



# APQNews, Issue 13

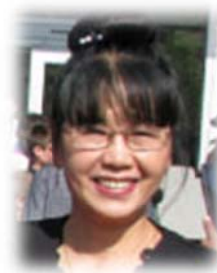
Sep. 1, 2016

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On January 18, 2003, the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) was founded in the Pearl of the Orient – Hong Kong, China. This non-profit, non-governmental organization has been vigorously devoted in improving higher education quality in the Asia-Pacific Region ever since. Throughout the past thirteen years, under the leadership of APQN pioneers and four previous



Presidents - Mr. Peter PT Cheung, Ms. Concepcion Pijano, Dr. Antony Stalla, and Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQN has been committed to quality higher education and supportive of quality assurance agencies (QAAs) in the region. Over 30 big projects were completed and the achievements were remarkable. All these made APQN a legacy for us to inherit. Today, APQN has 166 members from 38 countries and territories, and is the largest and most influential non-profit international organization in the field of higher education quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region.

On behalf of those who had the honor to be elected as the board members of the fifth APQN Board, I deeply appreciate your trust. For us, the fifth Board members, this is a fresh start, a new challenge and a new opportunity. The former President has passed a relay baton to us. Like a race in the Olympic Games, how can we keep the spirit of “faster, higher and stronger”? How should we proceed to maintain the advantages passed to us as well as making new progress? It is both a great challenge and question await for us.

Despite all the marvelous achievements of APQN, we are still facing many difficulties, one of them being lack of external financial support. Nevertheless, the members of the fifth Board have faith in APQN's future. This is the strength of our inner perseverance and meticulous work attitude. I believe that no matter how many difficulties and obstacles are in front of us, as long as we have the courage to keep reaching, to keep working and to keep fighting, something better and a bright future awaits us. What makes APQN exceptional is this faith, which not only gives us the

rights to fight for it, but also puts responsibility on our shoulders - to inherit APQN's legacy and make APQN "a self-sustaining Network, a first point of reference for advice or support, efficient in its operations and open in its information sharing".

Great thanks to the fourth President, Dr. Jagannath Patil who has been devoted himself to APQN for 12 years with his "3 Cs": commitment, capacity and creativity, as well as his Board who made APQN one of the most respected and valued quality assurance organization not only in the region but also in the world. We will continue the key initiatives of previous Board, such as series of publications based on selected papers in Annual conferences, APQN quality awards, Project on APQN Quality label, Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR), APQN exchange programme and so on.

The fifth Board will take on the new mission with new attitude and new perspectives. We will repay the trust and expectation of all APQN members with the greatest effort, first-class service, and best performance. The four principles of the fifth Board are: (1) target-orientated principle; (2) project-orientated principle; (3) SMART principle (Specific, Meaningful, Agreed-upon, Results-oriented and Tractable); and (4) Principle of sustainable development. Our five key words are "procedure-base, capability-building, self-reliance, information-sharing and sustainable development". All these are illustrated in *"Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region: APQN Strategic Plan (2016/2019)"*. APQN will complete six goals and actions with ten targets in the next three years. 2016-2017 will be the year of procedure building, 2017-2018 is the year of capability building and 2018-2019 is the year of action and achievements. I promise that the new Board will do our best to pursue the vision, mission and goals of APQN.



Comparatively speaking, the capital of APQN is much less than the majority of non-profit organizations, but we are very wealthy. We have APQN's achievements and legacy of the past thirteen years, the

resounding brand, and members' trust and love. The big family of APQN is full of friendship and love; the members respect each other, appreciate each other and help each other like brothers and sisters. What really attracts the members to this international big family lies more in the pursuit of quality of higher education. What really makes APQN special is the belief of bringing together all the QAAs, all higher education institutions (HEIs) and all those who struggle for quality in this diverse region. It is the mission of APQN to enhance the quality of higher education in this region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them.

Dear colleagues, in the upcoming 1095 days of the next three years, we, the 166 members from 38 countries and territories, will unite as one with enthusiasm, hand in hand, to achieve APQN's goal of high-quality education and excellent quality assurance in the Asia Pacific region.

As the fifth President of APQN, I would ask all the members of the Board and the General Council, especially me myself, not to ask "what APQN can do for me", but ask "what I can do for APQN".

