



# INQAAHE Bulletin March 2016

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## President's message

### Signals from Incheon and Paris 2015 – Some Reflections for Global QA Community



#### Ideas whose time is yet to come?

Dear Colleagues, brothers and sisters,

Greetings and good wishes for Easter.

By the end of March 2016, the current Board of INQAAHE would complete one year of tenure. I feel honoured to get this opportunity to serve INQAAHE in this year which coincides with 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of this global network. It has been year of great learning

for me. Many things have been planned, some delivered and quite a few initiatives are waiting for an opportune time to go live in action.

One year before while taking over as INQAAHE President in Chicago, I shared with general assembly some of my ideas and dreams for INQAAHE. Most of these ideas were also part of my election manifesto to which INQAAHE members voted enthusiastically indicating the mandate for change and progress.

While taking stock of progress made and lessons learnt, I realize that for any idea to click an opportune time needs to come. This reminds me of Victor Hugo's famous quote – **'Nothing is stronger than an idea whose time has come'**.

Taking clue from this spirit of hope, I take liberty to present before INQAAHE members some ideas with hope that someday it can be a reality.

#### Global Quality Assurance Register in higher education- GQAR?

External quality assurance of quality assurance agency is not a new phenomenon any more. Many bodies and networks are now engaged in review of QA bodies. The Guidelines of Good Practices [GGP] developed by INQAAHE is one very good example. So far about 18 QA bodies have gone through process of alignment and three are applications are under process. The revised version of GGP after work of about two years, is now ready for launch.

In Europe ENQA stipulates that its full members are reviewed against European Standards and Guidelines [ESG]. Similarly European Quality Assurance Register [EQAR] is also engaged with review of agencies which desire to be listed on EQAR which is gaining popularity in Europe.

Council of Higher Education Accreditation [CHEA] in USA is one of the largest and oldest body which has Sixty recognized institutional and programmatic accrediting



organizations. Besides its recognition criteria, it has recently come out with International Quality Principles which are being promoted through its international division CIQG. It appears though, that affiliation to CIQG principles would not require a review visit.

The latest addition is Asia Pacific Quality Register [APQR], promoted by Asia Pacific Quality Network for agencies in the region of Asia and the Pacific which is based on combination of Chiba Principles and APQN membership criteria. This is a voluntary service to APQN members and beyond seeking international recognition and higher benchmarking.

I have always believed and hoped that rather than competition among these bodies cooperation is very much possible and beneficial. In this small article I have tried to list some challenges and possibilities about mutual recognition of external reviews.

### **Possibilities**

Mutual recognition of external reviews is perhaps the most convenient way forward. It is known that QA agencies are inclined to approach local or regional body either because it is legal requirement or because of other issues of socio economical relevance and preference.

Many of these would also desire to get alignment of GGP or other international recognition so as to increase visibility around the globe and aspire for higher benchmarks. However, cost and/ or time involved in the process may be one of the limiting factor for agencies to go for multiple reviews.

If we succeed in having MoU among different national, regional and international bodies that based on certain guidelines, peer review done by one body will be considered by other for grant of recognition or listing on register, this will be a great facility for agencies.

Besides this all agencies which are engaged in review and recognition of accreditation agencies can join together and provide a listing of quality assured accreditation agencies on a single platform, 'The Global Quality assurance in higher education [GQARHE]' . It can simply be called GQAR.

This will also serve as one stop solution for those who are looking for recognised QA bodies.

This can also be a humble contribution towards alienating Accreditation mills which are becoming a global menace these days.



## **Challenges**

One key challenge is comparability of criteria or standards adopted by different review bodies. These are evolved over time in different contexts and socio-economic or even in varied legal systems.

In some systems good standing with government is key requirement whereas some systems advocate field or market based independence and autonomy. How such delicate issues would be addressed in mutual recognition is a challenge.

The biggest challenge is that different bodies have started at different point of time and a lot of significance and involvement is attached with the review process. Accepting review by other agency could be an issue. There could also be a feeling of competition or encroachment on domain or territory.

Another issue could be financial stakes involved. It is possible that revenue or fees from review may be an important source for finance for a few bodies. In such cases, doing away with own review and relying on other review could be an issue. Even if mutual recognition is possible, there could be concerns of revenue sharing.

A major challenge is who will take initiative and what will be role and the stakes for multiple, high-profile stakeholders if they need to come together.

## **Some options for launch of GQAR**

I believe, INQAAHE being the global network with rich experience of 25 years, is ideally placed to offer this service to global higher education community. But it's the call that Board or general assembly needs to take. I may not be the only or first person to moot this idea. But as of now it's just an idea, whose time might not have come.

