

# APQNews

## Issue 22

Dec. 30, 2020



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1. New Year Greeting
2. Key Speech
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4. The Project
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6. Up-Coming Event

### Chief Editor:

Jianxin Zhang

### Editorial Committee:

Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jagannath Patil,  
Deepthi Bandara, I-Jung Grace Lu, Farida Nurmanbetova

## Issue 22

### 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



## **EDITOR'S MESSAGE FOR APQNEWS (Issue 22)**

Dear APQN members, dear friends and dear colleagues,

Welcome to the 22<sup>nd</sup> issue of APQNews (2020)!

2020 is very unusual due to the COVID-19 pandemic around the globe. Though the last 6 months of 2020 has been still under the COVID-pandemic, APQN spared no effort to fight it with the following activities since June: (1) from June to July: the interview with 7 Board Directors on the COVID-19 impact on quality; (2) on July 28: the 8<sup>th</sup> online forum entitled "Influence of COVID-19 on higher education quality assurance: the new normal of higher education 4.0; (3) in July: "Survey on Effectiveness of On-line Teaching"; (4) during 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November : "the 12<sup>th</sup> Higher Education International Conference(online) on Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in HE under the Pandemic" held by MPI-APQN. Meanwhile, APQN also published "APQNews (Issue 21)" and now "APQNews (Issue 22)" is newly-published.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> issue of APQNews (2020) consists of 12 articles in 6 columns: 1) New Year Greeting; 2) key speech; 3) General Council; 4) the project; 5) QA news and 6) up-coming event, which provides detailed information on APQN activities, projects and sustainable development.

It is worth to mention that APQN did take active actions to fight COVID-19, such as the 8th Online Forum and MPI-APQN Online International Conference. Let's fight against the pandemic for a better tomorrow!

As always, we are happy to share valuable information on upcoming QA events: 2021 AAC and AGM will be co-hosted by APQN and EDUVAUE in Singapore on November 17-20, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact local organizer,



EDUVALUE (apqn@eduvalue.com.sg). We look forward to seeing you in Singapore.

Last but not the least, I cordially invite all of you to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews (Issue 23). Please kindly e-mail them to APQN Administrator at: [apqnsecretariat@163.com](mailto:apqnsecretariat@163.com). Please stay tuned for APQNews!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jianxin Zhang', is centered below the text 'Best regards,'.

Chief Editor of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Issue of APQNews: Jianxin Zhang

### 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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## NEW YEAR GREETING

December 24, 2020

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

On the occasion of New Year, we, APQN Board Directors, are extending our festival greetings and best wishes to 242 members from 42 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 the past year and to celebrate New Year. It is an unusual year in 2020 for all the persons in this planet as well as APQN, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Just as World Bank says "The pandemic has already had profound impacts on education by closing schools almost everywhere on the planet, in the largest simultaneous shock in our lifetimes." Due to the pandemic, APQN had to cancel 2020 AAC, 2020 AGM, 2020 Global Summit and other face-to-face activities.

Fortunately, under the leadership of the 6th Board, APQN carried on the following 6 activities: 1) from March to May: "Survey on the COVID-19 Impact in HEIs"; 2) from April to June: "Survey on the COVID-19 Impact in QAAs; 3) from June to July: interviews with 7 Board Directors on the COVID-19 impact on quality; 4) on July 28: the 8<sup>th</sup> online forum entitled "Influence of COVID-19 on HE Quality Assurance: the New Normal of Higher Education 4.0; 5) in July: "Survey on Effectiveness of On-line Teaching"; 6) during 25<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>6th</sup> November: "the 1<sup>2th</sup> Higher Education International Conference(online) on Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in HE under the Pandemic" held by MPI-APQN. In January the APQR Panel reviewed Finance Accreditation Agency (FAA) which has been accepted onto the Register. Meanwhile, APQN also published "APQNews (Issue 21)" and "APQNews (Issue 22)", and APQN Annual Report (2020) will be published very

soon.

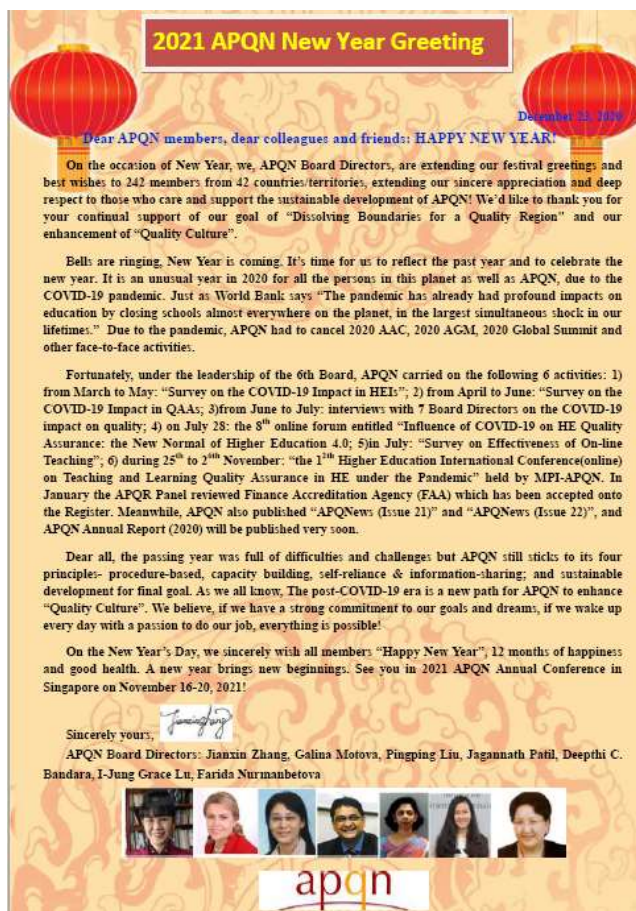
Dear all, the passing year was full of difficulties and challenges but APQN still sticks to its four principles- procedure-based, capacity building, self-reliance & information-sharing; and sustainable development for final goal. As we all know, the post-COVID-19 era is a new path for APQN to enhance “Quality Culture”. We believe, if we have a strong commitment to our 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 in 2021 APQN Annual Conference in Singapore on November 16-20, 2021!

