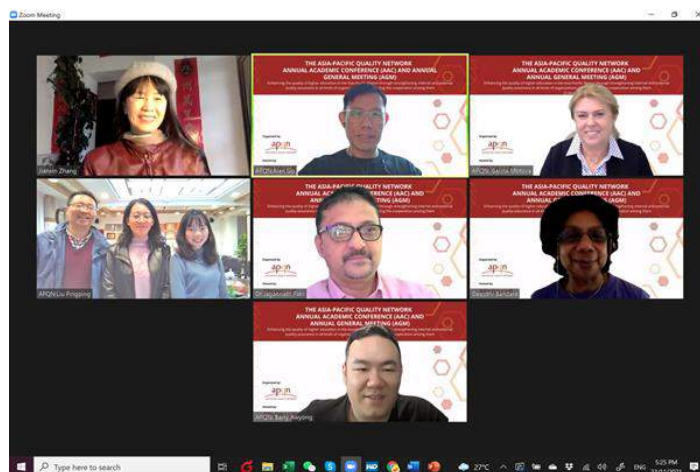
**Pingping Liu:** *Our members can get a clear idea on what APQN has done in 2021, what we will do, as well as our sincere wishes.*

**Farida Nurmanbetova:** *I appreciate this and approve this comprehensive message that included the APQN's great leadership, developments and contributions to support all categories of the APQN Members during the time of COVID-19.*

## THE BOARD

### APQN 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 subtheme 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 EDVALUE 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 9<sup>th</sup> Online Forum and the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Summit. The 9<sup>th</sup> 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.**

The first and second Board meetings in 2021 were held at Zoom online because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is very decisive and efficient and will promote APQN sustainable development.

(Written by Jianxin Zhang)



## Welcome to Nominate Candidates for the seventh Board Directors

Dear APQN Members,

On March 30, 2019, the sixth Board came to power on at Annual General Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The current APQN Board will end on March 30, 2022. Hence APQN calls for nominations for the seventh APQN Board. (Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the delay of 2021 AGM held in November, 2021, the election was also delayed 3 months.)

According to “APQN Constitutions”, the governing bodies and authorities of APQN are the General Council and the Board. The Board manages the general affairs of APQN. The Board is composed of an elected President, an elected Vice President, an appointed Secretary/ Treasurer, four other Board Directors, the immediate Past President, and no more than four appointed Board Directors by the new Board, making a total of 7-11 Board Directors.

Only Full and Intermediate Member organizations could submit your nominations of the candidates associated with Full and Intermediate Members of APQN. For a list of current member agencies, go to <http://www.apqn.org/members/directory> and select both Full and Intermediate from the drop down menu. One person may be nominated for more than one position. When votes are counted, positions will be filled in the order below.

No two of the elected, appointed or co-opted Board Directors should be from the same organization. In accordance with APQN’s values, a diversity of Board Directors that reflects the international mandate of APQN strengthens the organization.

The nominees should signify their willingness to serve if elected, must indicate their interest in the position and what ideas they would bring, and must be able to dedicate adequate time to the task. The Board’s work is mainly carried out electronically, and the Board Directors must be willing to contribute to these electronic discussions and decision-making. The amount of time varies, but Board Directors should expect to contribute one or two hours per week. In addition to the base work, APQN has many project groups and special responsibilities, and each Board Director is expected to be active in, and preferably lead, at least one of these.

Below is the tentative draft of the schedule for the election process:

| No. | Responsible person | Item   | Timeline          | Status                              |
|-----|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1   | The sixth Board    | The Board made Decision to election of the seventh Board Directors     | November 23, 2021 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2   | The sixth Board    | Prepare documents for the Board election                               | December, 2021    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3   | The sixth Board    | Identify the Independent Council and 3 vote counters                   | December, 2021    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4   | The sixth Board    | Approval of “Call for Nominations for APQN Board Directors(2022-2025)” | January, 2022     |                                     |

|    |   |  |                      |  |
|----|---|--|----------------------|--|
| 5  | The Secretariat                             | Send "Call for Nominations for APQN Board Directors(2022-2025)" to the Full and Intermediate members   | February 15, 2022    |  |
| 6  | The nominators                              | Deadline of "Call for nominations for Board Directors 2022-2025"   | April 15, 2022       |  |
| 7  | The Secretariat                             | Make the publicity campaign for the nominees and send the ballots to the Full and Intermediate members   | April. 25, 2022      |  |
| 8  | Relative Members                            | Send vote to all the three vote counters and voting by the Full and Intermediate members   | May 1 – May 30, 2022 |  |
| 9  | The Secretariat and two other vote counters | Count the votes and send the results to the Independent Council  | June 1, 2022         |  |
| 10 | The Secretariat                             | Contact with the successful candidates and wait for their responses  | June 10, 2022        |  |
| 11 | Independent Council                         | Make adjustment if some successful candidate refused, and announce verified results to the old and new Board Directors   | June 20, 2022        |  |
| 12 | The sixth and seventh Boards                | 2022 APQN first Board Meeting and the seventh Board comes to power.  | June 26, 2022        |  |
| 13 | The sixth and seventh Boards                | Releasing the vote result to all members and introduce the Board Director in APQNews (Issue 25).   | June 30, 2022        |  |
| 14 | The Immediate Past President                | Introduction of the New Board and award Board certificates to both the old and new Board Directors at 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in EDUVALUE, Singapore | November 25, 2022    |  |

For the sustainable development of APQN, you are warmly welcomed to nominate candidates for the seventh board directors!



## The Election Process

The Sixth Board of APQN  
December 26, 2021

## Congratulation Letter to IAAR from APQN Board

September 23, 2021

Dear IAAR colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to send you our heartfelt wishes on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) of Kazakhstan and celebrate with you the outstanding achievements IAAR has made in this historically short period of time.

Your Agency has been recognized nationally and internationally as a trustworthy and credible provider of quality assurance services and is valued as a reliable partner in the professional community of quality assurance experts.

We appreciate your successful efforts at raising quality standards in education by way of accreditation and ranking.

IAAR has always been a valuable member of APQN and we hope to continue close cooperation, looking for new opportunities of expanding our mutually beneficial partnership. We are confident that our joined efforts will serve the purpose of dissolving boundaries for a quality region.