Alternately all bodies engaged in review, recognition or listing of accreditation agencies can come together to form an alliance and launch GQAR as joint global initiative. If we could pool intergovernmental bodies like UNESCO to support this venture, it would be great service to QA agencies, institutions and students all over the world.

## **Some other ideas**

While I have elaborated on one idea, I would like to list a few other ideas whose time may come sooner or later.

**Global Quality information portal** which can pool all the information about accredited institutes and programs by QA agencies around the world to facilitate international student mobility is one idea which is very ambitious and resource intensive but which will help millions of students who wish to be internationally mobile.

In fact constitution of INQAAHE has listed following among its purposes.



- To assist members to determine the standards of institutions operating across national borders and facilitate better-informed international recognition of qualifications;
- To assist in the development and use of credit transfer and credit accumulation schemes to enhance the mobility of students between institutions (within and across national borders);
- To enable members to be alert to improper quality assurance practices and organisations;

**Global alliance of QA networks** , can be a platform where all networks come together formally and raise voice of global QA community by way of declarations , position papers and discussion papers on issues of importance such as Degree mills and accreditation Mills, upholding ethical and professional standards in higher education quality assurance . This can act as global voice and influence policy makers at regional and international level so as to promote sustainable eco system of quality assurance in higher education.

### **A day will come!**

Long back in 1849, Victor Hugo said this in opening address at Peace Congress:

***"A day will come when there will be no battlefields, but markets opening to commerce and minds opening to ideas. A day will come when the bullets and bombs are replaced by votes, by universal suffrage, by the venerable arbitration of a great supreme senate which will be to Europe what Parliament is to England, the Diet to Germany, and the Legislative Assembly to France. A day will come when a cannon will be a museum-piece, as instruments of torture are today. And we will be amazed to think that these things once existed!"***

Perhaps it was difficult for many [and none exists to see as it happened later ] that it will ever be a reality.

Saluting this spirit of optimism, during my one year's tenure as President, I have humbly placed these and many such ideas for your consideration. They are neither official proposals nor promises of the President but dreams of an ordinary member among you who believe in power of ideas and potential of the dreams. Aim is to stimulate brainstorming and discussions among stakeholders so that alternative or new ideas can come forward so that decision making bodies have multiple options to consider in a democratic way.

I strongly believe that a day will come when we all will come together to see that some of these ideas and dreams would become reality after a good deal of churning which is true sign of democratic sprit.

I look forward to see you in Fiji Forum where reflecting on 25 years of achievements and learning, we will try to celebrate our dreams for the future of QA fraternity.



With all kind wishes and regards

**JP**

**Dr. Jagannath Patil**

President, The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)

[jp.naacindia@gmail.com](mailto:jp.naacindia@gmail.com)

Bangalore, India

25<sup>th</sup> March 2016, The Good Friday

**"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime." —Martin Luther**



## News from the Secretariat

### Ni Sa Bula. Fiji warmly welcomes you all to her shores

#### FHEC Executive Chair's Message

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Forum being held in the 25th year of INQAAHE. The Forum whose theme is on "Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Challenging Times" is to be held from 22nd – 24th May, 2016 at The InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa in Natadola, Fiji. The INQAAHE Forum, an annual event, is an international collaboration on topics of the future direction of Quality Assurance in Higher Education.



Globalisation brings each of us closer together, presenting new and different challenges and opportunities. Understanding this new future is vital for our collective destiny and will help shape our future through networking with our peers during the Forum gathering. The event is anticipated to draw over 100 member agencies, provide a platform for professional development and allow meaningful networking and knowledge-sharing on issues and challenges in higher education.

The FHEC is ecstatic to host the 2016 INQAAHE Forum, an ideal setting for knowledge-sharing and mutual exchange on current quality assurance issues and challenges in higher education, and the opportunity to share the unique cultural flavours of Fiji and the Pacific.

We hope that you will join us in what is sure to be an extraordinary event! We look forward to welcoming you to our homeland.

Dr. Milika Naqasima Sobey  
Executive Chairwoman, Fiji Higher Education Commission

[Programme](#)

[Registration](#)

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## Membership mutations

INQAAHE welcomes the following new members:

- [Agency for quality assurance in the field of education EdNet](#) (Full Member).Kyrgyz Republic.
- [Dr. D. Y. Patil Arts, Commerce and Science College](#) (Associate Member). India
- Prof. Hilary Winchester (Affiliate). Australia
- [EQAA European Quality Assurance Agency](#) (Full Member).Germany



## News from members

### National Authority for Qualifications & Quality Assurance of Education & Training Forums

#### Kingdom of Bahrain

Under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Jawaher S. Al Mudhahki, Chief Executive of the National Authority for Qualifications & Quality Assurance of Education & Training (QQA) of the Kingdom of Bahrain, five forums were held; namely the following:

- The General Directorate of the National Qualifications Framework 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum entitled "NQF...Paving the Way for Education Development" from 25-26 November 2015, and the Forum encompassed of five paper and two workshop.
- The Directorate of National Examinations (DNE) organised its 4<sup>th</sup> Forum on 14 January 2016 under the theme "National Examinations: Capacity Development to Improve Performance", and the Forum covered three sessions.
- The Directorate of Government and Private schools & Kindergartens Reviews held its 4<sup>th</sup> Forum under the theme "Teaching & Learning in Intermediate Schools: A Quality Perspective" on 20 January 2016, and the Forum included three papers and two discussion sessions.
- Under the theme "Vocational Education and Training: Going the extra mile – Closing the gaps", the Directorate of Vocational Reviews organised its 4<sup>th</sup> Forum on 4 February 2016, which contained three main papers, two workshops and discussion sessions.
- The Directorate of Higher Education Reviews held its 4<sup>th</sup> Forum titled "Enhancing Academic Standards in Higher Education" on 17 February 2016. The Forum comprised five papers and a discussion session.



### **Technical Expert Exchange Programme. 28 February – 3 March 2016**

As part of activating the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed earlier with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and the National Qualifications Authority (NQA) of the United Arab Emirates, the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education & Training (QQA) of the Kingdom of Bahrain received six delegates from both organisations during the period from 28 February to 3 March 2016. This comes as part of the agreement on the professional development of each organisation's employees as internship for a period to provide the delegates with training on the processes, information and knowledge related to Bahrain's National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The training covered a number of activities related to NQF including the institutional listing and qualification placement processes; in addition to other QQA mandates such as the conduct of quality assurance reviews and national examinations.

The delegates had an opportunity to observe an onsite validation event of qualifications for one of the higher education institution.

The last day of the visit included a session on exchange of good practices among the three organisations: QQA, MQA and NQA. The delegates expressed their appreciation and the usefulness of the programme looking forward to more opportunities for collaboration and exchange of knowledge among their organisations.





## Overview of Higher Education and Quality Assurance Development in Macao

In this article, we would like to give you a brief introduction to the higher education in Macao, and also look into the development of Quality Assurance in the higher education sector.

Macao is a special administrative region of China and has a population of around 600,000 people. The Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) is the Government Department that oversees higher education related matters in Macao. Macao has seen rapid development in higher education development in recent decades. The first university was established in 1991. At present, there are 10 HEIs, amongst which 4 are public, 6 are private. The media of instruction are Chinese, Portuguese and English.

About 16% of the Macao population has a higher education degree. The 10 higher education institutions combined enroll about 30,000 students. Students are from Macao and Mainland China and abroad. At present, there are around 275 programs in operation. The top 5 programmes in terms of student enrollment are Business and Management, Tourism and Entertainment, Law, Journalism and Communication, Languages and Literature.

The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the HEIs recognized the importance of quality assurance. Since 2012, we have been working together to develop a Quality Assurance Framework. In this framework, evaluations are conducted at the institutional level, and program level. At the Institutional Level, there are the Institutional Accreditation, and Institutional Quality Audit. At the Program Level, there are the Program Accreditation, and Program Review.

The Macao Government has no plan to set up its own Accrediting Body in the near future, and instead the Government will let HEIs approach External Quality Assurance Agencies. Before the appointment of EQAA, the HEI has to receive prior approval from the Government. The results of the evaluations will have to be confirmed by the Macao Government.

To cater for the needs and characteristics of the Macao, the Government has developed four sets of QA guidelines that stipulate the standards and procedures of each of the evaluation exercise, they are the "Guidelines on Institutional Accreditation", "Guidelines on Institutional Quality Audit", "Guidelines on New Program Accreditation", and "Guidelines for External Quality Assurance Agencies". The "Guidelines on Program Review" is under development at this point. The first pilot study on Program Accreditation will be concluded before the end of 2016.

Since 2012, the Macao Government has signed up to be members of The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE), Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG).


If you would like to know more about the QA development in Macao, you are welcome to contact the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) at [qa@gaes.gov.mo](mailto:qa@gaes.gov.mo) for assistance.

## Quality Assurance Development in Macao, China

### Tertiary Education Services Office

Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) is a unit of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region. The office oversees all matters relating to higher education affairs. The establishment of the Quality Assurance System is one of the key areas of development.