Prof Dr. Jianxin Zhang

[jianxin@ynu.edu.cn](mailto:jianxin@ynu.edu.cn)

The 5<sup>th</sup> President of APQN



## APQN 2016 CONFERENCE

### Annual Academic Conference: Sustainable Development of Quality Assurance in Higher Education



APQN 2016 Conference was held in Natadola, Fiji on 26-27 May, 2016, which was just one day after the INQAAHE 2016 Forum in the same venue. Both the 2016 APQN Conference and INQAAHE Forum were hosted by Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC), Fiji. There were 144 participants from 30 countries, including 87 international participants, 21 Pacific participants, and 36 local participants.

The main theme for the APQN 2016 Conference was *“Sustainable Development of Quality Assurance in Higher Education”*. The sub-themes were:

- Quality Assurance and Sustainable Development: the Benefits of Sustaining EQA, IQA, Qualifications Framework and Peer Review System;
- Higher Education Trends and Accountability of QA in Asia Pacific in Terms of Productivity, Equity and Cost;
- Quality Assurance of University Governance and Management;
- Assuring Standards and Quality of Higher Education: Teaching and Learning;
- Managing Quality of Cross-Border Movements in Higher Education; and
- The Internet Generation and its Implication on Higher Education Quality Management (OER, MOOCs, Online Distance Courses and Assessment).

The Conference was officially opened by Fiji's Minister for Education, Heritage & Arts, Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy. In his official address, Dr. Reddy said that the privilege of hosting the APQN's prestigious conference paves the way for



Fiji as a developing country to increase its status, firstly, within the APQN and, in turn, the international arena of higher education. The Minister further added that this year's conference served as a platform for multifaceted sustainable development cooperation between the quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions from all around the world. In wishing the participants well for the two day conference, Dr. Reddy remarked that quality education is one of the most powerful weapons for the sustainable and effective development of any country.



Dr. Jagannath Patil, President of APQN delivered the welcome Address. He welcomed all the participants and appreciated the great contribution of Fiji Higher Education Commission, the fabulous

host. Dr. Patil recognized that APQN is a good example of sustainable development, growing in size, voice of and for developing countries. He mentioned some unique initiatives of APQN, such as Quality Information Portal, APQN Journal, MOUs between networks/agencies, APQN Exchange Programme, Asia Pacific Quality Register, APQN Publication Series. As the outgoing President of APQN, Dr. Patil believed that the new Board with Prof. Jianxin Zhang as the President would carry on the great legacy of APQN. He expressed sincere thanks for the support and trust of the APQN in the past years, and would like to support the new president and Board in taking forward quality agenda so that APQN remains the most valued and trusted name in the field of higher education quality assurance in Asia Pacific.



The two keynote speakers were Dr. Rafael Laavori De Micheo, International Director, The National Agency of Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA), Spain and HE Professor Mohammad Osman Babury, Deputy Minister for Academic Affairs, Afghanistan Higher Education, Afghanistan.



There were the following 5 Panel Discussions:

➤ The Process of the Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR) with Prof. Jianxin Zhang, Chief Expert of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center in China, Ms. Malini Nair, Quality Assurance Policy and Planning Analyst at the Fiji Higher Education Commission and Dr. Erika Soboleva, Director of the Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career Development (AKKORK) as the Panel members and Dr. Jagannath Patil as the Chair and Commentator.



➤ Specialized and Programme accreditation: Collaboration between Europe and Asia with Dr. Iring Wasser, Director of Accreditation Agency Specialized in Accrediting Degree Programs in Engineering, Informatics, the Natural Sciences and Mathematics (ASIIN), Germany and Dr. Galina Motova, Deputy Director of National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia as the Panel members and Prof. Jianxin Zhang, Chief Expert of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Centre (YHEEC) as the Chair and Commentator.



- Trends of QA in South Pacific with Prof. Jeanette Baird, Academic Quality Assurance and Accreditation, Divine World University, PNG, Mr. Lemalu Sanerivi, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Ms. Salote Rabuka, Director, Fiji Higher Education Commission and Dr. Grant Klinkum, New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) as the Panel members and Dr. Milika Sobey, Commission Chairwoman of Fiji Higher Education Commission as the Chair and Commentator.
- Quality assurance of University Governance and Management with Prof. Sid Nair, University of Western Australia and Engr. Salim Ahmed Khan, Riphah International University, Pakistan as the Panel members and Dr. Mohammed Rafiq Baloch, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan as the Chair and Commentator.



