

APQNews

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Asia-Pacific Quality Network

HIGHLIGHTS

GIQAC Annual Implementation Support and Review Mission



On November 18th, 2009, Dr. Kin Bing Wu, a representative of World Bank visited the APQN Secretariat in Shanghai in order to undertake the GIQAC annual implementation support and review mission. Such a mission is intended to emphasize implementation progress, as well as progress against the results agreement of APQN. The mission report will be used to inform the GIQAC Steering Committee on implementation progress.

The mission went well and APQN proved that we had rigorous GIQAC procedures in place. In the mission report, implementation arrangements, general record keeping and reporting and intermediate indicators are regarded as highly satisfactory; overall project objectives, procurement and financial

management are judged as satisfactory; and disbursements are rated as moderately satisfactory. The report noted APQN's modest income from membership fees and suggests that APQN pays more attention to sustainability and considers alternative sources of financing for the long term, such as increasing membership fees, charging wealthier countries a higher membership fee and seeking corporate sponsorships.

Resignation of the APQN Vice President

Ms Dorte Kristoffersen of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) resigned from her position as Vice President of APQN effective as of 7 January 2010 as she is going to move to the US with her family. Let us take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to Dorte Kristoffersen for her great contribution to APQN in the process of establishment and consolidation of the network.

Restructuring of the Board

The resignation of the APQN Vice President necessitated a restructure of the APQN Board due to vacancies that arose. The Constitution does not specify a process for a change among the Board

office bearers. The Board was therefore primarily guided by Article 51 in the Constitution which suggests that 'When an occasional vacancy occurs on the Board, the Board shall make an appointment to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the vacating Board Member's term of office.' On that basis the Board now has the following composition until the next election in 2011:

- Dr Antony Stella of Australian Universities Quality Agency was appointed by the Board as the new Vice-President.
- Professor Colin Peiris, of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of Sri Lanka, who was already co-opted to the Board, was appointed as Board member.
- Mrs. Fepulea'i Sinapi Moli of Samoa Qualifications Authority was co-opted to the Board.

Welcome to New Members

Higher Education Evaluation Center (HEEC), China and General Department of Vocational Training, Vietnam were approved by the Board to be the Full Member and Intermediate Member respectively. Samoa Qualifications Authority was approved to upgrade its membership status from Intermediate to Full member.

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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Memorandum of Cooperation between AUQA and NAAC

On 27 August, 2009 the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), both APQN members renewed the Memorandum of Cooperation with effect from August 2009. During the first three years of the memorandum of cooperation, staff exchanges and discussions have promoted a better understanding of the two agencies' policies and procedures. Building on this, the new version of the memorandum of cooperation details further actions for the next three years (2009-2011). In the next phase of the MoC, emphasis will be given to including Indian good practices in quality assurance in the AUQA Good Practice Database.



GIQAC UPDATE

GIQAC 2009-2010 Projects

APQN was awarded the second round Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC) grant for USD\$90,000 to cover the period December 18, 2009 to October 31, 2010. The approved projects include:

- Expansion of APQN's website.
- Consolidation of existing database of consultants and Reviewers.
- Internship and Cross-regional Staff Exchange Program.
- Training and Research in Quality Assurance and Accreditation.
- Moderated Online Discussion Forum and IIEP Project.
- Liaison and Communication among APQN Members and Regional Networks.
- Linking Internal and External Quality Assurance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration Open for APQN 2010 Conference and AGM | *2010 International Information Package Workshop*

The registration for the APQN 2010 Conference and AGM is available at: www.onesqa.or.th/apqn2010 from Tuesday 15 December 2009 to Monday 15 February 2010. The Conference and AGM will be held in Bangkok from March 3-5, 2010 on the theme "Enhancing Quality of Higher Education in the Developing World". Details of the conference could be found at www.apqn.org/events/ and www.onesqa.or.th/apqn2010. We look forward to meeting you in Bangkok

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) from the UK, Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education (HEEC) from China and National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE) from Japan will co-host the 2010 International Information Package Workshop on Monday 2 March 2010, at Siam City Hotel Bangkok, as a pre-conference workshop of the APQN 2010 Conference and AGM. The workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss and share practices and experiences regarding the themes of 'mutual understanding' among organizations responsible for quality assurance and 'strategies for providing information' to enhance mutual understanding. The detail of the workshop is available at: <http://www.apqn.org/events/>.

We encourage members of APQN to submit content to be published in the new APQNews by March 31, 2010. This is intended to be a quarterly newsletter.

Wishing You a Prosperous New Year !