

# APQNews

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Asia-Pacific Quality Network

## MEET THE MEMBERS

### The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India will host the 2011 APQN Conference and AGM



The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in India were successful in its bid to host the 2011 APQN Conference and AGM. It would give an appropriate spread in the host countries. NAAC has considerable experiences in hosting international conferences as well as quality assurance experiences, which the APQN members can benefit from. It is also a country with many HEI so this may be an opportunity to recruit institutional members. NAAC has nominated Prof H A Ranganath as the representative on the Organizing Committee of the upcoming conference (Bangkok, 2010). NAAC would also submit a plan for the 2011 Conference and AGM, including a budget soon.

### 2009 Shanghai Education Evaluation Workshop

On May 22, 2009, Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI) hosted the 2009 Shanghai Education Evaluation Workshop in Shanghai. There were more than 80 representatives from Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational

Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council, Taiwan (HEEACT), Jiangsu Education Evaluation Agency, Beijing Education Evaluation Institute and other provincial education evaluation agencies and local higher education institutions. The theme of the workshop is “The Survival, Development and Cooperation of the Education Evaluation Agencies”. In the morning, the heads of the education evaluation agencies had a round table discussion about the theme. Dr. Zhang Weijiang from SEEI, Professor Yiu-Kwan Fan from HKCAAVQ and Dr Roger C.Y. Chen from HEEACT presented speeches in the afternoon.



After the workshop, SEEI and HKCAAVQ resigned the MoU to extend the cooperation that was established in 2006. The essence and spirit of this preceding Memorandum remain unchanged on the whole. The areas of co-operation and collaboration include exchange of information, mutual understanding each other, Staff Development, use of each other's expert or subject specialist, collaboration in quality assurance research and so on. The MoU is available at: [http://www.apqn.org/services/mou\\_moc/](http://www.apqn.org/services/mou_moc/).

## HEEACT Hosting 2009 International Conference and Signing MOU with ONESQA

Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), China held the annual international conference in 2009, themed on “Quality Assurance and Student Learning Outcome of Higher Education in Asia-Pacific Region” on June 5th to share theoretical concepts and practical experience from various areas, universities and accreditation agencies. In the conference, the keynote speakers, Dr. Achim Hopbach (Vice President of the European

theories, practices in student learning outcomes.

If you are interested in more information, please visit <http://www.heeact.edu.tw:8081/conference2009/>

In the Annual Conference of 2009, HEEACT and ONESQA (The Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment, Thailand) signed an MOU to establish closer cooperative relationship. HEEACT and ONESQA will share information and knowledge, arrange seminars, workshops, and conferences, designate a faculty or staff member to coordinate the related activities, and exchange faculty and staff to establish a closer academic relationship in the future. The MoU is available at: [http://www.apqn.org/services/mou\\_moc/](http://www.apqn.org/services/mou_moc/).



Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Germany) and Dr. John Hawkins (Professor of the University of California, Los Angeles, USA) presented student learning outcome assessment from the both perspectives of accrediting agency and university.

Besides, Dr. Akiyoshi Yonezawa (Associate Professor of Tohoku University, Japan), Dr. Rie Mori (Associate Professor of National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation, Japan), Dr. Antony Stella (Audit Director of Australian Universities Quality Agency, Australia), Dr. Angela Yung-Chi Hou (Director of International Exchange, HEEACT, Taiwan), and Dr. Shi-Huei Ho (Director of Center for Teaching and Learning, Soochow University, Taiwan) presented the recent development,

## Welcome New Member

Higher Education Advisory Board, Fiji was approved to be the Associate Member of APQN in July, 2009. The Board's role is to advise the Minister responsible for higher education on the steps to be undertaken in developing the higher education sector.

*We will appreciate if you could recommend potential members for APQN. Please contact the APQN administrator, Mr. Fang Le for this kind of information at:*

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Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

## Memorandum of Cooperation between AUQA and MQA

The Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) and the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with effect from August 2009. Both agencies have a long history of mutual cooperation and by signing the memorandum are formally committing to closer collaboration in the following ways:

- ❖ Promoting mutual understanding of each other's Quality systems
- ❖ Increasing collaboration in relation to quality assurance of higher education across jurisdictions, for example in relation to the auditing or review of the operations of Australian universities' branch campuses in Malaysia
- ❖ The exchange of personnel for increased professional development opportunities, and
- ❖ Working towards inclusion of the

good practices of Higher Education Institutions accredited by MQA in the AUQA Good Practice Database.