Once again we congratulate you on this important milestone in the development of IAAR and wish your health, prosperity and new achievements in your endeavors.

Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang

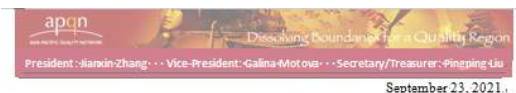


President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Prof/Dr. Galina Motova

Vice President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

website: [www.apqn.org](http://www.apqn.org)



### Congratulation Letter from APQN

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Prof/Dr. Jianxin Zhang

President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Prof/Dr. Galina Motova

Vice President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)



## 2021 AAC & AGM

### 2021 AAC and AGM is a Great Success

APQN and EduValue are proud to host of 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.



#### APQN Annual Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021

Webinar Event 4:00pm to 8:00 pm (GMT+8, Singapore time=China Time)  
November 25 (Thursday), 2021



### 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 need 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 APQN 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 APQN 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.



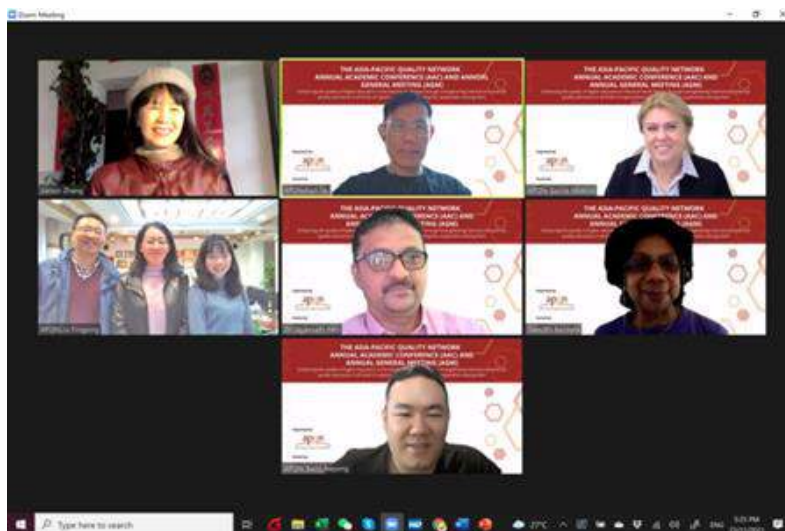
Video conferencing has become commonplace in both business and personal settings. EduValue has suggested Zoom, as Zoom has emerged as the industry leader in video conferencing. When the orders to work from home arrived in the face of Covid-19 pandemic, we all had to learn video conferencing on the fly. Zoom dominated because it is simpler to use than traditional video conferencing platforms. As Zoom is accessible to anyone with a browser and is more international in scope the decision was made to use Zoom platform for APQN 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-ordinators, speakers, and chairperson co-ordinators. 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 AQPQ 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. 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

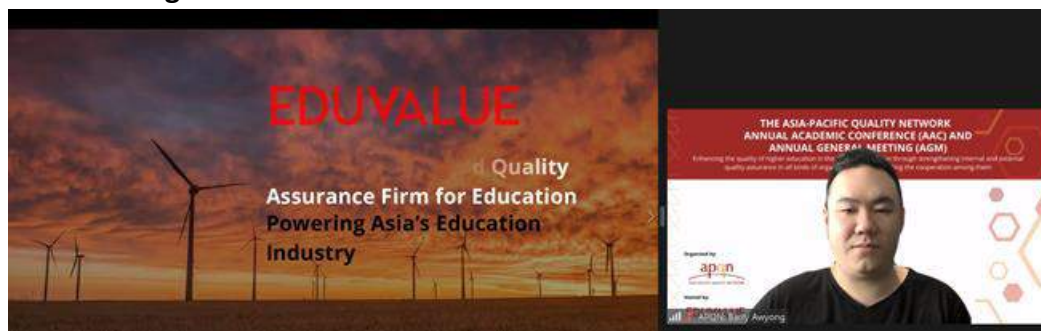


(Written by Alan Go, Lead consultant, EduValue, Singapore)



## Speech at 2021 APQN Academic Conference

We are really happy and excited for the over 370 participants that have signed up and joined with us today for this Conference. Thank you, Dr. Zhang; APQN President and APQN Board Members for allowing EduValue to host the Asia Pacific Quality Network’s 2021 Academic Conference that aims to bring together Higher Education Institutions, Quality Assurance Agencies and government regulators to discuss on topics related to advancing quality assurance for higher education in the Asia Pacific Region.



This conference will focus on the future of quality assurance for higher education in the era of technological advances, particularly the need to adopt better workflows by automating business processes as they can drastically improve operational efficiency, quality, process agility and performance visibility to enhance sustainability for the future.

Please also allow me to share what EduValue is all about [www.EduValueglobal.com](http://www.EduValueglobal.com)

EduValue , Part of the EV Education Group, is a full suite Quality Assurance Firm for Education Establishments, dealing with areas in Quality Assurance, Compliance, Tech, Consulting, Corporate Training, Mergers and Acquisitions, with the ultimate aim of enhancing the Education Sector in this region, bringing quality education to the masses. If you are interested in our research and updates with regards to advancements in Quality Assurance for the region, do follow us on our LinkedIn Page. We’ll also love for you to join our free EV Network where we aim to connect and enhance quality for the industry. The details can be found in the links below.

[www.evnetwork.com.sg](http://www.evnetwork.com.sg)

[www.linkedin.com/company/EduValueglobal/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/EduValueglobal/)

Staying at the forefront of the industry, we are very thankful to be a part of APQN’s vision in dissolving boundaries for a Quality Region. Due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, today’s Conference is 1 Part of a 2-edition event with the 2nd to be held physically in Singapore from 24 to 27 November 2022.