### Quality Assurance Framework



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graph LR
    QA[Quality Assurance] --> IL[Institutional Level]
    QA --> PL[Programme Level]
    IL --> IA[Institutional Accreditation]
    IL --> IQA[Institutional Quality Audit]
    PL --> PA[Programme Accreditation]
    PL --> PR[Programme Review]
    
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### Current Key Facts

- 4 public and 6 private higher education institutions.
- Around 30,000 students are registered in the year 2014/2015.
- Around 275 programmes are in operation in the year 2014/2015.
- Medium of instruction includes Chinese, English and Portuguese.
- Top 5 programmes in terms of student enrollment are:
 

Business and Management
Tourism and Entertainment
Law
Journalism and Communication
Languages and Literature

### Current Development in Quality Assurance

- Institutions will commission External Quality Assurance Agencies (EQAA) to conduct these evaluations.
- Guidelines on each evaluation are being developed.
- First phase pilot study is on Programme Accreditation.

### Collaboration

Quality Assurance Agencies that are well-established and are able to conduct evaluations outside of their own countries are potential EQAAs for institutions in Macao. For further information, please contact our office.

**Contact Information** ◀ **Tertiary Education Services Office**  
(Gabinete de Apoio ao Ensino Superior, GAES)

◀ Website: [www.gaes.gov.mo](http://www.gaes.gov.mo)

◀ Email: [qa@gaes.gov.mo](mailto:qa@gaes.gov.mo)



## Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago Students Caravan: providing Information to Protect Stakeholder Investment in Higher Education

Michael Bradshaw and Daryl Steele

In light of the increased incidence of fraudulent virtual colleges and universities internationally, to which potential students are falling prey, [The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago \(ACTT\)](#) is mindful of the need to provide stakeholders with accurate information on quality higher education and training. ACTT believes that the provision of such information is essential to sound decision-making in selecting higher education institutions or programmes of study and to the protection of stakeholders' investments.

As part of ACTT's public education programme, the 'Students Caravan' initiative was formally launched in 2011. This is an outreach service designed to educate communities on the importance of quality higher education. Equipped with technology that facilitates video and oral presentations by ACTT's staff, the Caravan travels to remote areas to make the Council's services more accessible to students throughout Trinidad and Tobago.



Students are exposed to the hazards of diploma mills and are provided with guidelines on how to identify them. Advice is also given on the benefits of verifying the status of institutions and programmes before embarking on further study. They are informed that ACTT issues Statements on Recognition, which document the quality assured status and

recognition of institutions and programmes. Students are also guided to refer to ACTT's online Compendium of Registered, Accredited and Recognised Institutions, Awarding Bodies and Programmes, should they wish to study in Trinidad and Tobago.

Since the inception of the Students Caravan initiative, ACTT has visited over seventy (70) secondary schools and institutions as well as several communities across both our islands. ACTT views itself as responsible for protecting the interests of students in the post secondary and tertiary education and training system and remains committed to its awareness drive

### **Bridging the gap between QEC and other departments**

Ms. Reema Zahid Director Quality Enhancement Cell, Khadim Ali Shah Bukhair Institute of Technology was invited as a resource person for the workshop "Bridging the gap between QEC and other Departments", organized by QEC Institute of Business and Technology. Brief introduction was given regarding the responsibilities of Quality Enhancement Cell Department and their importance in developing quality standards within a university. Discussion was then carried out regarding the responsibilities of different departments towards achieving excellence in educational standards and how other can provide support towards Quality Enhancement Cell. The session ended with question answers from the audience.



### **Japan University Accreditation Association Held the 3rd JUAA Presidents' Seminar**

As Japanese higher education faces various challenges, Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) has come to play critical roles. JUAA wishes to help Japanese colleges and universities to meet the challenges by regularly disseminating vital information and offering opportunities for addressing and discussing various topics concerning higher education. One such attempt is to have JUAA Presidents' Seminars.

The 3rd seminar was held on January 23, 2016, and JUAA set the theme of "Defining the Mission of Today's University Presidents: Rethinking University Reform" and invited three notable lecturers. Approximately 120 current Japanese university presidents and vice-presidents participated.

The first lecturer, Ph.D. Shen-Li Fu is currently the Chairman of the Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA), Honorary President of I-Shou University in Taiwan. For the seminar, based on his experiences as a university president, he presented a lecture, entitled "The changes and reform of higher education and the evaluation."



The second lecturer was Ph.D. Kyosuke Nagata, who is the President of University of Tsukuba. In his lecture, entitled "The reforms of the national universities," President Nagata spoke about the reform of University of Tsukuba in detail.

The third lecturer was the current President of Hosei University, Yuko Tanaka. She presented a lecture entitled "What are the reforms needed at universities."

Following the lectures, we had a session of questions, answers, and idea exchanges, moderated by Dr. Norihiko Suzuki, currently the President of Akita International University and Advisor to JUAA. There were lively discussions and exchanges of views.