'Collaboration between the two agencies is intended to assist the higher education institutions in each country to promote the movement of students and graduates, and to facilitate the recognition of qualifications', says Dr David Woodhouse, Executive Director of AUQA. The MoC is available at:

[http://www.apqn.org/services/mou\\_moc/](http://www.apqn.org/services/mou_moc/).



## ONESQA Visiting SEEI and Signing MoU

On July 16, 2009, the delegation with 18 representatives from the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), Thailand visited Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI), China.

Both sides exchanged experience and knowledge in the external quality assurance framework, selection of experts, procedures of evaluation and utilization of evaluation results. After the meeting, ONESQA and SEEI signed the Memorandum of Understanding to establish a closer cooperative relationship.

According to the MoU, ONESQA and SEEI will share and exchange information, cooperate to host seminars, workshops, and conferences and exchange staff. The MoU is available at:

[http://www.apqn.org/services/mou\\_moc/](http://www.apqn.org/services/mou_moc/).



## **GIQAC UPDATE**

### **Results of the Survey on the Chiba Principles**

#### **Introduction**

It has been almost one year since the so called Chiba Principles were developed and made available to the APQN members after a workshop in Chiba Japan in February 2008. The APQN Board considered that this is the right time to seek input from the members on the follow-up to the principles and the Board commissioned a survey for that purpose. One of the main purposes of the analysis is to provide input into the revision of the principles so that they are better fit for the regional context and become a more relevant tool for the institutions and quality assurance agencies in the region. The need for regional contextualization was already highlighted by participants in the Chiba workshop.

#### **Survey**

In early April 2009 a questionnaire was sent to all APQN members to collect feedback on the formulation of the three set of principles: A: Internal Quality Assurance; B: Quality Assessment; and C: Quality Assurance Agency and get information on the dissemination and use of the principles and ideas for future needs for promotion.

The questionnaire was developed by Professor Jianxin Zhang from the Institute of Higher Education in Yunnan University, China. 17 members returned the questionnaire with the vast majority of responses coming from full members and only few responses from intermediate and institutional members. Dr Antony Stella, the Australian Universities Quality Agency and APQN Board member analyzed the questionnaires and prepared the survey report.

The survey asked members to consider their agreement with the various principles and suggest changes to the formulation of the individual principles on the one hand and to share how the Principles have been used by the members.

#### **Main survey findings and recommendations**

Members generally express a strong agreement with the Principles and many members indicate that their policies and procedures already align with the Principles. Several members also state that the advantages of more region specific principles need to be clearly argued. In that context two major recommendations emerge from the report:

1. The need for fine-tuning of the Principles e.g. in terms of terminology, graphic presentation and consistency in the formulation of individual principles. The report makes the point that the process of fine-tuning should involve the various types of APQN members more extensively.
2. Given that the intention is that the Principles should be used for the members' continuous improvement examples of good practices related to the fulfillment of the Principles could help members move forward. While most quality assurance members seem to be familiar with the Principles there may be merit in promulgating and discussing the Principles with the main stakeholders such as governments and regional bodies.

The APQN Board has considered the report and has decided to act on the recommendation of the report and to fine-tune and consider means for further promotion by involving members and stakeholders in the further work. The survey report is available on the APQN website

[http://www.apqn.org/admin/virtual\\_library/survey\\_reports/](http://www.apqn.org/admin/virtual_library/survey_reports/).

*By Dorte Kristoffersen, Board member responsible for the project*

## Training Materials and Resource Package

The project leader is Prof. Colin N. Peiris – QAA Council, Sri Lanka. The project has consolidated the APQN's existing training materials and used them to prepare a comprehensive training package which could then be made available to members electronically through the website or other electronic means. The training materials have been developed in the second quarter of 2009 and will be reviewed by two experts, who are recommended by the Board, and will be tested in the countries participating in the Training Workshop scheduled that would be the initial beneficiaries and provide the feedback for further improvement as soon as possible.