Sincerely yours,



APQN Board Directors: Jianxin Zhang, Galina Motova, Pingping Liu, Jagannath Patil, Deepthi C. Bandara, I-Jung Grace Lu, Farida Nurmanbetova



**2021 APQN New Year Greeting**

December 31, 2020

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## KEY SPEECH

### Speech at MPI-APQN 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference

Respected MPI President, Professor Im Sio Kei (严肇基教授), dear colleagues and friends, dear teachers and students, ladies and gentlemen, good morning, afternoon and evening!

I am really happy to meet you online, at 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher Education under the Pandemic!



On behalf of all APQN Board Directors and 241 members from 42 countries/territories, I'd like to express my sincere greetings to all the participants, and express my really heartfelt thanks and really warm congratulations to MPI for hosting this conference online! Let's warmly congratulate! (Claps)

Dear all, at this open session, I'd like to share three key points with you.

**No. 1: The year 2020 is an unprecedented year due to the pandemic.**

It is universally known that 2020 is an unprecedented year for us! Without mercy, the little virus, COVID-19 pandemic is mercilessly attacking human being to all continents, countries and territories in this globe. The pandemic had a great impact on our teaching, our learning, our work, our life in all aspects. UNESCO reported in April, over 1.5 billion students were affected by campus closures in over 190 countries, representing 90% of the world's student population. It's an unprecedented situation in the history of education.

Just as World Bank said *"The pandemic has already had profound impacts on education by closing schools almost everywhere on the planet, in the largest*

*simultaneous shock to all education systems in our lifetimes.”* And till today, the voice of Thomas Friedman still echoes in our ears. He believes that the COVID-19 pandemic will become *“our new historical divide: B.C. & A.C. – the world before corona & the world after corona”*, just like *“before Christ (B.C.) & after Christ (A.C)”*. No matter you want to admit it or not, the year 2020 is a really unprecedented year.

**No.2: The pandemic has made at least 3 major changes to online teaching and learning and we should pay attention to these new problems.**

As some of you might know, due to the pandemic, APQN has to cancel 2020 Academic Conference, Annual General Meeting, Global Summit and other face-to-face activities. As for universities, almost overnight, the pandemic makes *“online teaching, online learning, MOOCs, sky courses, cloud classes”* and other kinds of online education came to us unexpectedly. It seems that *“future teaching”* in science fiction films come to us all of sudden. As a professor of Yunnan University, I myself gave two online courses from May to August this year. It was my first time in my 40-year teaching experience, and I made quite a few mistakes and once I even made a fool of myself online class, because I have never, ever taught online classes before. Consequently, from my perceptive, the pandemic has made at least 3 major changes to online teaching and learning.

First, **online teaching pattern has changed the traditional teaching model.** Students’ home-based learning is different from teachers' 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. Online teaching is one-way teaching, which is complicated to discuss between teachers and students, not mention to communicate among students themselves. 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 other group learning atmosphere, teaching elements become *“electronization”*. To keep up with the pace of new teaching model, we must pay attention to 3 key elements: How do



teachers teach? How do students learn? How do administrators support teachers and students?

Second, online teaching relationship between teachers and students has changed. Compared with the traditional teaching, students' home-based online learning has changed from the teacher-controlled learning to student individual learning, and teachers' leading role has been greatly weakened. To develop harmonious teaching relationship, we must pay attention to 3 key elements: how to establish a new relationship between teachers and students? How to establish a new relationship among students themselves? What are the effective supports and services can universities provide?

Third, online teaching technology with IT requirements has changed. In the home-based learning environment, network technology has become "crucial technology" 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 have to face huge difficulties and challenges. To keep up with the pace of new teaching technology, we must pay attention to 3 key elements: How to train qualified faculty and staff skilled at IT? How to increase financial investment to meet basic IT equipment? What types of interactive delivery of online teaching and learning are useful? I am sure there are many more questions waiting for us to answer.

No. 3, the last but not the least, we need spare no effort to be ready for quality assurance of teaching & learning under the pandemic.

Frankly speaking, the teachers and students who rushed to online teaching and learning overnight, are not really well prepared. Just as APQN survey results showed: 20% of the teachers and students consider online teaching is "inefficient", 53% consider "Just so-so".

Fortunately, we see all of the teachers, students, administrators and relevant

stakeholders keep on fighting the pandemic in their great efforts. Among them, MPI is remarkably shining. Supported by APQN, MPI still keeps the promise to pursuit good quality of teaching and learning. So that is why the 12<sup>th</sup> Online International Conference is held today, and I am glad to say it is the fifth cooperation between APQN and MPI. I'd like raise my hand in salute to MPI!

This online conference is unexpected due to the pandemic. This conference is unique because 25 papers will be presented in 1 keynote session and 6 parallel sessions by 25 authors from 13 countries/territories, such as UK, Russia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China and others; all are ready in such an efficient IT online method, and in such an economic way. This conference is beneficial for us to spare no effort to be ready for teaching and learning quality assurance in higher education under the pandemic.

Dear all, ladies and gentlemen, as I always say, this is the platform of "*Thinking Globally, Acting Locally*". Let's enjoy the amazing online conference time together, focus on the theme "Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher Education under the Pandemic", to share, exchange and communicate! Hope we can make full use of this international stage to exchange theoretical ideas and practical experience. Hope we can join hands and fight the pandemic for "*Excellent Quality in Teaching and Learning*". Hope the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference a great success! Thank you!