### Islamic Online University usage of Moodle

On 6 February 2016, New Delhi hosted the first ever MoodleMoot, a conference for Moodle users in India. A case study on the Islamic Online University's usage of Moodle was presented at the conference by Mr. Farhan Karmali, Lecturer, Department of Information Technology, Islamic Online University. The presentation, ***Making Moodle Work for You***, was greatly appreciated by everyone at the conference and especially by Mr. Martin Dougiamas, Founder and CEO, Moodle.



Moodle is an open source learning management system that is used by the Islamic Online University (IOU) to host its degree, diploma and certificate courses and facilitate student learning. Since IOU is a completely online university it depends heavily on Moodle to



*Mr. Farhan Karmali delivering his presentation at the MoodleMoot*

serve as the campus learning area. Due to the open source nature of Moodle, it can be customized to meet specific requirements. In the process to optimize functioning of the University, the IT department has achieved a lot of customization and automation within Moodle which is not originally present in the platform.

The efforts of the IT department of the University on extending Moodle was termed as innovative and very useful. The University exerts a lot of effort to ensure that the students have a seamless experience during their course of study. The case study presented at the conference contained details about the list of customizations done at IOU on Moodle to meet the growing demands of the University's students and staff alike.

Due to the enormous customization and automation work done on the Moodle, the University is able to manage over 100 courses catering over 100,000 students, spread across various departments and streams of study, very efficiently.



*Mr. Martin Dougiamas, Founder and CEO, Moodle appreciating IOU presentation*



## **FAST-NU QEC presents two research papers on quality in higher education in 14th International Conference of Statistical Sciences in Karachi**



Mr. Farrukh Idrees, Manager QEC, FAST-NU Pakistan presented two research papers on quality in Higher Education in 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Statistical Sciences organized by Islamic Society of Statistical Sciences in March 2016 in Karachi. More than 120 research papers were presented on the application of statistics in education management, manufacturing, energy management etc. by scholars and professionals in different sessions of the conference. The significance of the research presented by FAST-NU QEC was highly admired by the participating scholars, jury, and the practitioners for enhancing the standards of education. A certificate of appreciation was awarded by the jury to Mr. Farrukh Idrees for his research on the emerging theme of quality in higher education.

## **FAST-NU QEC holds a training workshop on Integration of Information Technology in Outcome Based Education and Assessment in Air University**

Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at FAST-National University is committed to facilitate in continual staff development, systems' upgradation, and capacity building of stakeholders for flourishing of Outcome Based Education (OBE) model in education management. This would espouse the cause of good policy making and efficient delivery of knowledge, as per the requirements of Higher Education Commission (HEC) and accreditation councils. In recognition to the above, FAST-NU QEC delivered a key note lecture on "Integration of Information Technology in Outcome Based Education and Assessment (as per HEC requirements)" dated 03 Feb, 2016 in Air University, Islamabad. The training was sponsored by HEC to facilitate for non-faculty staff of more than 20 universities. The participants were from SZABIST, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), International Islamic University, Foundation University etc. All participating universities extended their keen interest to burgeon further professional linkages in future to share best practices between FAST-National University and their respective institutes on periodic basis for mutual quality assurance developments with integrated IT perspectives in terms of ranking frameworks at national and international levels.

## **QEC of FAST National University Pakistan participates in an international workshop organized by APO-Japan**

Mr. Farrukh Idrees, Manager Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at FAST National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (NUCES) presented a case study of quality and diversity management in FAST-NU in an international training from 6 to 9 October 2015

on Diversity Management and Human Capital Strategy” held in Islamabad The purpose of the training workshop was to share best practices in quality and diversity management for fostering the culture of productivity and quality in Asian context, which subsequently may ameliorate economic progress of the region. About fifteen quality and productivity experts from ten Asian countries belonging to various service industries e.g. higher education, tourism, knowledge parks etc. participated in the training and presented their respective country papers. On the approval of NPO-Pakistan. The research presented by Mr. Farrukh was highly appreciated by the participant countries and some of them expressed their keen interest in its further exploration through future research ventures with FAST National University Quality Enhancement Cell.

### **FAST-NU QEC Participates in HEC 10<sup>th</sup> QEC Progress Review Meeting**

Manager QEC Islamabad Campus, Farrukh Idrees, delivered a key presentation on FAST-NUCES QEC milestones for year 2015-16 in HEC 10th QEC Progress Review Meeting held on 09 March, 2016. The meeting was attended by Directors QECs of fifteen W Category universities of Pakistan. With the commitment of management at all levels, FAST NU internal quality mechanism has achieved W level of assessment with score points of 88% in HEC QEC Assessment for year 2015. The outstanding progress of FAST-NU QEC for the subject period was highly admired by the participant universities.