- and Quality Assurance of Transnational Education – Experience from China – A Joint Presentation by CEAIE, QAA and TEQSA with Dr. Anthony McClaran, CEO, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), Dr. Fabrizio Trifiro, Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and Dr. He Pei, China Education Association for International Exchange (CHEAIE) as the Panel members and Dr. Manuel Corpus, CEO, Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP) as the Chair and Commentator.





3 Special sessions were assigned as following:

- New Measures of QA on TNE in China & Latest Progresses in CBHE Inter-Agency Cooperation, CDGDC, Ministry of Education, China with Dr. Chao Ren from China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC) as the Speaker and Prof. Colin N. Peiris, Vice President of Horizon Campus, Sri Lanka as Chair and Commentator.



- Building a national Support Mechanism for External Peer Review of Assessment to Assure Standards with Dr. Sara Booth, Strategic Advisor, University of Tasmania, Australia as the Speaker and Dr. Sheelagh Matear, Executive Director, Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand as the Chair and Commentator.



- CAMPUS ASIA, Collaborative project by Japan, China and Korea with Prof. Kazuo Okamoto, Vice President, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-UE), Japan as the Speaker and Prof. Angela Yung-Chi Hou, Fellow Researcher, Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) as the Chair and Commentator.

There were also the following 2 workshops during the conference:

- Internal Quality Assurance with Prof. Sid Nair and Prof. Arun Patil as the facilitators;



- Quality Label with Prof. Jianxin Zhang and Dr. Jagannath Patil as the facilitators.

In addition, there were also 13 Parallel Sessions with about 32 presenters, and there were also about 6 presentations by poster.



After the Conference, a survey had been made for the participants. The positive

comments provided by the respondents were: it was a well-organized conference, the conference content was very valuable, the venue was very nice, and the hosting and service of the organizers was diligent.

The most common challenge faced by the participants was the shortage of time to raise questions or comment in the parallel sessions. It was suggested that the conference be for three days to provide quality time to all activities. Other content related issues were lack of involvement of participants, limited contextualization when comparing developed countries education systems with developing nations, insufficient key speakers from the Pacific, and not enough presentation of original and new research.





## Annual General Meeting

There are 51 participants from 37 members, including 16 Full members, 7 Intermediate members, 10 Institutional members, 3 Associate members and 1 Observer.

As the outgoing President of APQN, Dr. Jagannath Patil highlighted the key initiatives in the past 3 years of his term, which has brought APQN to



be one of the most respected and valued quality assurance organization not only in the region but also in the world. He acknowledged that the achievements were made by the committed Board members, the efficient Secretariat and active participation of the members. He showed full of confidence for the future of APQN with the leadership of Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, the incoming President of APQN. President Dr. Jagannath Patil's report got the approval the General Assembly. Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi (Vice-President of APQN) and Prof. Li Yaogang (Secretary/Treasurer) respectively made the reports and their report also got the approval of the General Assembly.

The electronic voting result for the following two proposals were approved in the

AGM: (1) to raise the standard of membership fees, and (2) to give representation to institutional members into the APQN Board.



The new Board for 2016-2019 with Prof. Jianxin Zhang as President took over for the leadership of APQN in the AGM. Prof. Jianxin Zhang delivered an inaugural speech as the new elected President, and presented her dream for a sustainable and vibrant APQN. As there were lots of new challenges and

opportunities in the new era, Prof. Zhang would like to commit more passion and energy, and she also encouraged members to work shoulder by shoulder just like brother and sister of one family for the development of APQN.

## APQN 2016 Quality Awards

APQN Quality Awards were initiated in 2013 for those doing much more outstanding work individually, institutionally, as well as internationally, which was intended to identify and distinguish extraordinary or prominent QA contributions and good practices that have potential of replications in the Asia-Pacific area. This is the first year to use combination of popular votes and expert review to finalize the awards. 7 winners in five categories were finally selected. At the Awarding Ceremony in InterContinental Fiji Resort Golf & Spa, Natadola, Fiji in the evening of May 26, 2016, Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQN outgoing President expressed his sincere congratulations to all the winners and invited the distinguished guests on stage to award the trophies and certificates.