APQN President: Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang on November 25, 2020



## APQN's Speech at INQAAHE Regional Networks Meeting

On October 12, INQAAHE held Virtual Even-Regional Networks Meeting, which was hosted by Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career Development (AKKORK). There are over 70 participants including INQAAHE Board Directors and members and others. The theme was “SDG 4 Quality Education: To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.



It was opened by Peter Wells, Chief of Higher Education, and UNESCO. INQAAHE President gave open speech; Orla Lynch, INQAAHE Board Director, chaired the meeting. Presentations were made by Marta Fonolleda (Directora of Agència de Qualitat de l'Ensenyament Superior d'Andorra) and Jianxin Zhang (APQN President), followed by a plenary conversation with regional network leaders and an opportunity for all attendees to ask questions and provide inputs.



APQN President, Pro./Dr. Jianxin Zhang, was invited to present “Challenges & Actions of Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) for HE Quality Assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region at COVID-19 Pandemic”. On behalf of APQN, President Jianxin first introduced SDG 4: Ensure Inclusive & Equitable Quality Education, whose focuses on “good quality”.

Second, she reported APQN 5 SDGs Activities during COVID-19 Pandemic: (1) APQN survey on COVID-19 impact in HEIs (1570 respondents, March to May); (2) APQN survey on COVID-19 impact in QAAs (32 respondents; April-June); (3) 7

Interviews with APQN Board Directors on COVID-19 impact on HE quality (June-July); (4) APQN 8th online forum entitled “Influence of COVID-19 on higher education quality assurance” (July 28); (5) Survey on Effectiveness of On-line Teaching (4650 respondents; July); and other coming projects. Third, she pointed out New Challenges for SDGs at the COVID-19 Impact, such as Campus Lockdown, on-line teaching and other 5 aspects.

Forth, she described the HE QA Cycle for SDGs in Post-COVID Era with 6 steps, such as HEI & QAA’s SDGs’ Policy, SDGs’ Continual Improvement for Good Quality, etc.

Last but not the least, she proposed SDGs Trend for HE QA in Post-COVID Era: (1) Improve good quality of online, offline & blended teaching & education in HE; (2) Emphasize HE QA capacity-building ; (3) Commit to continuous improvement of online, offline, blended teaching, SLOs, etc.; (4) Continue to share national, regional & international QA experiences; (5) Strive for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) .

Then, a plenary conversation between Regional Network leaders about: (1) The activities of stakeholders to achieve SDG 4; (2) The activities of quality assurance agencies to achieve SDG 4; and (3) Ways of progressing SDG 4 through the complementary work of global organizations, regional networks and quality assurance agencies.

This virtual event brought together emerging and established Regional Networks from across the globe to dialogue, and learned about how regions are addressing topics the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 on equitable access to quality higher education. The diversified meeting ended successfully and satisfactorily



### SDG 4: Ensure Inclusive & Equitable Quality Education

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4**  
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Goal 4. Ensure Inclusive & Equitable Quality Education**

- Target 4.1 Primary & Secondary Education
- Target 4.2 Early Childhood
- Target 4.3 Technical, Vocational, Tertiary & Adult Education
- Target 4.4 Skills for Work
- Target 4.5 Equity
- Target 4.6 Literacy & Numeracy
- Target 4.7 Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship
- Target 4.A Education Facilities & Learning Environments
- Target 4.B Scholarships
- Target 4.C Teachers

Focus 1: Promote Human Development by Quality Education

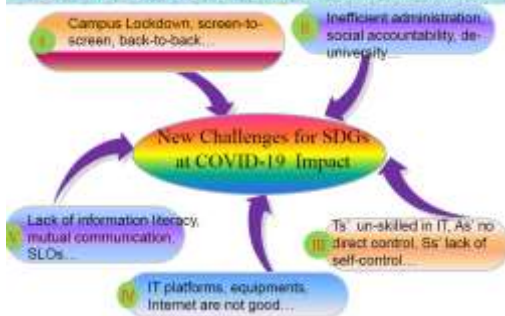
Focus 2: Promote Socio-economic Development by Quality Education

### APQN 5 SDGs Activities during COVID-19 Pandemic

1. APQN survey on COVID-19 impact in HEIs (1670 respondents, March to May)
2. APQN survey on COVID-19 impact in QAAs (32 respondents, April-June)
3. 7 Interviews with APQN Board Directors on COVID-19 impact on HE quality (June-July)
4. APQN 8<sup>th</sup> online forum entitled "Influence of COVID-19 on higher education quality assurance" (July 28)
5. Survey on Effectiveness of On-line Teaching (4650 respondents, July)...

Final Report  
APQN Survey on the Influence of COVID-19 on Higher Education Quality

### New Challenges for SDGs at the COVID-19 Impact



### HE QA Cycle for SDGs in Post-COVID Era



### SDGs Trend for HE QA in Post-COVID Era

1. Improve good quality of online, offline & blended teaching & education in HE
2. Emphasize HE QA capacity-building
3. Commit to continuous improvement of online, offline, blended teaching, SLOs, etc.
4. Strive for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4
5. Continue to share national, regional & international QA experiences

Thank you!

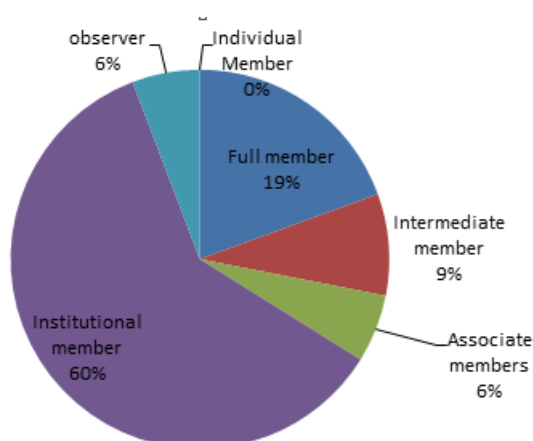


(Written by Xiaoyin Cao)

## GENERAL COUNCIL

### 242 APQN Members from 42 Countries/Territories

As of December 20, 2020, the number of APQN members of all types have successfully reached 242 from 42 countries/territories. Among them, APQN has 47 full members, covering 19% of the total, and 60% are institutional members.