## Database of Consultants and Reviewers

The Working Group includes Antony Stella, AUQA, Australia; Jagannath Patil, NAAC, India; Marjorie Peace Lenn, CQAIHE, USA; and Nadia Badrawi, Egypt. *The Procedures Manual (DRAFT)* has been developed, which describes the procedures to establish a refereeing process for the database of consultants so that users of the database can place more confidence on the entries in the database. It gives priority to the enhancement of the database of consultants and establishes the refereeing process for that. The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) as a global network collaborates with APQN in this database. The database will be administered by APQN and INQAAHE will contribute to the additional resource implications to include its nominations into the database. A MoU has been signed between APQN and INQAAHE on to this effect in July 2009, which could be available on the website ([www.apqn.org](http://www.apqn.org)). A call for nominations was issued at the end of June, 2009. Up to the deadline of July 31, 2009, more than 70 nominees have submitted their online application. The Reviewing Committee is in the process of refereeing now.

## MORE UPDATES TO VIRTUAL LIBRARY

1. A final summary report on the APQN on line discussion forum on writing accreditation/ evaluation/ audit reports (Members Only)  
Available at: [http://apqn.org/members/virtual\\_library/articles/](http://apqn.org/members/virtual_library/articles/)
2. Presentations, proceedings & pictures of 2009 APQN Conference and AGM (Members Only)  
Available at: <http://www.apqn.org/members/events/past/details/?id=216&agm=1>
3. Review Report 2005 – 2008, ACC of Cambodia  
Available at: [http://apqn.org/members/virtual\\_library/articles/](http://apqn.org/members/virtual_library/articles/)

*The Asia-Pacific Quality Network is still expanding its Virtual Library and would like to ask if you have any papers, reports, presentations, good practices, etc. that you would like to share with other members. If you would like to contribute to the expanding Virtual Library, please send your content to Mr. Fang Le, the APQN Administrator, at [administrator@apqn.org](mailto:administrator@apqn.org).*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OBHE 2009 Global Forum



OBHE 2009 Global Forum, "Global Connections – Local Impacts: Best Practices, Models and Policies for Cross - Border Higher Education", 21 - 24 October 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 2009 Observatory on Borderless Higher Education Global Forum is organized by The Observatory and the University of Nottingham, Malaysia, the Forum promises to be a highly engaging professional venue for global colleagues to discuss ideas, strategies and best practices in internationalism and cross - border higher education.

It will address the various dimensions of cross - border higher education impacts on the host country and region, specifically including political, cultural, social, economic and educational perspectives.

Confirmed plenary speakers currently include, among others: Sir Drummond Bone, Chair, The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education; Professor Abtar Kaur, Faculty of Education & Languages, Open University Malaysia (OUM); and Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić, Chief of the Section for Reform, Innovation and Quality Assurance , UNESCO.

The 2009 Global Forum is taking place at the Prince Hotel & Residence, centrally located in Kuala Lumpur (KL). Special room rates for Global Forum participants are available for a limited time only. Reserve now to secure a place! Further details pertaining to the program will be available at:

[http://www.obhe.ac.uk/the\\_obhe\\_global\\_forum\\_malaysia/welcome](http://www.obhe.ac.uk/the_obhe_global_forum_malaysia/welcome)

### "What Works" Conference on Quality Teaching in Higher Education

OECD-IMHE is organizing a conference on the quality of teaching in higher education in collaboration with the Istanbul Technical University, which will be held on the 12-13 October 2009 in Istanbul.

The conference will notably reflect on the findings of the Review on the Quality of Teaching in Higher Education undertaken by the OECD. It will provide opportunities for exchange of best practices, and serve as the basis for the creation of informal networks. The event will also be an occasion for you to present initiatives aimed at improving or evaluating the quality of teaching in your institution, sharing your experience with an international audience.

If you want to propose a presentation, please find below the "**Call for Contributions**" with a wide range of topics which you may find interesting, included:

- ✧ Innovation in teaching
- ✧ Support to teachers' missions
- ✧ Assessment of student learning (student-centric activities of self-assessment, portfolios, etc.)
- ✧ Key aspects of developing a culture of quality teaching within the institution
- ✧ Evaluation and quality assurance for teaching

For more information, please go to the IMHE Quality Teaching website: [www.oecd.org/edu/imhe/qualityteaching](http://www.oecd.org/edu/imhe/qualityteaching).

The registration for the conference will be opening soon. For more information, you could contact Fabrice Hénard -[fabrice.henard@oecd.org](mailto:fabrice.henard@oecd.org)



*We encourage members of APQN to submit content to be published in the new APQNews. This is intended to be a quarterly newsletter.*