### 1. APQN's Best/Model Internal QA Award



This award is awarded to both American International University from Bangladesh and Riphah International University from Pakistan, which have committed to internal quality assurance mechanisms and quality culture building.



## 2. APQN Quality Champions Award



This award is awarded to Mr. Muhammad Ismail, Higher Education Commission (HEC) from Pakistan as expert within the region. He has made outstanding contributions in promoting quality and excellence of higher education nationally and internationally in his research achievements and leadership of QA activities.

## 3. APQN Cooperation in QA Award within the Region



This award is awarded to Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center (YHEEC) from China and Fiji Higher Education Commission from Fiji, which have engaged in successful cooperation with other agencies internationally to further cross-border education and quality assurance of international initiatives.

#### 4. APQN Strengthening Quality Assurance as a Profession



This award is awarded to Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) from Philippines, which has taken steps to strengthen quality assurance as a profession by various means such as contributing to formal qualifications in quality assurance, providing professional training, courses to staff for professional development, offering sabbatical to employees to gain formal qualifications in quality assurance, introducing short/ long courses for assessors/reviewers for empaneling on database etc. .

#### 5. APQN International Cooperation in QA Award Outside the Region



This award is awarded to European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), which has have engaged in successful cooperation with agencies

and institutions within the Asia-Pacific region to further cross-border education and quality assurance of international initiatives.

## THE NEW BOARD

### Announcement of the Board for 2016-2019

The APQN Election for the 2016 has been completed successfully and the following members were elected by the membership. The term of the 5<sup>th</sup> Board will be from the 2016 AGM to the 2019 AGM.



#### President

Prof. Jianxin Zhang, Chief Expert of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center (YHEEC), China



#### Vice President

Prof. Angela Hou Yung-chi, Executive Director of Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan, Chinese Taipei



#### Secretary/Treasurer, Ex Officio

Prof. Li Yaogang, Vice President of Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI), China



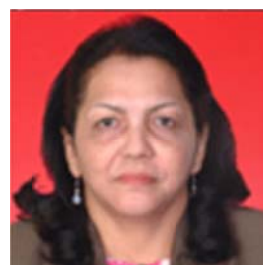
#### The Immediate Past President, Ex Officio

Dr. Jagannath Patil, Advisor of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India



#### Board Members

Dr. Manuel Corpus, Executive Director of Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP),



#### Board Members

Prof. Zita Mohd Fahmi, Fellow QA Specialist of Malaysian Qualifications Agency, Malaysia

Philippines



Board Members

Prof. Dr. Galina Motova, National Center of Public Accreditation, Russia



Board Members

Ms. Malini Nair – Prasad, Fiji Higher Education Commission, Fiji

## An Interview with Prof. Jianxin Zhang, the New President

**Editor's note:** In June, Prof. Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic, the director of CHEA (Higher Education Accreditation) International Quality Group (CIQG) in USA had an interview with APQN new President, Prof. Jianxin Zhang, for CHEA/CIQG Newsletter (Volume 9). Below is the shortened interview.



### **Question 1: What does it mean to you to take over APQN Presidency?**

To my understanding, being APQN President is not a privilege, but an increased responsibility for service. Serving means to discover the requirements of higher education in the constantly changing world; to answer the calls for excellent quality of the HEIs, the society, and all stakeholders; to meet their needs and fulfill the duties entrusted by them. At the same time, serving also means to serve the members whole-heartedly, satisfy their needs and help them to develop.

The four previous Presidents - Mr. Peter PT Cheung, Ms. Concepcion Pijano, Dr. Antony Stella, and Dr. Jagannath Patil, have been dedicated to APQN's development. They have laid the relay baton – the prosperous APQN, into the hands of the fifth Board. How can we get APQN to run faster and better? It is a great test and a challenge for us. With the “3 Cs” - commitment, capacity and creativity, our

predecessors have made extraordinary advancement in APQN's development. They have left APQN spiritual legacy. I pledge myself to inherit and carry on APQN's spiritual legacy – Dedication, Sharing, Serving, Innovation and Sustainable Development.