S/N	Categories	Number
1	Full member	47
2	Intermediate member	21
3	Associate member	14
4	Institutional member	146
5	observer	14
6	Individual Member	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>242</b>

In 2020, APQN is delighted to have the following 4 organizations as new members: National University of Medical Sciences, Pakistan; Shri Shivaji Arts & Commerce College Amravati, India State Maharashtra; “EdNet” Agency for Quality Assurance of Educational Field, Kyrgyzstan; Mahatma Gandhi Mission's MGM University, India.

At the beginning of 2020, APQN General Council endorsed the new member category-individual member, but influenced by the COVID-19, no individual members joined APQN. APQN hopes those who are interested in quality assurance both in research and practice become one part of APQN in 2021.

Let's unite as one big family!

(Written by APQN Secretariat)

## The APQR Council Held the Meeting Online

The online meeting of the APQR Council was held at 4:00-5:30pm (Beijing time), Dec. 10, 2020 with the support of APQN Secretariat. Majority of the Council members presented the meeting, including Dr. Jagannath Patil (Chairperson), Prof. Angela Yung Chi Hou (Co-Chairperson), Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, Dr. Libing Wang and Prof. Jeanette Baird. Only Prof. Colin Peris was absent for some reason. Ms. Liu Pingping, APQN Secretary and Mr. Le Fang, the APQN Administrator presented the meeting as the Special Invitees.



Dr. Jagannath Patil made the brief report for the work of the APQR. During the year 2019-20, the following four QAAs have been registered on APQR: (1) Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA), Mongolia; (2) Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), Republic of Kazakhstan; (3) Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQA), Republic of Kazakhstan; and (4) Finance Accreditation Agency (FAA), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which has increased the list to 8 QAAs in total.

The Council discussed and decided the following issues: (1) Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) based in Suva, Fiji would be informed to prepare for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle review of APQR; (2) The framework and documents for the APQR should be reviewed and updated, including some criteria, procedures and templates soon; (3) The Council would like to explore to register APQR as the legal entity at a suitable location/country within the region; (4) Promote the APQR by press conferences, social media and the bilingual reports, and advance the cooperation with UNESCO, Bangkok, NARIC, UK and INQAHE for information exchange, joint project, seminar and workshop and so on.

At the meeting, Dr. Libing Wang, Chief of Section for Educational Innovations and Skills Development (EISD) and Senior Programme Specialist in Higher Education, based at UNESCO, Bangkok, shared his newly-published article entitled “Achieving Access to Quality Blended Learning for All”. He acknowledged that both APQN and APQR could contribute to high-quality teaching and learning both in traditional and blended teaching in education. The APQR council meeting was very productive.

(Written by Le Fang)





## THE PROJECT

### The 8<sup>th</sup> APQN Online Forum Held Successfully

On July 27, 2020 11am at (Shanghai Time), the 8th online forum was successfully held through an online meeting platform named Webex Meet. 32 representatives from 9 countries and regions around the world attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) Online Forum, discussing the topic of "Influence of COVID-19 on Quality Assurance: the new normal of Higher Education 4.0".

This forum was hosted by APQN, led by Dr. I-Jung Grace Lu (from HEEACT), and facilitated by All Board Directors of the APQN. The forum was focused on six themes: (1) Governments as a key player for higher education quality assurance under the impact of COVID-19; (2) The new normal of internationalization of quality assurance; (3) Quality assurance of outcome-based teaching and learning: the influence of COVID-19; (4) Digitization of quality assurance: will this be the new normal for quality assurance? (5) Innovations in HE accreditation in an era of disruptive technologies; (6) Reflections on new normal and strategies for quality assurance in emerging out of COVID-19 pandemic.

At the beginning of the online forum, a simple opening remark was from Prof. Jianxin Zhang, the 5th and 6th President of APQN. In the presentation, Prof. Jianxin Zhang elaborated on the damage COVID-19 has done to the quality assurance of higher education around the world and summarized the activities of APQN in fighting the pandemic.

After the opening remarks, six APQN board members, Prof. Jianxin Zhang, Prof. Galina Motova, Dr. Jagannath Patil, Dr. I-Jung Grace Lu, Ms. Farida Nurmanbetova,

and Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara, respectively gave presentations on the 6 sub-topics of the online forum. The six board members' presentations sparked heated discussion during the online forum. There were also two open discussions in which attendees expressed their views and insights.



The pandemic of COVID-19 Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) relentlessly spread all over the world. The COVID-19 pandemic around the globe has had profound impacts on education. In this special period, the online forum provided a timely and inclusive platform for the quality assurance communities to discuss these important topics. And every participant benefited a lot from this forum and showed their appreciation to APQN and all board members for this great forum.

To sum up, the success of the 8th online forum gave APQN great confidence: Although there are many difficulties to address the New Normal of Higher Education4.0, APQN would shoulder its responsibility and take this 8th online forum as an opportunity to further enhance the Quality of Higher Education in Asia-Pacific region!

(Written by I-Jung Grace Lu, Panpan Huang and Zhijie Xiang)

## MPI-APQN 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference Held Online

In order to explore the online quality assurance of higher education institutes all over the world under the pandemic, and enhance the quality of Macao higher education,



the Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) and the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) jointly organized “The 12th Higher Education International Conference on Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher Education under the Pandemic” during 25th to 26th November, 2020 via Zoom platform. Over 30 higher education experts and scholars from the United Kingdom, Turkey, Pakistan, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, etc. And cross-straits, Hong Kong and Macao regions gathered online to explore the mechanism of education coping with the global pandemic, delivering speeches about the opportunities and challenges of online education. The online conference attracted 300 experts and PhD candidates from all over the world to participate. They actively engaged in exchanging views and interacting freely during the conference.