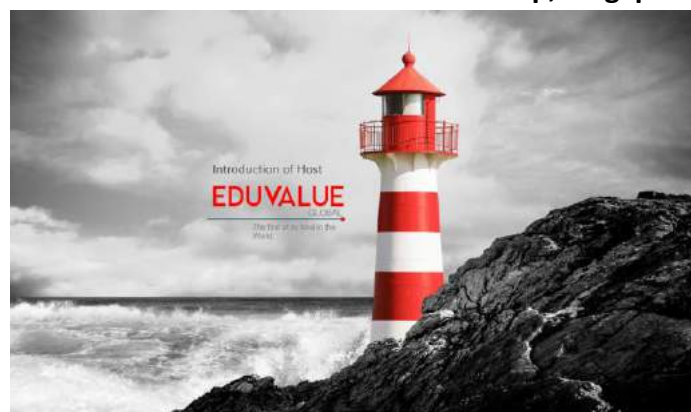
I will now share some of the themes that we expect to address during the conference next year in Singapore. Our main theme will comprise an exploration of the new normal for higher education quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific region. For the sub-themes, we will look firstly at the digitalization of quality assurance,

followed by information technology innovation in higher education accreditations, the internationalization of quality assurance across the region, to discuss on topics relating to quality assurance of outcome-based teaching and learning and lastly. We will also look at how the roles of governments, mainly accreditation agencies and the private sector can be redefined. Look at the theme figure below:



Once again, thank you to each and every one of you for being here with us today and I'll like to get Dr. Galina to introduce Dr. Zhang, someone that I really admire and look up to with her undying passion for Quality Assurance and her tireless efforts for APQN.

**Barry Aw Yong**  
**APQN Board Director**  
**CEO of EduValue**  
**Founder of the EV Education Group, Singapore**



## 2021 APQN Annual General Meeting was Held

The 2021 APQN Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held virtual by Zoom videoconference 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 247 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

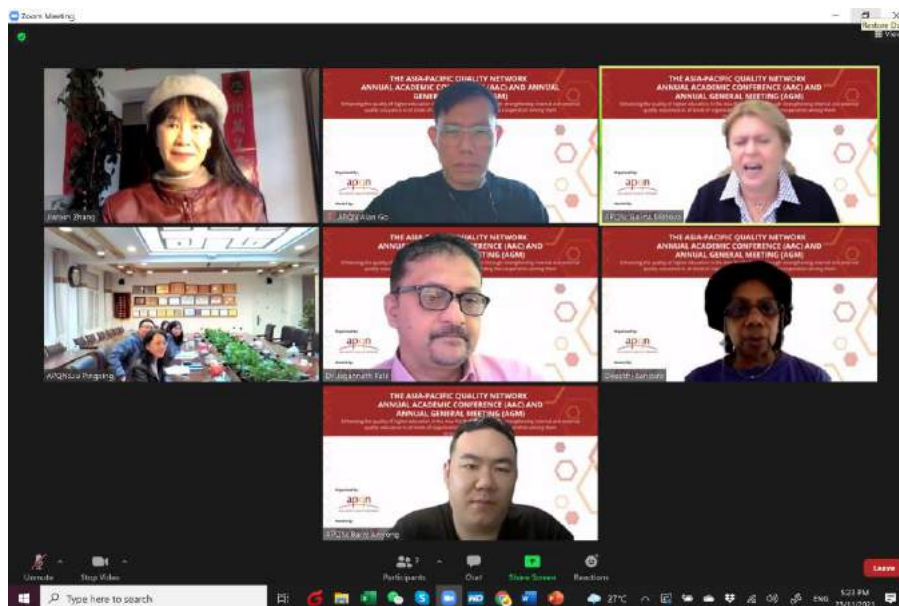
Book on APON Research on the COVID Impact in Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region. APQN's tasks/focuses in 2022 were also put forward, including: 1) 2022 AAC & AGM on 24-27 November in Singapore; 2) Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR), with inspirational target, quality hallmark, basis for cross-border 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 & 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 247 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 introduce. 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 247 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 success conference and of great importance for the further development of APQN.



( Written by Yingjie Xu from APQN Secretariat )

## Thoughts on 2021 APQN Academic Conference

On November 25th, 2021, we participated in the APQN Academic Conference (AAC), the theme of which was “COVID-19-Response Mechanism and Impact on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region”. During the conference, we had some new ideas about quality assurance (QA). Here are our thoughts about this conference.

**1. New technology and new methods in QA.** In the sessions, some speakers shared new technologies and methods that can be used to promote the quality of education. For example, Singapore researcher Mr. Alan Go explores how Blockchain applications should be considered as a noteworthy solution to significantly reduce circulations of fake certificates globally. During the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, Hong Kong Police College(HKPC) was committed to providing quality assurance training through an interactive Quality Assurance Mechanism (QAM) and Internal Learning Program Accreditation(ILPA). A Vietnamese educational scholar introduced the evaluation standard of distance higher education , and used a new method of online evaluation to ensure the HE quality. Our horizon was broadened by these new technologies. And these new technological methods were added to the knowledge system that I have built about higher education quality assurance in the past. With the increasing improvement of higher education in technology, we should combine technology with QA to create more new technological ways to promote the QA of higher education.

**2. Broaden the extension of QA.** This conference has made our understanding of higher education quality assurance more comprehensive. We used to think that higher education quality assurance only focuses on three main aspects: how schools run, how the students' grades are, and how the teachers teach. Through this meeting, we learned that the evaluation of higher education quality includes all aspects of the education process. In the complex system of education, QA should also pay attention to the innovation of evaluation techniques and methods, cross-border education QA and online education quality evaluation methods, all of which can be included in the scope of QA.

**3. Students can participate in QA as volunteers.** We generally think that students in school are the objects to be evaluated, but they are not. At this APQN conference, Yahan Yang, the first speaker of the session, was a volunteer for APQN, and she assisted APQN in many academic activities. Students participating in the evaluation as volunteers can achieve "win-win" results. For the third-party evaluation agencies, it is beneficial to inject new force into the organization and operation of the evaluation agencies. For student volunteers, this can broaden the channels for students to participate in academic conferences and can also help us to grasp the forefront of academic development and improve our academic ability.

(Written by Lihua Zhong, Wenjing He from Yunnan University, China)

## THE PROJECT

### Speech at MPI-APQN 13<sup>th</sup> Higher Education International Conference

Respected MPI President, dear colleagues and friends, dear teachers and students, ladies and gentlemen, good morning, afternoon, and evening!

Today, we are happy to gather at Zoom to hold the 13<sup>th</sup> *Higher Education International Conference* organized by MPI (Macao Polytechnic University) and co-cooperated by APQN (Asia-Pacific Quality Network)!