**Question 2: What are your plans to make APQN grow?**

"APQN Strategic Plan (2016-2019)" was released on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The fifth Board will take on the new missions with new attitude and new perspectives. We will repay the trust and expectation of all APQN members with the greatest effort, first-class service and best performance. 2016-2017 will be the year of procedure building, 2017-2018 will be the year of personnel capability building, and 2018-2019 will be the year of action and achievements. APQN will complete seven goals and actions along with ten targets in the next three years, such as to conduct Asia-Pacific Quality Register and APQN Quality Label.

According to "APQN Constitution" and our five key words - procedure-based, capability-building, self-reliance, information-sharing and sustainable development, I have a dream: we, 166

members from 38 countries and regions, ignite our enthusiasm, unite as one, walk hand in hand, to achieve APQN's goal of high-quality, excellent education quality assurance in the Asia Pacific region.

**Question 3: What are your priorities as APQN President?**

First of all, great thanks to UNESCO APEID where I was offered to spend six months, CHEA/CIQG where I have been nominated as advisory since 2012, the same year when I became APQN Board Member. Because of the experiences, I have gained more global perspective with diversity and openness since acquiring my degree in Switzerland.

Comparatively speaking, my priority as APQN President is to play a double role: a practical writer and a researcher. As the Chief Expert of Yunnan Higher Education Evaluation Center, I have been involved in over 20 on-site evaluations to HEIs both home and abroad for over 10 years. As a full-time professor in Yunnan University, I have been researching and teaching for over 30 years with publication of 24 books and over 200 papers. I tend to put theory into practice in



“Planning-Designing-Controlling-Acting Cycle”. My new personal practice and research project by self-fundraising is “APQN’s Sustainable Development as a Non-profit and Non-governmental Organization”. But I have a long, long way to go.

I hope: everyone in APQN, especially myself, do not ask what APQN can do for us, but to ask what I can do for APQN. Thank you!

### **Words from Prof. Li Yaogang, the Secretary/Treasurer**



I’d like to express my sincere gratitude to the board and all the members for your trust in SEEI. As the host of the Secretariat, SEEI will provide more in-kind contribution, such as free use of the office room, office facilities, office consumable materials and so on, which will kept the operation cost the Secretariat as lower as possible. The staff of Secretariat will conduct all the work better and bring some innovations with the guidance from the Board. The

Secretariat will provide timely and efficient service to members and Board members.

It has been agreed by the President Jianxin that Mr. Zhang Lingfei would be the Administrator since October



1, 2016. He graduated from Shanghai International Studies University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree both in English and Russian Literature in 2011. He has a good command of English and Russian language skills, which would make it comparatively helpful for him to communicate with the members. As we know, Mr. Fang Le has been as the Administrator for 7 years and done tremendous contribution to APQN. His efforts impress me and all the members of APQN. I am truly grateful to him for what he has done for APQN. He will be still paying attention to APQN at part time.

As the secretary of APQN, I will do my best to take the responsibility and promote the advance of APQN. Many thanks to the board and all the members of APQN! I am looking forward to your valuable suggestions and assistance.

## Words from Prof. Dr. Galina Motova, the New Board Member

It is a great honor and at the same time a great responsibility to represent Russia in the fifth APQN's Board. Russia is one of the biggest countries in the Asia-Pacific region with one of the biggest higher education systems. It has long-standing educational traditions and innovative learning technologies, academic achievements and new challenges. Due to



its geographical position Russia can (and has to) establish close relationship between European and Asian quality assurance networks and exchange of good practice.

I consider that my main task as a Board member is wide sharing of ideas and opportunities for Russian HEIs which APQN can offer, for example, regular publication in the Russian mass media about APQN's activity, involving Russian HEIs in APQN membership and projects, holding some events under APQN umbrella in Russia. But the most important task is to do my best for the development of APQN, strengthening its role and importance for quality enhancement of international and transnational education, building capability and understanding common principles and approaches in quality assurance. It is important also to be committed to quality culture, integrity, consistency, objectiveness and independence.

In contrast to European networks (ENQA, CEENQA), which involve only quality assurance agencies, APQN is a more open organization and educational institutions are welcome in the network too. This adds a stakeholder perspective to the work of APQN.

I hope APQN has a great potential for development. Each member can have help and support by APQN in their interests and activities. The joint efforts of all APQN members can raise it to a new level of recognition among the world academic community. Each idea and each initiative by members is important for facilitating partnership in the APQN community and APQN itself with the aim of enhancing its role in the world. United we are strong!