Professor Im Sio Kei, President of MPI and Professor Jianxin Zhang, President of APQN delivered welcoming speeches during the opening ceremony. Professor Im Sio Kei remarked that MPI has been holding the higher education international conference ever since 2009, providing an exchange



platform for scholars from different regions. The honors and recognitions that MPI has received in the teaching field in recent years reflect the consistency of the

Institute's teaching quality with international standards. Those include: becoming the first higher education institution in Asia to have had a successful institutional review by UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education; being the first and the sole higher education institution in Macao to have received the state-level award "2018 National Teaching Excellence Award" awarded by the Ministry of Education of the PRC. Professor Im Sio Kei said the impact of COVID-19 pandemic was beneficial, too; the traditional face-to-face teaching was switched to online teaching quickly. New trends, new methods, new cases, and corresponding measurements of quality assurance would be explored through this special "cloud" event. The participants gathered to enhance the development of higher education teaching and learning quality assurance together.

Professor Jianxin Zhang, President of APQN congratulated the successful convening of the conference on behalf of 241 member organizations from 42 countries. Prof. Zhang claimed that the pandemic has brought 3 changes to online teaching and learning: change of online teaching pattern, online teaching relationship and online teaching technology. These changes have brought challenges to teachers and students, and the requirement for technology has been raised to a new level. It was meaningful to hold this conference to discuss this pressing topic. Prof. Zhang praised MPI for pursuing the excellence of teaching, jointly holding an international conference with APQN for six consecutive years, and promoting experience exchange, theoretical discussion and brainstorming among the participants.



This conference invited four famous scholars to deliver keynote sessions: Mr. Douglas Blackstock, Chief Executive Officer of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education from the UK talked about “The Role of Quality Assurance Agencies and Working in Partnership for Home, Transnational and International Conference Higher Education during the Pandemic”; Prof. Ronghuai Huang, Dean of Smart Learning Institute, Beijing Normal University, delivered “Building Online Teaching Skills in HEIs through the third Wave of Online Education”; Prof. Sonny Shiu-Hing Lo, Deputy Director, School of Professional and Continuing Education, the University of Hong Kong, talked about “Training Teachers on Online Teaching Skills and Pedagogy: Challenges and Implications”; Professor Jianxin Zhang, President of APQN, shared “APQN Survey: the COVID-19 Impact in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)”.

During the conference, over 20 experts and scholars presented their papers in six parallel sessions to explore the quality assurance of higher education under the pandemic. The followings are the list of the presenters of the 6 parallel sessions.

Parallel Session 1 (ENG) - 2020/11/26 - 16:00-17:40 (UTC+8, Macao Local Time)	Parallel Session 2 (ENG) - 2020/11/26 - 18:00-19:40 (UTC+8, Macao Local Time)
<p>1.1 Responses in the Pandemic: Institutional Quality Assurance Units at Bangalor                      Asha Wilson &amp; Gayatri                      Director, Institutional Quality Assurance Unit, University of Central Lancashire</p> <p>1.2 Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement in Online Learning in Higher Educational Institutions and the Challenges of COVID-19                      Jennifer Tse, Yanyan Baiyue, Yip Kit, Hoang                      Associate Professor, SHASS, Chinese University of Hong Kong, CUHK, Shatin, New Territories                      Yanyan Baiyue, SHASS, Chinese University of Hong Kong</p> <p>1.3 The Impact of Quality Assurance Measures on Quality of Online Education at LAMU: School of Economics                      Anwarul Karim, Yasmin, Yasmin, Yasmin                      Director, Quality Improvement Unit, School of Business, LAMU                      Assistant Director, Quality Improvement Unit, School of Business, LAMU</p> <p>1.4 Quality Assurance for Online Education: A Case Study of Interest About Women University, Pakistan                      Saadia Faris, Nadeem Raza                      Associate Professor, Gender Studies, Women University, Faisalabad                      Associate Professor, Gender Studies, Women University, Faisalabad</p> <p>1.5 The Future of Technological Education (TNE) in remote modes of delivery, quality assurance and recognition                      Yehuda Yehonatan</p>	<p>2.1 Teaching and Learning during COVID-19: Theorizing Pedagogical Theory and the Impact of Social Engagement                      Willem Groot                      Institute of Education, Singapore</p> <p>2.2 Tracking the (Dis)Advantages on the (W)ellbeingness of Online Education during Pandemic                      Anshu Kishor                      Institute of Education, Singapore</p> <p>2.3 Student Satisfaction with online education in post-COVID-19 ERA: A study of a private sector university of Pakistan                      Farooq Anwar                      Director, Quality Improvement Cell, IED Institute of Technology, Computer and Emerging Systems</p> <p>2.4 Teachers' experiences of online education during the COVID-19 pandemic: period in a teacher education institution                      Deborah Kinnear, Gillian J. Bannerman, Malin Uppstrom, Gudrun Lind                      Researcher, Research Institute of Education                      Senior Lecturer, Health, Behavior and Society                      Associate Professor, Department of Education                      Senior Lecturer, Health, Behavior and Society</p> <p>2.5 Empowering Student Engagement and the Design of an Online Course and Using Activity Tracking Tools                      Yehuda Yehonatan</p>