### **FAST-NU QEC conducts self-assessment visit at CFD Campus and Karachi Campuses**

FAST-NU Faisalabad and Karachi Campus conducted a full day QEC Assessment Team visit in February 2016. The assessed programs include MS Computer Network and Security, MBA, and BS Accounting and Finance. The assessment team from COMSATS, National Textile University, and PAT-KIET Graduate School of Science and Technology Karachi thoroughly examined the subject programs against 31 criteria and 8 standards of HEC Self-Assessment process. The activity involved rigorous documentation review, interviews with faculty, students, and management, and site visits.





### **FAST-NU QEC Qualifies as AQAIIW Honorary Associate Member**

FAST-NU QEC has been successfully qualified as an honorary associate member of Association of Quality Assurance Agencies of the Islamic World (AQAIIW). This honorary status has been awarded to FAST-NU QEC in response to its membership application supported with substantial evidences for prolific contribution at national and international forums of quality assurance in higher education. The AQAIIW adopts the Kuala Lumpur Declaration 2009 and the QA-Islamic Constitution. It's all participating agencies, universities, and ministries work together under the QA-Islamic umbrella towards the enhancement of quality in the higher education in countries of the Islamic world.

By becoming the member of the above body, FAST-NU QEC may be able to reap myriad benefits for example: Collaboration with the international members of AQAIIW for benchmarking and standardization of best practices in higher education quality management; Enhancing its spectrum of activities and visibility in the international community of higher education; Participate in its pertinent events, as a contributor and participant. Further, obtaining such memberships also carries weightage in HEC ranking frameworks.



## News from networks

### CEENQA Anniversary Meeting in Krakow

The annual workshop and general assembly of the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies will take place in Krakow on **13-14 May 2016**. It is the **15<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the official founding of the CEE Network (now CEENQA), also in Krakow in 2001. Again, the meetings will be hosted by the University Accreditation Commission, in collaboration with the Polish Accreditation Committee.

In the general assembly, four Board members will be elected or re-elected. The topic of the workshop will be the **Quality Assurance of Transnational Education**. Prior to the workshop, CEENQA will conduct a survey, led by **Nora Skaburskiené**, acting director of SKVC Lithuania, to explore the scope and approach to transnational education and its quality assurance among its members and to pave the way for discussion on the challenges CEENQA agencies are facing. It will be interesting to see if the identified challenges and practices differ from those identified among other groups, such as the survey for the QACHE project.

INQAAHE member agencies interested in participating in the event are asked to contact Christina Rozsnyai, Secretary General of CEENQA, at [rozsnyai@mab.hu](mailto:rozsnyai@mab.hu).

### The East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network 6th QA Conference in May 2016



With the support of the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA), the Uganda National Commission for Higher Education, DAAD and the Aga Khan University, the East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN) will hold its 6th Quality Assurance Conference on May 16-20, 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda. EAQAN is a network of higher education quality assurance practitioners in the region covering Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda countries as members.

The main Goal of the Conference is to foster dialogue through sharing of ideas on higher education policies, QA practices, challenges and prospects for promoting quality higher education in the region. The conference theme will be on enhancing teaching quality for better student outcomes with three major topics:

- Strengthening Internal Quality Assurance Systems in East African Higher Education Institutions: Issues, approaches and challenges
- Supporting Teaching Quality in East African Higher Education Institutions
- Assuring quality of open, online and distance education provision for equitable and sustainable tertiary education





The conference activities will include paper presentations on various topics aligned to the three topics, expert panel discussions on key issues, roundtable dialogues, training workshops and networking events.

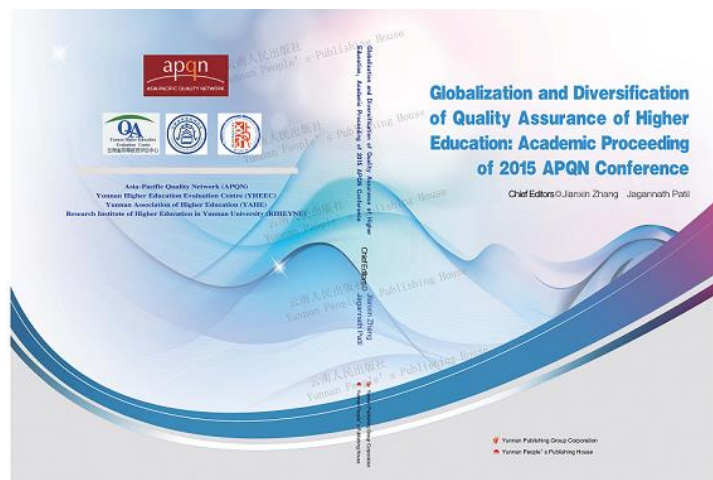
EAQAN seeks to benchmark good practice with other regional networks and INQAAHE members to contribute to improvement of quality in HEIs in the region. For more information about EAQAN and the conference please visit <http://www.iucea.org/EAQAN/>