## Words from Ms. Malini Nair – Prasad, the New Board Member



This honor indicates a promising future in higher education sector and quality assurance services for the Asia Pacific and Pacific Island Countries with the European counterparts.

I would like to thank the former President of APQN, Dr Jagannath Patil, NAAC, India, the Executive Director, Ms Dorte Kristoffersen of Hong Kong Council of Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) and the management of Fiji High Education Commission for having the confidence in me and nominating me for a board member.

It takes special dedication and perseverance to get through such a demanding position. I am confident that the members influence will continue to encourage our proud tradition of involvement of quality assurance in the higher education sector.

Through my term I will be acting mostly on behalf of the Pacific Island Countries and of course with other regions as well especially for those preparing to undergo recognition towards the Asia Pacific Quality Register, developing their internal quality assurance system as an agency or institute and registration for new members for APQN.

Our aim is to welcome as many reputable agencies to register and be part of this global network. As an individual I will be looking forward for more international policy and cooperation between reputable agencies in terms of recognition of cross border higher education and competency based assessment trainings through the various projects that APQN will come up in the future. This will also help facilitate the research projects on quality development of higher education in the Asia Pacific Region.

Vinaka Vakalevu and Look forward working with you all !!

## THE MEMBERS

### To Increase the Standard of Membership Fees from 2017

The 2016 Annual General Meeting has approved the result of the electronic voting for the proposal to increase the membership fees standard from the year 2017. That is **USD 100.00 will be added for all categories of members and observers starting from the year 2017.** See the following table.

Rights/Categories	Full Member	Intermediate Member	Associate Member	Institutional Member	Observer Status
Initial Joining Fee	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	N/A
Member Fee	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$250</b>
Member Fee	<b>\$380</b>	<b>\$380</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$250</b>

The increased membership fees will be used to bring more benefit for members and keep the sustainability of APQN.

#### 1. To sponsor more members to participate in APQN Events

The increase in the membership fees will create more sponsorship facility for the members from developing countries to participate in international events and to build their capacity in the field of QA by learning through international practices.

#### 2. To increase opportunities for projects

The increase in membership fee will provide additional resource for taking up more projects as demanded by the members including exchange program, collaborative research and innovation etc.

#### 3. To support the academic journal and publication of conference proceedings

The increased membership fees will support the academic journal of Higher Education Evaluation and Development (HEED) and keep the publication the proceedings of APQN Conferences.

#### 4. To support APQN Secretariat

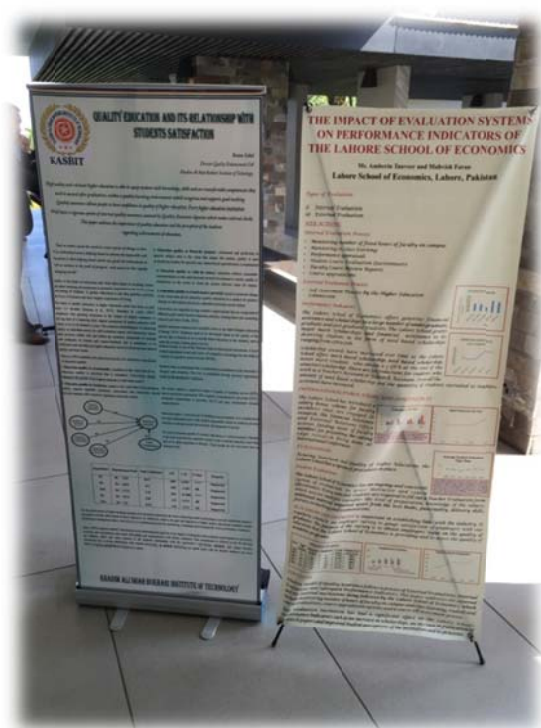
The increased membership fees will also be used to strengthen the Secretariat with more financial and human resources to facilitate all the members and the Board.



## Opportunity for the Representation of Institutional Membership on APQN Board

The 2016 Annual General Meeting has approved the result of the electronic voting for the proposal of representation of Institutional membership on APQN Board. That is the Institutional membership will be represented on the APQN Board by way of 1-2 co-opted members since 2017.

It is believed that this will help to get the invoice of the institutional members with the current number of near 100 in 2016. Hope institutional members can actively take part in APQN projects.