Parallel Session 3 (ENG/CHI) - 2020/11/26 - 16:00-17:40 (UTC+8, Macao Local Time)	Parallel Session 4 (ENG) - 2020/11/26 - 18:00-19:40 (UTC+8, Macao Local Time)
<p>3.1 疫情“在线教育”的困境与突围方向                      Wangyan Zou, 王彦彦                      Lecturer, The Education Research Center of Tsinghua University, Beijing, China</p> <p>3.2 高校品質保障機構「教育評鑑的困境」                      Chiu-chi Chen, 邱啟志                      Associate Professor, EDUACT (Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan) 台灣高等教育評鑑中心 副主任</p> <p>3.3 Challenges and Opportunities in Performing Arts Education during COVID-19                      Weichien Li, 李宜蓁                      Associate Deputy Director, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, 香港演藝學院副院長</p> <p>3.4 疫情下高等教育如何保質——以澳門理工學院為例                      Yvonne Lok Ngai Lam, 李麗霞                      VQA President, Macao Polytechnic Institute, 澳門理工學院副院長</p>	<p>4.1 Assessing Students' Learning Outcomes in Non-Test Testing                      Nicola D'Amico, Silvia Baccaro, Simona Togli, Rossella Turchi, Anna Maffioletti, Andrea Rossi, Sergio Rossi, Riccardo Sgorio                      Faculty of Science, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy                      Faculty of Science, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy                      Faculty of Science, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy                      Faculty of Science, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy                      Faculty of Science, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy                      Faculty of Science, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy                      Faculty of Science, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy</p> <p>4.2 How Does UK Providers Quality Assured Their Blended Learning Weekly during the COVID-19 Pandemic?                      Anshu Kishor                      Quality Improvement, Quality Improvement, Institute of Education</p> <p>4.3 Perceived Quality of Online Teaching: Lessons From COVID-19 Healthcare                      Michael Sweeney                      Department of Health, Behavior and Society</p>

Parallel Session 5 (ENG) - 2020/11/26 - 18:00-19:40 (UTC+8, Macao Local Time)	Parallel Session 6 (ENG) - 2020/11/26 - 18:00-19:40 (UTC+8, Macao Local Time)
<p>5.1 The Impact of Pandemic on Learning Activities and Accreditation of Health Study Program in Indonesia                      Ihsan Hidayat                      Lecturer, Institute for Health Studies, Agency for Higher Education in Health (IAK-PTN) (IAK-PTN)</p> <p>5.2 Problems Faced by the Teachers in Online Teaching during COVID-19                      Anshu Kishor                      Faculty of Science, Institute of Education</p> <p>5.3 Quality Assurance in Healthcare Professions Education: The Challenges of the Pandemic                      Saadia Faris, Yasmin, Yasmin, Yasmin                      Director, Quality Improvement Unit, School of Business, LAMU                      Assistant Director, Quality Improvement Unit, School of Business, LAMU</p> <p>5.4 Virtual Internship for Accounting Practicum                      Hong Chiu-Ching                      Associate Professor, Macao Polytechnic Institute</p>	<p>6.1 Case Study on Effect of Online Self-regulation and Trust in Learning Outcomes                      Yehuda Yehonatan                      Director, Quality Improvement Unit, School of Business, LAMU                      Assistant Director, Quality Improvement Unit, School of Business, LAMU</p> <p>6.2 Emergency Remote Teaching vs. Work-Planned-Merited Learning                      Yehuda Yehonatan                      Director, Quality Improvement Unit, School of Business, LAMU</p> <p>6.3 Assessing Institutional Quality in Times of a Pandemic                      Anshu Kishor, Yehuda Yehonatan                      Faculty of Science, Institute of Education                      Director, Quality Improvement Unit, School of Business, LAMU</p> <p>6.4 Measuring the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Corporate Education, Mutual in Supervisors and Strategy                      Yehuda Yehonatan, Yehuda Yehonatan                      Director, Quality Improvement Unit, School of Business, LAMU                      Assistant Director, Quality Improvement Unit, School of Business, LAMU</p>

(written by MPI)

## APQN- NARIC Signed Memorandum of Understanding

On July 12, 2020, in a spirit of amicable cooperation, Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and National Recognition Information Centre(NARIC) in the United Kingdom signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

In accordance with the framework of British laws and regulations, “APQN Constitution” and “Chiba Principles”, both parties are committed to building a partnership that provides platforms and opportunities for cooperation in supporting the growth of quality transnational education in the Asia-Pacific Region, through enhancing quality assurance and facilitating recognition of TNE qualifications of demonstrated quality and standards.



The MOU includes 5 articles and will be in force for a period of three years since the signing date and can be extended depending on the mutual interests of both parties. 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.

(Written by Xiaoyin Cao)

## Survey on the Effectiveness of Online Teaching during COVID-19

In 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic swept the world mercilessly. Higher education institutions (HEIs), in strict accordance with the requirements and deployment of education authorities, actively build online teaching platform, and strive to minimize the impact of the pandemic on teaching. However, the “rush to start” of online teaching has led to worrying teaching effectiveness. Therefore, the Education Committee of China Democratic League (CDL) in Yunnan Province in China, supported by Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), carried out a survey on the effectiveness of online teaching in HEIs during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Project Leader is Jianxin Zhang (APQN President, director of the Education Committee of China Democratic League (CDL) in Yunnan Province), and the members are Zhijie Xiang, Panpan Huang, Xiaoyin Cao and Yahan Yang. From July 13 to 31, 2020, the research group carried out a “Survey on the Effectiveness of Online Teaching during the COVID-19 Pandemic” in the HEIs in China, and got 4650 valid respondents.



Based on the survey data of 4650 valid respondents from 23 provinces/regions, the research analyzes the effectiveness of online teaching during COVID-19 pandemic. The results show, there exists such effectiveness problems as “insufficient preparation before class, teaching incidents in class and lack of feedback after class”.

Therefore, the research put forward 5 suggestions to improve the effectiveness of online teaching: (1) students’ autonomous learning ability; (2) teachers’ information literacy; (3) new teaching ideas between teachers and students; (4) blending teaching mode, and (5) teaching assessment methods, which aims to provide useful references for improving online teaching quality during public emergencies in the post-pandemic era.