Since APQN and MPI joined hands in 2015, I myself have witnessed 7 international conferences held by MPI. Since then, this *International Conference* has never stopped, even during the sudden breakout of the COVID-19 Pandemic, during which MPI switched from face-to-face conference to screen-to-screen virtual conference. Nothing can stop MPI's steps to pursuit high quality in teaching and learning. Let's give MPI a big round of applause!

Today, we gather on cloud to discuss "*Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era*". I firmly believe it is a very good and very suitable topic, because COVID has crashed and disrupted our teaching and learning without mercy, and has tremendously changed our habitual teaching and learning at least in the following three aspects:

**No.1: Online teaching pattern.** First, students' home-based learning is different from teacher's face-to-face teaching in the classroom, and it is difficult for both teachers and students to keep the same step and same pace with each other. Second, online teaching is one-way teaching, and it is difficult to discuss between teachers and students, and it is also difficult to communicate among students themselves. Third, during online teaching, teachers and students are separated in different locations and untouchable from one another. There is no eye contact, no group discussion and no learning atmosphere. Teaching key elements such as team work, impromptu speaking, become "electronization".

**No.2: Online teaching relationship.** Compared with the traditional teaching, students' home-based online learning has changed from the teacher-centered learning to student individual self-learning. Teachers' leading role has been greatly weakened and students' active participation are greatly reduced. As a result, good quality and good results are difficult to achieve.

**No.3: Online teaching technology.** In the home-based learning environment, information and network technology has become "crucial" key word to support students' home-based learning. Teachers' instruction, guidance and intervention to students' learning must rely on IT platforms, networks and various teaching tools, which puts forward higher requirements for teachers' teaching ability of modern IT. For many teachers, especially the senior ones, they face huge difficulties and challenges.

Facing up to the subversive and disruptive changes of online teaching, we must pay close attention to the great challenges of innovation, online teaching and learning. No doubt, the theme of *"Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era,"* is an unavoidable and indispensable theme. It's one of the best themes at present, when we are still suffering from the COVID Pandemic. Only by realizing the importance of innovation, online teaching and online learning, can we provide with new measurements, new actions and new directions for good and excellent quality of higher education!

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope we can unite as one to fight against COVID Pandemic, I hope we can make full use of this international conference to exchange theoretical ideas and practical experience, I hope the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference a great success! And I also hope that we can meet face-to-face next year at MPI-APQN international conference! Thank you!



**Organisers 主辦**

澳門理工學院  
Instituto Politécnico de Macau  
Macao Polytechnic Institute

apqn  
ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

**22 - 23  
NOVEMBER 2021**

Online Conference  
線上研討會

**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**

Since the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic, different countries and regions in the world continue to adjust their teaching models in response to the circumstance of the pandemic, which may be quite different from traditional teaching models. In the post-pandemic era, while higher education is conducting discussions on innovative educational thinking and methods, the need to ensure the high-quality development of teaching and learning is a new issue facing education. This year's conference, focusing on the theme of "Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era", will be held online from November 22nd to 23rd, 2021. International scholars and experts are welcome to submit papers and discuss related topics on:

- Theory and practice of higher education innovation in the post-pandemic era
- Teaching and learning quality assurance of higher education in the post-pandemic era
- Strategy and practice of online education in higher education institutions;
- Quality assurance for online education
- Outcome-based teaching and learning
- Student professional ability assessment
- Application of information technology in teaching and learning improvement
- Teachers' professional development under the trend of online education
- Change and development in the international movement of students in the post-pandemic era
- Other relevant topics related to the conference theme

新形冠狀病毒肺炎疫情影響至今，世界不同國家和地區因應疫情發展持續調整其教學模式，與傳統的教學模式具相當差異。後疫情時期，高等教育在開展教育思維與方法創新探討的同時，確保教學的高質量發展是教育面對的新議題。為此，本屆研討會以“後疫情時代的教育創新與教學質量保證”為題，於2021年11月22至23日在線上舉行，歡迎國際學者及專家提交論文，共同探討相關議題：

- 後疫情時代高等教育創新的理論與實踐
- 後疫情時代高等教育的教學質量保證
- 高等院校線上教育的戰略與實踐
- 線上教育的質量保證
- 果效為本的教與學
- 學生專業能力評估
- 資訊科技在教與學提升上的應用
- 線上教育趨勢下的教師專業發展
- 後疫情時代學生國際流動的變化和發展
- 其他相關的高等教育質量保證題目



**The 13<sup>th</sup> 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**

APQN President: Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang on November 22, 2021



## MPI-APQN 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference was Held

The Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) and the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) jointly organised “The 13th Higher Education International Conference on Education Innovation and Teaching Quality Assurance in the Post-Pandemic Era” from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 222 member organizations from 41 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 recognising 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 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 which 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 received.

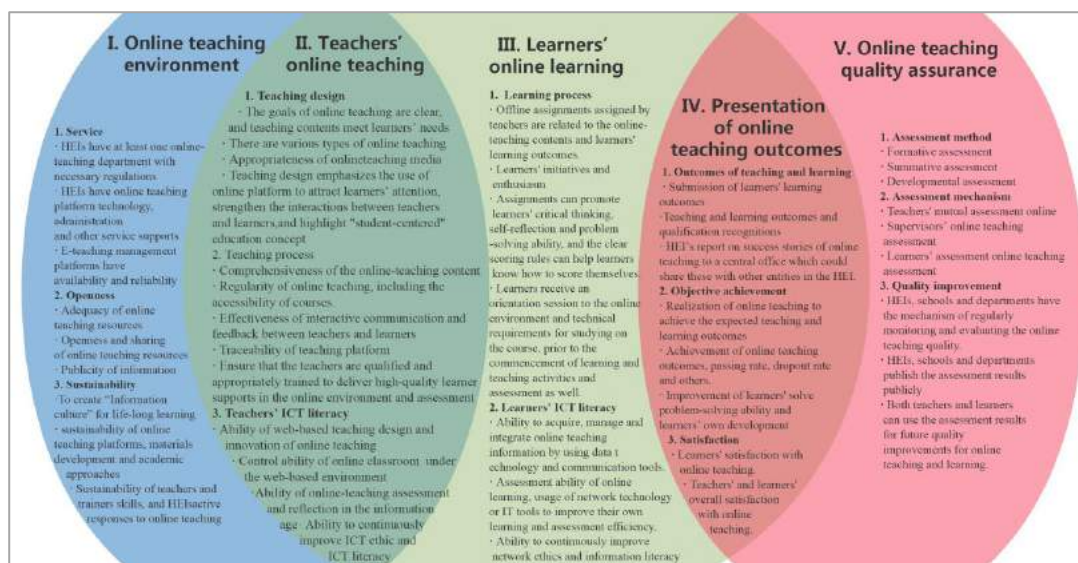
By analyzing the “satisfaction” part of the survey, APQN received the following information: (1) online-teaching support services, especially in teaching technology, still need to be improved; (2) teachers' teaching behaviors greatly need to be improved in the process of online teaching; (3) learners'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

## 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.

- including local reviewers in TNE QB reviews.
  - including TNE QB reviewers in local quality assurance activity.
  - 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. Utilising 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.