## THE PROJECTS

### The First Self-fundraising Project

In June 22, 2016, APQN released the file of ***“Guidelines for APQN Project by Self-fundraising”***. The Board and member agencies are encouraged to conduct APQN project by self-fundraising in order to enhance the capacity-building and promote the sustainability of APQN. The joint projects of APQN and member agencies to funding bodies are also encouraged, as the brand name of APQN will add value for the projects. The projects should identify common areas of interest among APQN members and facilitate work on these areas with shared responsibilities from various agencies across the region. Project areas are dynamic in nature, depending on developments that take place in the quality assurance field.

Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, President of APQN has got the finance support of RMB 50,000 from Mr. Jianping Zhang (Donator) from Wuxi Shenzheng International Logistics Co. Ltd.(WSILCL), China to conduct the project ***“Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region: APQN’ Sustainable Development”*** from 2016 to 2018.

APQN urgently hope more members can do QA projects under your local context for APQN’s value of “being committed to quality higher education, and supportive of quality agencies in the region”.



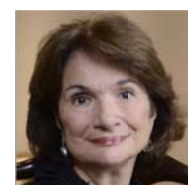
### The 6<sup>th</sup> Guided Online Forum

APQN launched the 6th online forum on March 2 and it last one month. In order to realize the new QA Trends in Asia, the topic of the forum is “Quality Assurance for Sustainable Learning, Teaching and Research in Higher Education”, which mainly focused on quality management of distance education, including online courses, programs, MOOCS, OER in terms of the role of QA agencies and institutions, since they are both expected to respond the global trend effectively by various

stakeholders. In addition, current trends on quality assurance research will be included on behalf of APQN members. Hence, there were 3 more sub-themes to be further discussed, namely, 1) Quality Management of Distance Education; 2) External Review of Online Courses, MOOCs and OER; and 3) Research on Quality Assurance of Higher Education.

Four facilitators were invited to lead the discussions:

- **Prof. Dr. Angela Yung Chi Hou**, Vice President APQN, *Research Fellow, Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan, Dean of International Education, Fu Jen Catholic University* who played the role of the convenor in this exercise and who was charged with writing this final report.
- **Prof. Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic**, *Former Chief of the Higher Education Section of the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO)*
- **Prof. Deane Neubauer**, *Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the University of Hawaii, Manoa (UHM) and Co-Director of the Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership (APHERP)*
- **Prof. Asha Kanwar**, *President and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL)*



More than 130 messages were posted throughout the forum. Altogether 80 quality assurance experts, representing 22 APQN member institutions from 12 different countries registered to take part in this important endeavour during the month of March. Though at times it proved difficult to constantly keep up the intensity of the online discussions and the level of involvement throughout the entire 4 weeks, this was beyond any doubt an excellent learning exercise, which on the one hand identified best practice in the APQN community while at the same time exposing the areas of training needs.

## Report for Journal of Higher Education Evaluation and Development in 2015

Higher Education Evaluation and Development (HEED) is a journal founded by Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) and is jointly owned and published by Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) since 2014. It is a scholarly refereed journal aimed at encouraging research in higher education evaluation and development, raising standard of evaluation research, and sharing outcomes of evaluation and



higher education worldwide. Up to present, it has published more than 80 English academic articles, which have been downloaded over 1,220 times, 15 times per every article.

In 2015, HEED has successfully released eight articles in English and four in Mandarin in Vol. 9.1 and 9.2. Both volumes have a total of 17 citations and 15 reviewers. Every article was written by versatile scholars concerning quality assurance and evaluation of higher education, not just in Chinese Taipei, but countries worldwide including Canada and various European countries.

From 2016, 50 hard copies and 150 logs in account of online version of the journal will be provided to the members of APQN.

## THE COMING NEWS

### Global Summit on Quality Higher Education in India

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India, is organizing "Global Summit on Quality Higher Education: Sharing Values and Fostering Trust Beyond Borders" on 16-17 September 2016 at Bengaluru, India. The Global summit is being organized in collaboration with Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN).