(Written by Xiaoyin Cao)



## NIAD-QE University Quality Assurance Forum 2020

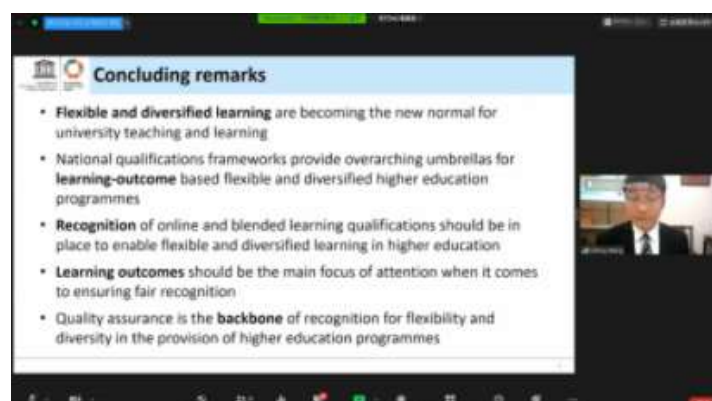
The NIAD-QE University Quality Assurance Forum 2020 "The Tokyo Convention and Diversified Learning-Transition Phase in Recognition of Qualifications" was held online on Wednesday, September 23, 2020. A large number of higher education colleagues from 39 regions and countries registered, and there were 470 participants via YouTube on the event day.

The forum began with the opening address by FUKUDA Hideki, President of NIAD-QE, followed by keynote speeches by three internationally recognized experts. The three keynote speakers shared



insights on the principles behind Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education, so-called the Tokyo Convention as well as the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education, or the Global Convention. They explored cases and issues in recognition of qualifications in light of differences in education systems, and deepened participants' understanding of the roles of NICs.

Dr. Libing WANG, Chief of Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, shared his observation on



flexible and diversified learning in higher education. He described that there has been an increasing trend in modality of program deliveries to replace classroom-based learning with online learning and blended learning. COVID-19 has accelerated this movement and the forms are becoming the new normal for higher education. Another phenomenon he mentioned is that higher education is absorbing non-formal learning and informal learning. He pointed out that fair recognition of learning and recognition of credits based on learning outcomes is more crucial than ever as form of learning becomes more flexible and diversified. He emphasized the importance of a common qualification framework, which keeps the flexibility and diversity in a certain unity, to attain comparability among learning programs.

Dr. Chantavit SUJATANOND, Centre Director of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED), outlined initiatives in Southeast Asia towards enhancing cross-border mobility and internationalization of higher education. The initiatives include strengthening coordination of credit recognition and transfer, such as the ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework and the Greater Mekong Sub-region University Consortium. She brought to light the critical issue to adopt the new normal waken by COVID-19 in regard to the delivery of education and qualification recognition embedding assessment framework for learning outcome. In this regard, she highlighted the importance of clear information on recognition of skills and higher education qualification in each country and across the region of Southeast Asia.

Mr. Luca LANTERO, Director of Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA) and President of Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee Bureau, presented an overview of the process in the European region to frame higher education qualification recognition, and the concept of the substantial difference applied for recognition activities at his organization. He indicated that recognition of higher education qualification should be recognized as a global issue

and challenge. He then went over the development of the recognition in Europe leading to recognition based on equivalency and even going further to mutual and automatic recognition. Furthermore, he added that the recognition remains a critical matter because the number of students seeking study opportunities outside their home countries is still increasing even under COVID-19 disruption. In relation to the student mobility among education systems, he illustrated CIMEA's approach to verify the authenticity of qualification and concept of substantial difference composing a key part of CIMEA's principles towards evaluating foreign qualifications.

Thereafter, HOTTA Taiji, Professor of the Research Department at NIAD-QE and Executive Director of National Information Center for Academic Recognition Japan, moderated a panel discussion.

The latter part of the program featured interactive online polls to gain insights into the awareness of diversified learning among the participants and presentations by four Japanese experts. The presenters included Mr. SATO Kuniaki from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Mr. YAMAMOTO Natsuki from Hitachi Ltd., Professor SUGIMURA Miki from Sophia University, and Dr. TANIGUCHI Isao from National Institute of Technology. Their presentations addressed issues in response to recent developments in higher education as well as Japan's good practices and future expectations from the viewpoint of leading practitioners in policymaking, industry, and higher education.

Following the presentations, Professor HOTTA moderated discussion among the keynote speakers and the panel members, sharing the results of the polls and their comments. The dialogue provided an in-depth look at issues surrounding non-traditional learning, student-centered approach and the value of academic degrees, calling for urgent consideration on such issues in higher education at both national and international levels.

The forum concluded successfully with closing remarks by HASEGAWA

Toshikazu, Vice-President of NIAD-QE.



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

<https://www.niad.ac.jp/english/news/en2020/uqaf2020.html>

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

## QA NEWS

### CEENQA General Assemble 2020

The General Assembly of the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) took place on July 17, 2020. The meeting was held as a web-conference. Representatives from 23 accreditation agencies participated in the event.