### The Publication of APQN 2015 Conference Proceedings

In January, 2016, the Proceedings of 2015 APQN Conference *Globalization and Diversification of Quality Assurance of Higher Education* has been formally published by the Yunnan People’s Publishing House. Prof. Jianxin Zhang (APQN Board member) and Dr. Jagannath Pail (APQN President) are the joint chief editors.

The proceedings include 49 selective papers with the following sub-themes in over 400 pages: (1) Quality Assurance of Cross-Board Higher Education, International Accreditation and International Cooperation; (2) Internal Quality Assurance, Including Programme, Project and Course Accreditation; (3) Professional Accreditation, Quality Labels and Ranking; ( 4) Quality Assurance of Open Educational Resources, Massive Open Online Courses in Post-Traditional Provisions; (5) Teacher Assessment and Student Learning Outcomes Assessment; (6)Qualifications Frameworks, Quality Assurance and Information Systems.

As approved by the APQN Board, the hard copy of the book is sold with the comprehensive price of USD 20 including the cost of postage and others. If you are interested, kindly contact Ms. Yu Qiuyue from YHEEC by e-mail [365016225@qq.com](mailto:365016225@qq.com).



### Call for Nominations for APQN Quality Awards 2016

APQN would encourage members which have been doing much more outstanding work individually, institutionally, nationally as well as internationally to submit applications for Quality Awards. APQN Quality Award is intended to identify and distinguish extraordinary or prominent QA contributions and good practices that have potential of replications in the Asia-Pacific area. APQN Criteria and Chiba principles will be generally applied to all categories as selection criteria.



The 2016 APQN Quality Award categories are as follows:

- i. APQN Best/Model Internal QA Award*
- ii. APQN Quality Champions Award*
- iii. APQN International Cooperation in QA Award Within the Region*
- iv. APQN International Cooperation in QA Award Outside the Region*
- v. APQN Strengthening QA Profession Award*

Nomination Template

- Award category
- Names and contact details of members being nominated
- Names and contact details of the person making nomination
- Detailed description of Award nomination

(including background, purpose, procedures, reasons of success and impact in APQN; relevant evidence; up to 800 words)

- Promotion value (up to 200 words)

Nomination Submission

Only CEOs of full and intermediate members of APQN and Board members of APQN can send nominations for themselves or other APQN members. The presidents of institutional members could send nominations for themselves or other APQN institutional members for APQN's Best Internal QA Award. Nominations could be submitted to APQN Administrator of Mr. Fang Le by email at [apqnsecretariat@163.com](mailto:apqnsecretariat@163.com) by **Monday, 18 April 2016**.

### **APQN 6th Online Forum**

APQN has conducted the 6<sup>th</sup> online discussion forum in March, 2015. The upcoming forum will focus on two themes: Quality Management of Distance Education and Research in Quality Assurance.

The forum will mainly focus 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 will be 3 more sub-themes to be further discussed, namely,

1. Quality Management of Distance Education





2. External Review of Online Courses, MOOCs and OER
3. Research on Quality Assurance of Higher Education

APQN has invited three reputed facilitators from different countries to run the 6<sup>th</sup> online Forum:

1. Dr. Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic
2. Prof. Asha Kanwar
3. Professor Deane Neubauer

The whole Forum will be convened by Prof. Angela Yung-Chi Hou, Vice President of APQN.

There are about 80 participants from 22 member agencies of 12 countries/ territories for the online forum.



## Upcoming events

### The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual CANQATE Conference & General Meeting

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

UNDER THE THEME: Sustaining a Culture of Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education for National and Regional Development



The National Accreditation Council- Guyana

Dates: October 4-7, 2016

Venue: Arthur Chung Convention Centre, Liliendaal, Georgetown, Guyana

The Conference accepts papers on the following sub-themes:

#### SUB-THEMES

1. Building a Sustainable Culture of Quality Assurance
2. Generating Interest at the Secondary Level to Foster a Culture Of Quality Assurance
3. Public/Private Sector Collaboration for Improved Quality in Tertiary Education
4. Cross Border Tertiary Education: Challenges and Opportunities
5. Harnessing Information and Communication Technologies for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
6. Positioning Quality Assurance of Tertiary Education for Contribution to National and Regional Development
7. Assessment and Recognition of Qualifications: Caribbean Challenges and Recent Advances
8. Qualifications Framework: Opportunities and Challenges at the National and Transnational Levels.
9. Governance and Autonomy: Challenges for External Quality Assurance Agencies



## Requirements for Submission

- A. Paper proposals should cover topics with relevance to one of the sub-themes and contain a 250-word abstract in Word format.