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Any collaborative projects that are entered into under the terms of this MOU shall be negotiated and agreed by both parties and will be described in detail in working plans that will be annexed to this 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 (at the time of signing Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang) and the Chief Executive of Ecctis (at the time of signing Dr. Cloud Bai-Yun) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of this MOU. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.



#### 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 ShaanXi 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

Signed in Kunming, China  
on July 13, 2021

ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang  
President

Signature:



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Signed in Cheltenham, UK  
on July 13, 2021

Ecctis / UK ENIC

Dr. Cloud Bai-Yun  
Chief Executive

Signature:



(Written by Jianxin Zhang)

## APQN – Qedex Webinar on Professional Development

On October 5, 2021, APQN – Qedex held a Webinar entitled “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.

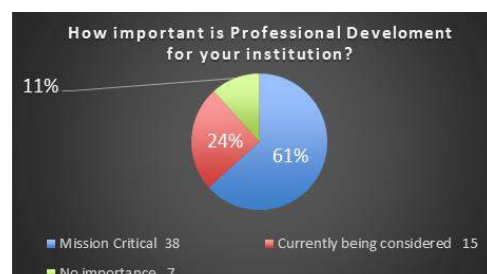
The inaugural webinar for APQN members to view the highly innovative professional development platform, Qedex, revealed several areas in which institutions must consider how they approach professional development and engage faculty in their pursuit of lifelong learning and in improve student learning.

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.

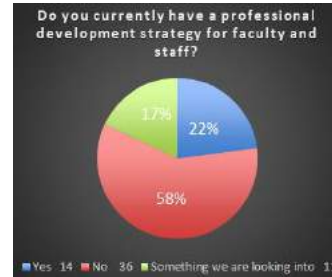
With 62 attendees it provided a small, but nonetheless meaningful snapshot of how Professional Development is perceived and how it is currently being developed across APQN members.

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. 15% indicated it has no importance.

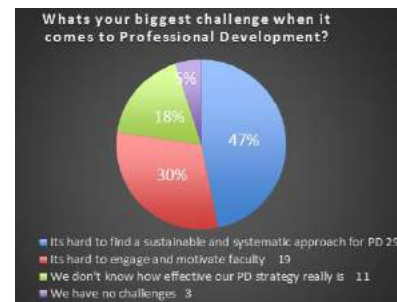




As shown below, only 22% of institutions have a professional development strategy, while 58% do not have a strategy, however 17% are looking into establishing one. The observation of both questions indicates that although most institutions find PD mission critical, there is no real professional development 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 17% 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 trainings 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](http://www.qedex.org)

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



## QA ACTIVITIES

### NIAD-QE held University Quality Assurance Forum 2021

The NIAD-QE University Quality Assurance Forum 2021 titled " Supporting Online Higher Education: The Role of Quality Assurance in Times of Pandemic and Beyond " was held online on September 13, 2021. A large number of higher education colleagues registered from across the world, and over 700 participants joined online on the event day.

The forum began with the opening address by FUKUDA Hideki. Ph.D., President of NIAD-QE, followed by keynote speeches by internationally recognized experts, Dr. Karen Treloar, Director of Engagement Group, TEQSA and Dr. Jamil Salmi, Global Tertiary Education Expert, Emeritus Professor of Higher Education Policy at Diego Portales University (Chile). The two provided perspectives on online higher education and on-going cases and emerging issues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Treloar introduced with TEQSA's background how Australia has been establishing the area of online learning for years which became a solid platform to accelerate online learning when the pandemic struck in early 2020. She then demonstrated TEQSA's quality enhancement role in regards to online learning, referring the good practice resources for higher education providers in Australia. She also added that the pandemic and the move to online learning have strengthened the relationship between universities and the quality assurance agency as in TEQSA. Dr. Treloar concluded that quality assurance of student experience of learning within a predominantly online environment is a global topic, and thus it is important for international quality assurance agencies to play a strong quality enhancement role particularly in the sharing of good practices and resources.

Dr. Salmi illustrated various cases and issues of students' learning environments affected by the pandemic, explaining that the need of support for students varies across places. According to Dr. Salmi, third-party evaluators' support for education institutions is demanded more than ever to ensure the quality of online learning during and even after the pandemic. He suggested lastly that keeping the university community safe should be the first priority, despite political, ideological, or economic matters, and that the university community should play a stronger role as scientific advisor for



society and government. He also pointed out that quality assurance agency should adjust to a new education model and provide a more flexible, innovative, and continuous evaluation approach for these new times

The latter part of the program featured interactive Q&A session where participants asked questions to the speakers. Thereafter, Prof. MORI Rie, Professor of Research Department at NIAD-QE, moderated a panel discussion joined by three Japanese panelists (JIHEE), Mr. ITO Toshihiro, Executive Director of Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation, Mr. KUDO Jun, Executive Director of Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA), and Prof. TUTIYA Syun, Dean of Research Department, NIAD-QE. They addressed emerging issues and concerns as well as Japan's good practices and future expectations from the viewpoint of quality assurance agencies for higher education.

Following the presentations, Prof. Mori continued to moderate discussion among the keynote speakers and the panel members, sharing the questions from the participants and answers from the speakers. The dialogue provided an in-depth exploration of issues surrounding online higher education both nationally and internationally and deepened the participants' understanding of the roles of higher education institutions in such time of uncertainty.



Keynote and Panel speakers in the panel discussion

The forum concluded successfully with closing remarks by Dr. HASEGAWA Toshikazu, Vice-President of NIAD-QE.

