

Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

The **Asia-Pacific Quality Network Inc. (APQN)** was established in 2003 in Hong Kong. It is a quality assurance (QA) network focusing on serving the educational and financial needs of QA agencies in higher education in the Asia West Pacific region. In 2004, the APQN was incorporated as an association in Victoria, Australia.

APQN Membership is defined with reference to the regional member list of UNESCO, with addition of French Polynesia, Hong Kong, New Caledonia, Singapore and Taiwan. Each Member represents one given organization and only agencies with direct QA responsibility can become APQN Full Members. As at September 2006, there are altogether **17 Full Members** (Appendix 1), **7 Intermediate Members**, **10 Associate Members** and **28 Prospective Members**.

Currently the major APQN Board Members are the President, **Mr Peter Cheung**, Executive Director of Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA), the Vice-President, **Professor VS Prasad**, Director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India (NAAC) and the Secretary/Treasurer, **Dr David Woodhouse**, Executive Director of Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA).

Based on the support of World Bank in 2004 for capacity building and development, the APQN currently finances its operation and projects in three ways – the funding from the World Bank DGF which would last for maximum three years, the Membership fees, Members' contribution and sponsorship in kind from its Members. For the longer term, APQN is expected to be self-sustaining and a fund-raising campaign has been mounted.

For capacity building, there are **six projects** ongoing, namely Pool of External Peer Reviewers for the region, Consultation Services, Training and Development for the agencies, Staff Secondments and Exchanges, Information Clearinghouse and Secretariat, Financial Administration and Liaison.

Along with these projects, the APQN has formed a number of **Project Groups** with specific QA focus – Qualifications Frameworks, QA of DE/e-learning, Indicators of Quality Mutual Recognition of QA Agencies, and Student Participation in Quality Assurance.

The next major APQN-sponsored activity will be the First International Conference on Assessing Quality in Higher Education (ICAQHE) 2006: Prosperity through Quality Education on 11-13 December 2006 in Lahore, Pakistan. Preceding it the APQN has sponsored 12 workshops and meetings since 2003. Some examples of the Workshops and Conferences are “How to Conduct Institutional Accreditation” in July 2005 in Manila, the Philippines, “External Review for Higher Education” in January 2006 in Hanoi, Vietnam, and the Conference “The Opportunities and Challenges of Transnational Higher Education (CQAIE)” in December 2005 in Hong Kong.

The next key event will be its **Conference and AGM** – Emerging Challenges, Emerging Practices: Sharing a Global Vision of Quality Assurance in Higher Education, in 4-7 February 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This follows the pattern established in Hong Kong, Wellington and Shanghai.

For more information, please visit the APQN's website: <http://www.apqn.org>

Appendix 1 – List of APQN Full Members

Country/Territory	Agency	Contact Person
Australia	Australian Universities Quality Agency	Antony Stella
Cambodia	Accreditation Committee of Cambodia	Chealy Chet
China	Shanghai Educational Evaluation Institute	Yingying Kong
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation	Chiu Man Jordan Cheung
Hong Kong	University Grants Committee	Mary Tsang
India	National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)	Jagannath Patil
Indonesia	Badan Akreditasi Nasional Perguruan Tinggi	Narayana Surawiguna
Japan	Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA)	Sanae Maeda
Japan	National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE)	Takashi Imura
Japan	Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education (JABEE)	Shona Minamino
Malaysia	Lembaga Akreditasi Negara (National Accreditation Board)	Zita Mohd Fahmi
New Zealand	New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit	John Jennings
New Zealand	New Zealand Qualifications Authority	Tony Davies
Philippines	Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities	Concepcion Pijano
Philippines	Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCU)	Manuel Corpus
Russia	The National Accreditation Agency of the Russian Federation	Galina Motova
Thailand	The Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organization)	Nuanthip Kamolvarin