Your abstract should be NO MORE THAN 250 words and formatted as follows:

1. **Sub-theme**
2. **Title of Paper**
3. **Author(s):** List each author's full first name and surname.
4. **Institution(s)**
5. **Email Address** (include all corresponding authors)
6. **Text:** Maximum 250 words prepared in 12-point Times New Roman font

- B. Your submission should also include a biography of the author(s) of **NOT MORE THAN 100 words** and specify audio-visual equipment requirements.

All elements of the proposal **must** be emailed to the CANQATE Conference 2016 Secretariat at [canqate2016@gmail.com](mailto:canqate2016@gmail.com) by **August 12, 2016**. Contributors will be notified if their papers have been accepted by **August 19, 2016**. The final version of the paper must be submitted by **August 31, 2016**. All presenters will be expected to register for the conference by **August 31, 2016** or their abstract will be withdrawn.

## CONTACT

For more information please contact:

**Attention: Mrs Deborah Jack**

CANQATE Conference 2016 Secretariat

c/o The National Accreditation Council- Guyana

Ministry of Education Annex

109 Barima Avenue Bel-Air Park

Georgetown

Guyana

Tel: (592) 226-0091/ 223-7935/ 223-7901/ 225-9526/ 225-7662

Email: [canqate2016@gmail.com](mailto:canqate2016@gmail.com)



## EQAF 2016: call for contributions now open

A call for contributions is now open for the 11th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF), which will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 17-19 November 2016, hosted by the Slovenian Student Union and the University of Ljubljana.

Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the 2016 EQAF, entitled “**Quality in context – embedding improvement**”, will combine presentations of current developments in quality assurance with practice-oriented and research-based discussions that will take place in paper sessions and workshops. This year, EQAF will examine the different disciplinary, institutional and national contexts and cultures to which quality assurance (QA) has to be tailored and will consider how policies and practices are adapted to respect diversity and remain fit for purpose.

The Forum organisers, [ENQA](#), [ESU](#), [EUA](#) and [EURASHE](#), are seeking proposals for papers and workshops from QA practitioners in higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies, students, and researchers in the field.

The deadline to submit contributions is **25 July 2016**. For more information, please consult the call documents on the [EQAF website](#).

Further information about the Forum, including the programme and registration information will become available in summer 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact [QAForum@eua.be](mailto:QAForum@eua.be).

## THE-ICE 10th IPoE (International Panel of Experts) Forum 2016 Lucerne, Switzerland

THE-ICE 10<sup>th</sup> IPoE (International Panel of Experts) Forum 2016 is to be proudly hosted by César Ritz Colleges Switzerland, Lucerne, from 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Over the past 30 years, César Ritz Colleges Switzerland have developed a worldwide reputation for quality and excellence in Hospitality and Tourism Management Education.

**IPOE** 2016  
LUCERNE 9-12 NOV

THE-ICE IPoE Forums are unique events providing participants the opportunity to engage with invited keynote presenters, as well as to discuss key issues and trends with global academic and industry leaders in the field of tourism, hospitality and events.

What's on at IPoE 2016:

- The IPoE 2016 theme *Excellence – Defined and Measured* will focus on strategic issues facing tourism, hospitality and events education. Extensive networking opportunities will be provided throughout the event.
- IPoE 2016 will feature a series of invited presentations and forum panel sessions by leading tourism and hospitality educators, as well as industry experts within the region and internationally.



- IPoE 2016 will also include a number of referred paper presentation sessions with publication opportunities available for accepted submissions. The IPoE 2016 Call for Papers will be available soon on [THE-ICE website](#) with academic papers being invited on the IPoE 2016 theme *Excellence – Defined and Measured* and sub-themes: employability; pedagogy; transferable skills; technology; and research culture.

For further details on the event, please send your enquiry to [ipoe2016@the-ice.org](mailto:ipoe2016@the-ice.org)





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Information provided in this Bulletin is compiled by INQAAHE Secretariat but responsibility of content remains with members and networks who have contributed this information.

All INQAAHE members are invited to send contributions for the next issue of the Bulletin to [secretariat@inqaahe.org](mailto:secretariat@inqaahe.org).

### **INQAAHE SECRETARIAT**

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, AQU Catalunya  
C. dels Vergós, 36-42  
08017 Barcelona  
Tel: +34 93 268 89 50

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