Presentation materials and recordings from University Quality Assurance Forum will be available at:

<https://www.niad.ac.jp/english/news/en2021/uqaf2021.html>

(Written by International Affairs Division, NIAD-QA, Japan)

## APQN Attending Medicine Education Forum of Peking University

From July 9 to 10, 2021, the Medicine Education Forum(2021) of Peking University and the Annual Symposium of National Center for Health Professions Education Development was held in Beijing, sponsored by Peking University Health Science Center, the National Medical Examination Center and National Center for Health Professions Education Development. The forum aimed to build a high-level, high-standard and high-quality communication platform for the practitioners with enthusiasms and commitment. The aim is to promote medicine education, to empower Chinese health workers, and to improve the health of Chinese citizens.

Although the number of applicants was limited due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, nearly 1000 experts and scholars, educational administrators, teachers and students from more than 180 higher education institutions (HEIs), enterprises and organizations attended the forum. More than 1000 people watched the live broadcast of the forum online.



Qide Han (academician of the Chinese Academy of Science, and honorary chairman of the Chinese Society for Science and Technology), Huiqing Lin (former Vice Minister of the Ministry of Education), Jianhua Lin (former president of Peking University), and leaders and experts from the Chinese Academy of Engineering, the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the International Health Exchange and Cooperation Center NHC PRC(IHECC), the National Health and Family Planning Commission Capacity Building and Continuing Education Center, as well as the leaders, teachers, students and administrators of the medicine HEIs in China attended the opening ceremony.

The quality of medicine education is one of the key factors to the development of medical education. How to guarantee teaching quality? How to better guide students' development? Sub-forum 2 "Quality Assurance of Medical Education and Students' Development" invited six experts, including Jianxin Zhang, from the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), HI Li from the Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education, Minggang Wen from Southern Medical

University, Ana Xie, Ying Yang and Liping Ma from Peking University, to discuss the status-quo and trend of higher education quality assurance in the Asia Pacific Region. The discussion covered a series of topics including the new round of evaluation reform, the new round of certification scheme for clinical medicine professionals, the quality assurance system of standardized residency training, the quality assurance system for the new whole-domain and closed-loop teaching method, and institutional research practices based on student development surveys on improving teaching quality in HEIs.

Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President, delivered a speech titled "the Current Situation and Development Trend of Higher Education Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region" from three parts: 1) the development process of APQN; 2) the current situation and problems of higher education quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region; 3) the development trend of higher education quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region. In the last part, after introducing 15 macro development trends, 6 key emerging technologies and practices, and 4 future development scenarios that would affect global higher education, President Zhang proposed eight major trends, including the establishment of "quality culture", "dissolving boundary for a quality region".



The forum has in-depth discussions, wide coverage, and a strong team of experts, which has built a platform for communication and interaction between administrators, teachers and students. New era, new mission! China's medicine education will build on past achievements and strive for new progress uphold the principle of innovation, speed up the construction of a high quality medicine education system, and make contribution to realizing the long-term goals of "education power" and "healthy China" by 2035.

(Written by Yang Yahan from CCG in China)

## APQN Participating in Shanghai International Forum

In order to speed up the education inspection and evaluation system with Chinese characteristics, to promote the high-quality development of higher education, Shanghai International Forum (both online and offline) on the theme of "Towards High-Quality Development: Classified Inspection and Evaluation of Higher Education", was held in East China Normal University on November 13, 2021.

The conference won wide attention, with a total of more than 20,000 participants (offline). It brought together diverse voices and insights of 85 experts and scholars domestically and abroad, leaders of education departments, front-line practitioners, and third-party quality assurance agencies (QAAs), such as OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) and APQN (the Asia-Pacific Quality Network) from more than ten countries/territories, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France, Japan, Australia, China, and others. Focusing on the evaluation reform of various types of higher education institutions (HEIs), evaluation and quality assurance, third-party evaluation, and other related issues from national and international perspectives, the participants made wonderful dialogues and shared in-depth thinking, which provided "China Plan" and "Shanghai Wisdom" for the reform of education inspection and evaluation system.

Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President as well as professor of Yunnan University, made a report entitled "The History, Status and Trend of Educational Quality Assurance in the Asia Pacific Region". She traced APQN's development history, APQN's quality assurance actions, 11 actions under the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the trend of quality assurance in this region. To develop a complete education quality assurance system, we need to improve the internal quality assurance, strengthen the external quality, highlight the information and internationalization quality, and build education quality culture through "three 'whole'": whole staff, the whole process and whole dimensions.

President Zhang's theme speech got good feedback from the audience. APQN has tried its best to be involved in all kinds of quality assurance in this region in order to realize its final goal of "dissolving boundaries for a quality region."



(Written by Yahan Yang)

## APQN Attending the first Lancang-Mekong International Forum

From December 17 to 19, 2021, the first Lancang-Mekong International Forum on Education Cooperation and Development was held in Yunnan Normal University, China. More than 30 experts and scholars from home and abroad were invited to attend the forum. The experts had in-depth discussions and exchanges on education cooperation and development in the Region, reached meaningful consensus and put forward many constructive suggestions.



Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, APQN President, was invited to attend the forum. Professor Zhang not only acted as the chair of the first part of the keynote speeches, but also as a keynote speaker who delivered a speech titled "Educational Support for the Construction of Lancang-Mekong Regional Community: Based on the Perspective of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network(APQN)".



As we know, Lancang Mekong River, stretching for thousands of miles (4880 kilometers), is an important international river in Asia. Lancang-Mekong region covers China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam. The six countries also belong to the membership region of APQN. This is the first time for APQN to be involved in the education activities of this region. It is expected that more cooperation will be established between APQN and Lancang-Mekong Regional Community.

Professor Zhang's speech was divided into three parts. In the first part, Professor Zhang pointed out that in order to promote the construction of Lancang-Mekong community, education support is essential, among which higher education support is the most important because higher education is an important source, major contributor and key driving force for the development in Lancang-Mekong region.

In the second part, Professor Zhang introduced APQN mission, value, purpose,



principles, development process and activities, which provides important reference for promoting the development and cooperation of education in Lancang-Mekong region.

In the third part, Professor Zhang proposed that sustainable development strategy should be established in the construction of Lancang-Mekong regional community. At the same time, she put forward several valuable suggestions, such as learning to establish an international perspective, learning to take the fast track of national development strategy, learning to cooperate closely with APQN, UNESCO and others.