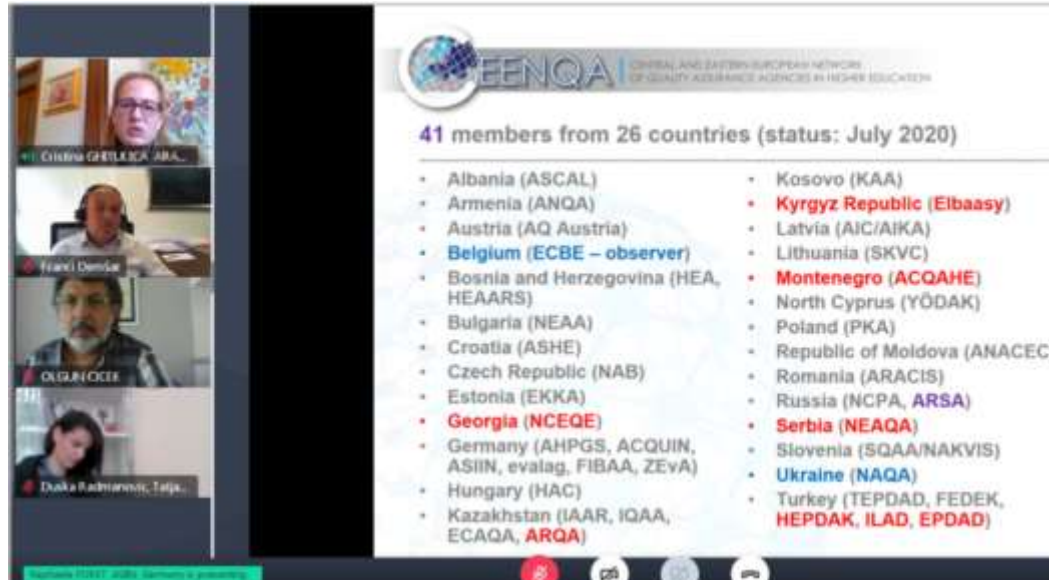


The key presentation of the meeting was given by Prof. Galina Motova, Vice President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), Deputy Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA). It was devoted to the results of a survey on the influence of COVID-19 on quality assurance agencies from different countries. 34 European agencies (ENQA and CEENQA members) and 32 Asian agencies (APQN members) took part in the survey.

Besides, changes in the procedures of accreditation agencies were discussed. The participants shared best practices concerning online reviews and discussed the perspectives of using new remote tools in higher education evaluation.

The election of the President was held at the meeting. Franci Demsar, Director of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (SQAA- NAKVIS) will be in charge for the following 2 years.

As of July 2020 CEENQA comprises 41 accreditation agencies from 26 countries. Nowadays Russia is represented by 2 accreditation agencies – NCPA and ARSA.



**CEENQA** | CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN NETWORK OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**41 members from 26 countries (status: July 2020)**

- Albania (ASCAL)
- Armenia (ANQA)
- Austria (AQ Austria)
- Belgium (ECBE – observer)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (HEA, HEAARS)
- Bulgaria (NEAA)
- Croatia (ASHE)
- Czech Republic (NAB)
- Estonia (EKKA)
- Georgia (NCEQE)
- Germany (AHPGS, ACQUIN, ASIIN, evalag, FIBAA, ZEvA)
- Hungary (HAC)
- Kazakhstan (IAAR, IQAA, ECAQA, ARQA)
- Kosovo (KAA)
- Kyrgyz Republic (Eibaasy)
- Latvia (AIC/AIKA)
- Lithuania (SKVC)
- Montenegro (ACQAHE)
- North Cyprus (YÖDAK)
- Poland (PKA)
- Republic of Moldova (ANACEC)
- Romania (ARACIS)
- Russia (NCPA, ARSA)
- Serbia (NEAQA)
- Slovenia (SQAA/NAKVIS)
- Ukraine (NAQA)
- Turkey (TEPDAD, FEDEK, HEPDAK, ILAD, EPDAD)

(Written by Anna Ishutkina from NCPA)

## IV Central Asian International Forum on Quality Assurance in Education

On October 2-3, 2020 IV Central Asian International Forum on Quality Assurance in Education was held online. The Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) hosted the event.



287 researchers, teachers, professionals, representatives of state and public organizations, employers and students from the Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Latvia, Ukraine and Greece participated at the Forum.

The main issues that were discussed at the Forum were related to transformation of higher education in compliance with the requirements of the labor market, delivery of educational programmes during the COVID-19 pandemic, new approaches to cross-border accreditation of HEIs in the context of modern challenges, and development of the professional community in external review.

Galina Motova, Vice President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), Deputy Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), spoke on the topic “Universities of Eurasia in Global Rankings”.



(Written by Anna Ishutkina from NCPA)





## UP-COMING EVENT

### Welcome to 2021 AAC and AGM

APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) are annual essential events to discuss and advance quality assurance in higher education in Asia-Pacific. The Board of APQN is delighted to announce that the next AAC and AGM will be hosted by EDUVALUE, Singapore from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in Singapore.

The target audience for the AAC and AGM are primarily those who associated with quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific region. It includes APQN Members and Observers, the Board, the Committees and the 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 welcome to attend AAC events which are only open to all registered delegates with the exception of the AGM which are only for APQN members. For more information, please visit [www.eduvalueglobal.com/apqn](http://www.eduvalueglobal.com/apqn)

The Main theme of 2020 AAC is “*Quality Assurance for Higher Education under the COVID-19 Pandemic and beyond in the Asia-Pacific Region*”. The 5 sub-themes are as followings:

- 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

## 5) The Role of the Governments

COVID-19 has had unprecedented impacts on many industries and the Education sector is no exception. Education Ministries, Education Institutions and Quality Assurance Agencies have all learned and adapted to assure and secure quality and academic standards for students despite the constantly evolving lockdown restrictions happening in our countries.

We believe in the next APQN AAC Conference 2021, our educational community will have much more to share and learn from each other as a result of our experiences about teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sharing innovative ideas and experiences covering pedagogy, course design, admissions, assessment, academic integrity and quality assurance will be more interesting and exciting.

You are invited to submit papers relating to topics from the list above, or one of your own choices. For those whose submitted papers in 2020 were accepted by the former review panel, please kindly modify your former papers accordingly to suit the main theme and submit us again. Please e-mail your paper to the local organizer <alan@eduvalue.com.sg> as well as APQN Secretariat apqnsecretariat@163.com.

If you have any questions, please contact APQN Secretariat (apqnsecretariat@163.com) and local organizer, EDUVALUE (apqn@eduvalue.com.sg). We look forward to meeting you on 25th to 28th March 2021, Singapore

Wish we would have a significant meeting in Singapore!

APQN Board and the Local Organization Committee



## **Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region**

### **APQNews (Issue 22, 2020)**

#### ***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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Serial Number: APQNews22-2020

Chief Editor: Jianxin Zhang