It is slated to be a landmark event in history of QA with all key networks and QA bodies joining hands to address many current issues by initiating dialogue among key stakeholders and leaders of global higher education quality assurance community. See details on Summit website [www.naac-gqs2016.com](http://www.naac-gqs2016.com)



## International Conference on the New Frontiers of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher Education in MPI



The International Conference on 'The New Frontiers of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher Education', organized by Macao Polytechnic Institute and co-organized by the Asia-Pacific Quality Network will be held in Macao from 22 to 24 November 2016. International scholars and experts are welcome to submit papers on different aspects of teaching and learning quality such as:

- Theories and practices of teaching and learning quality assurance systems;
- Deep learning;
- Outcome-based approach to teaching and learning;
- Student evaluation of teachers (SET) and teacher self-evaluation (TSE);
- Voice of students to enhance teaching effectiveness;
- Quality assurance framework to safeguard and enhance international student experience;
- Use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in teaching and learning enhancement;

- Contention between teaching and research in higher education;
- Case studies of teaching and learning quality assurance in higher education with special reference to the Asia-Pacific regions; and
- Other relevant topics relating to conference theme.

## THE COOPERATIONS

### MoU Between the EASPA and APQN



European Alliance for Subject-Specific and Professional Accreditation and Quality Assurance (EASPA) and the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) signed the MoU on May 27, 2016 during the APQN 2016 Conference in Fiji. Both sides agree to:

- work together in implementing a disciplinary learning outcomes approach in higher education and quality management;
- set up projects to that regard;
- communicate regularly and share information regarding higher education accreditation issues and initiatives;
- exchange invitations to observe association/consortium meetings and special events, with registration offered at the members rate for meetings, workshops and special events; and
- open discussion with the other association/consortium where an opportunity exists to further enhance relations or where joint initiatives may be beneficial;
- Cooperate in any other mutually agreed activities for the benefit of both parties.



## Welcome Your Idea for APQN Collaborative Research Link

Research Collaborations are aimed to build the capacity of an individual i.e. to progressively increase the skills and experience of a researcher to produce high quality research. Collaborations can be aimed chiefly at expanding the base of knowledge of institutions located in different parts of the globe. The value of educational research lies in the application of its results to the improvement of educational provision. With these objectives in mind the APQN plans to start a Collaborative Research Link for all its members.

The link to the main Collaborative Research Portal would have a list of all the subjects of research of all the different institutes/organizations. Hence, to begin with, all the members interested in Collaborative Research would submit a list of their areas of interest of collaborative research. The person or institution interested in a particular field/subject would click on the desired subject/topic. It would then link him to all the interested institutions/organizations registered under APQN having researchers in those fields. The researcher can then contact the desired institution/organization. There would be a format for the 'Expression of Interest' form, which the member would have to fill and submit to the concerned institution.

For Example: APQN Home page → Collaborative Research Portal → Subjects/Themes of Research (drop down list of all topics submitted by members) → Select one Subject/Theme → List of all institutions carrying research in that area will appear → Select Desired Institution → Fill EOI form.

The work is in progress and ideas are invited to forward to APQN Secretariat ([apqnsecretariat@163.com](mailto:apqnsecretariat@163.com)).



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE



- The APQN 2016-2019 Strategic Plan is available at:

[http://www.apqn.org/files/virtual\\_library/other\\_reports/apqn\\_strategic\\_plan\\_2016-2019\(final\\_version\\_jul\\_4,\\_2016\).pdf](http://www.apqn.org/files/virtual_library/other_reports/apqn_strategic_plan_2016-2019(final_version_jul_4,_2016).pdf)

- The APQN Annual Report 2015 is available at:

[http://www.apqn.org/files/virtual\\_library/other\\_reports/apqn\\_annual\\_report\\_2015\(final\).pdf](http://www.apqn.org/files/virtual_library/other_reports/apqn_annual_report_2015(final).pdf)

- The materials for the APQN 2016 Conference and AGM is available at:

<http://www.apqn.org/events/past/details/?id=488>

- APQN Quality Information Portal is available at:

<http://www.horizoncampus.edu.lk/apqn/>

### ***Welcome Your Contribution for the APQNews***

Does your organization have any news that you would like to share with the region? Are there any upcoming international quality events that you would like to release in the APQNews? APQN welcomes all contributions for the next issue of APQNews (for the period of Sep.-Dec., 2016), and kindly email them to Mr. Zhang Lingfei, APQN Administrator at: [apqnsecretariat@163.com](mailto:apqnsecretariat@163.com).