At the end of the lecture, Professor Zhang pointed out that to provide educational support for the construction of Lancang-Mekong regional community, is our common mission and eternal pursuit as educators. As long as we have an unbreakable commitment to our goals and dreams, as long as we wake up every morning with passion to do our job, then everything is possible.

Professor Zhang's speech was evidence-based and she provided many effective suggestions to promote the education development in Lancang-Mekong region, which won widespread recognition and praise from experts and scholars on the spot.



(Written by Jijun Hua, PhD candidate from Yunnan Normal University, China)

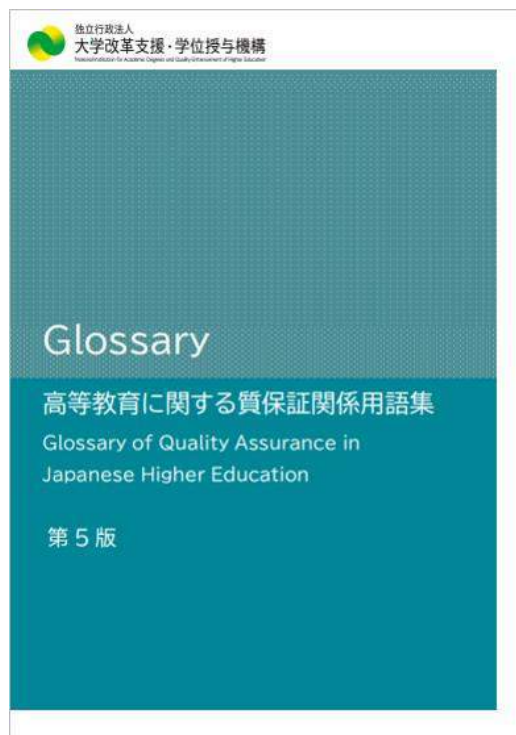
## NIAD-QE publishes Glossary of Quality Assurance

National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) has published the fifth edition of the “Glossary of Quality Assurance in Japanese Higher Education.” It focuses on terms relating to higher education and quality assurance system in Japan. It is a bilingual book written in English and Japanese.

The fifth edition reflects trends in the higher education and quality assurance systems, revisions to the relevant legislation, and relevant stakeholders’ opinions about the glossary since NIAD-QE published the previous edition in 2016. It contains 179 terms (of which 22 are newly added). In addition to terms relating to internal quality assurance—which became important in the 3rd cycle of institutional certified evaluation and accreditation (since 2018)—the establishment of the Japanese official National Information Center (NIC), National Information Center for Academic Recognition Japan (NIC-Japan), within NIAD-QE in September 2019 has prompted us to add terms relating to NIC as well.

The PDF version is available from the NIAD-QE website:

[https://www.niad.ac.jp/media/015/202107/NIAD-QEGlossary\\_5thedition.pdf](https://www.niad.ac.jp/media/015/202107/NIAD-QEGlossary_5thedition.pdf)



(Written by International Affairs Division, NIAD-QE)

## V Central Asian International Forum was Held

On October 1-2, 2021 the V Central Asian International Forum entitled “Higher Education Quality Assurance: Global Trends and Regional Aspects” was held. It was dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), the Republic of Kazakhstan.



The forum was held in the city of Nur-Sultan at the Astana IT University and gathered more than 600 participants offline and online. The International Forum was attended by Deputies of the Senate and Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, representatives of the Ministries of Education and Science of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, heads of international European networks for higher education quality assurance, foreign accreditation bodies, and international education organizations (Belgium, Hungary, Germany, Netherlands, Greece, Russia, Bulgaria, Turkey, India, Latvia, Moldova), rectors of Kazakhstan and foreign universities, students and employers.



The Plenary session was opened by the Minister of Education and Science of the

Republic of Kazakhstan, who noted that the sector of independent accreditation is organically functioning in Kazakhstan on the basis of international standards and ESG requirements.

The annual Forum is aimed at discussing modern approaches to the development of the quality assurance system, accreditation and ranking research, and extending cooperation with international organizations and agencies.

The Heads of International Networks addressed the participants with a welcome speech: Susanna Karakhanyan, President of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), Karl Dittrich, President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), Maria Kelo, Director of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), Prof. David Gordon, President of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), Jagannath Patil, Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR), Dr. Galina Motova, APQN Vice-President.

Panel sessions and a Round Table were held during the Forum. The following issues were discussed:

- International approaches to education quality assurance;
- Higher education: development strategies, learning technologies and future models;
- International accreditation as a mechanism to improve medical education quality;
- The role of students in the education quality management;
- Ranking as a factor of increasing competitiveness of universities.

Galina Motova, APQN Vice-President, NCPA Deputy Director, addressed the participants with a welcome speech on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and made a presentation “International Approaches to Education Quality Evaluation”.



(Written by NCPA, Russia)

## IAAR reconfirmed its membership at ENQA!

IAAR is pleased to announce that on December 7, 2021, the Board of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) has reconfirmed Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating's (IAAR) membership in ENQA for the next 5 years.

In 2016, IAAR was the first agency in the Republic of Kazakhstan that passed the review and received the status of ENQA full member.

In 2021, IAAR successfully passed the second ENQA review. It is of high importance that IAAR has confirmed the progress of its activities within each standard of ESG.



Reacquiring ENQA membership is one of the strategic objectives of IAAR. To obtain this status, IAAR passed a multi-stage assessment of its activities, which was carried out by leading foreign experts. Obtaining the status of a recognised European agency confirms the compliance of IAAR's activities with international standards and indicates the high trust of such a reputable organization as ENQA.

About IAAR – member of the APQN and APQR

IAAR is an international accreditation agency for the quality assurance of higher, technical and vocational and additional education founded in 2011.

The main goal of the Agency is to provide high quality educational services on the basis of international institutional and specialized (programme) accreditation of educational organizations and conduct rating studies.

The Agency is included in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) and is a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). IAAR is the first and only organization from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to be recognized by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME). This gives IAAR the right to conduct

international accreditation of medical organizations and educational programmes abroad.

IAAR is a full member of European, Asian and American networks and agencies for education quality assurance and accreditation: International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), International Quality Group of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation USA (CIQG, CHEA); Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence (IREG); Association of Quality Assurance Agencies of the Islamic World (IQA); Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA); Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN); Asia-Pacific Quality Register (APQR).

To date, IAAR conducts institutional and specialized (programme) accreditation of higher education institutions in 11 countries of Europe and Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova and Romania.

On top of that, the Agency has an expanded base of over 3500 highly qualified experts, including foreign specialists from 35 countries of the world. IAAR annually conducts training seminars to improve the qualifications of experts.

During 10 years of professional activity, IAAR has gained particular recognition in the global educational community and has become the leading accreditation agency of international scope. Given that, IAAR continuously widens its horizons and develops its cooperation with networks for higher education quality assurance, accreditation bodies as well as local and international educational organizations.

<https://iaar.agency/en>

The logo for ENQA (European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies) consists of the lowercase letters 'enqa' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, followed by a small orange circle.

АККРЕДИТТЕУ ЖӘНЕ РЕЙТИНГТІҢ  
ТӘУЕЛСІЗ АГЕНТТІГІ

НЕЗАВИСИМОЕ АГЕНТСТВО  
АККРЕДИТАЦИИ И РЕЙТИНГА

INDEPENDENT AGENCY FOR  
ACCREDITATION AND RATING

(Written by IAAR, Kazakhstan)

## UP-COMING EVENT

### Welcome to Shanghai Journal of Educational Evaluation

Shanghai Journal of Educational Evaluation (SJEE), a bi-monthly Journal undertaken by Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) in Shanghai, China, is the first academic periodical in China on educational evaluation as well as the first official journal accessible at home and abroad (CN31-2070/G4 and ISSN 2095-3380) conducted by the professional education evaluation institution. Its website is <http://www.shjee.org.cn/shjyppgyjen/ch/index.aspx>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Shanghai Journal of Educational Evaluation. At the top, there is a red header with the journal's logo and name, and the ISSN number 2095-3380. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Instructions, Guidelines for Authors, Academic norms, Back Issue, Tips for the subscription, About us, Information Disclosure, and 中文. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. The main content area is divided into several sections: Online Office (with links for Author Login, Reviewer Login, Editor-in-Chief, and Editor Login), Journal, Latest News, and Download Area. A 'Hot Papers' section features a featured article titled 'Analysis on Capacity Building of Educational Evaluation Institutions Based on Five Major Developmental Principles' with a 'View full text' button. At the bottom, there is a red footer with links for Current Issue, Recommend, Click Ranking, and Download Ranking, along with the date 2021.10.2 and the print date 2021.

With the purpose of promoting cultural prosperity, pursuing the truth, developing the science of evaluation, and serving the educational development, SJEE endeavors to publish articles about theoretical researches and practical approaches in terms of educational assessment. It has been awarded the most popular journal by “National Center for Philosophy and Social Sciences Documentation” in China for three consecutive years.

Senior experts in the field of educational quality assurance have been invited to serve as editorial board members and peer reviewers, including Prof. Jianxin ZHANG, APQN President, Prof. Galina MOTOVA, APQN Vice President, Dr. Jagannath PATIL, former APQN President, Angela Yung Chi Hou, former Vice-President of APQN and Dr. Fabrizio TRIFIRO, Head of Quality Benchmark Services, Eccdis, UK. Meanwhile, it actively cooperates with Scopus, the largest abstract and citation database, aiming at making SJEE more visible and influential in the world.

APQN board directors, the Secretariat and members have published a large amount of papers in SJEE. To be specific, 12 articles from APQN President Jianxin ZHANG have been included, with one of which is jointly published by APQR President Jagannath Patil and another entitled The Development of APQN Standard for Online-Teaching Quality Assurance is expected to be published next year. APQN wisdom on educational quality assurance has been shared through these papers. Under the leadership of Pingping LIU, APQN Secretariat team have published 12 papers in SJEE, discussing various topics about educational assessment. Many other APQN members, such as Hangzhou Dianzi University and Yunnan University have also actively contributed their papers in SJEE, introducing their expertise and experience on educational quality assurance with SJEE readers. SJEE sincerely hope to tight its cooperation with APQN and hear more voices from APQN members all around the world.

Full details about SJEE are available at <http://www.shjee.org.cn>, where you can read and download all of the articles of the previous issues. The SJEE team welcome your enthusiastic attention to delving into the Journal. Also, Your thought and experience for quality assurance is invaluable for the international development of the Journal, while it will improve your academic reputation within and beyond China. We are looking forward to vigorous support by submitting your academic papers ([shjee2012@126.com](mailto:shjee2012@126.com)), to provide SJEE readers with your unique insights into theories, experiences and development trends about educational evaluation.



(Written by Yingjie Xu from Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute, China)



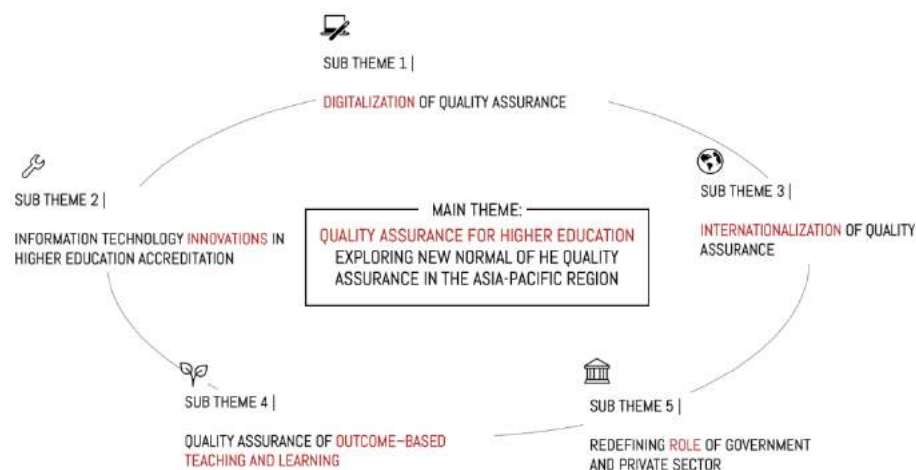
## Welcome to 2022 AAC and AGM

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 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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**



## Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

### APQNews (Issue 24, 2021)

#### *Call for Contribution for the Next Issue*

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

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

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