

APQNews (Issue 33)

June 30, 2026



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Jagannath Patil, Nar Bahadur Raika, Umankulova
Onolkan and Timur Kanapyanov

2026 (Issue 33)

APQN Mission Statement

To enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region through strengthening internal and external quality assurance in all kinds of organizations and extending the cooperation among them

APQN Values:

To be committed to the quality of higher education and supportive of both internal and external quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific Region

APQNews (Issue 33, 2026)

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

2026

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Editor's Message for APQNEWS (Issue 33)

Dear APQN members, colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the 33rd issue of APQNews (2026)!

We are very happy to present you with the **33rd** issue of APQNews. There are 13 articles in 4 columns in this issue. The contents are organized as follows:

Firstly, we focus on “APQN Releases 2025 AAC Anthology,” which brings together the highlights of the highly successful APQN AAC held in Hong Kong SAR, China in November 2025. The article “*APQN at the UNESCO Central Asia Higher Education Policy Dialogue*” showcases our active engagement in UNESCO's QA activities. Such events strengthen cooperation among countries, promote mutual trust and contribute to creating a shared vision for the development of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region.

Secondly, we are delighted to see various QA activities undertaken by APQN members: (1) iJAS releases institutional accreditation standards for future-ready higher education; (2) HIRS 2025: a landmark international symposium for Horizon Campus; (3) Achievements from the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC); (4) University of Wah achieves recertification for ISO 9001 and 21001; (5) JSS AHER ranked among the top 100 universities globally in THE ; (6) IAB holds a meeting on international accreditation of educational programmes. Their efforts are commendable.

Thirdly, APQN releases 4 Calls: (1) “Call for Paper of 2026 APQN Academic Conference (AAC)” ; (2) “Call for EoI to Host 2027 AAC and AGM” ; (3) Call for Nominations for 2026 APQN Quality Awards ; and (4) “Call for Contributions for Next Issue of APQNews (Issue 34)”. These initiatives reflect APQN's relentless pursuit of future development and quality improvement.

Last but not the least, this issue brings you a preview of our most important upcoming event—the APQN 2026 AAC and AGM will be co-hosted by APQN and Symbiosis International (Deemed) University (SIU) from October 29 – November 1, 2026, in Pune, India. We encourage all members to actively engage.

Please stay tuned for the next issue of APQNews and welcome contributions to it.

Best regards

Chief Editor of the 33rd Issue of APQNews: Jianxin Zhang

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The Board

APQN Releases 2025 AAC Anthology

APQN, together with the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), is pleased to announce the publication of the APQN Anthology 2025 in the third quarter of 2026. This volume brings together the highlights of the highly successful APQN Annual Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in Hong Kong SAR, China, from 20 to 23 November 2025 at the Nina Hotel Tsuen Wan West.



The event was particularly meaningful, as it marked a return to Hong Kong, the city where APQN was founded more than two decades ago. Hosted by HKCAAVQ, the Conference welcomed over 400 participants from 32 countries and regions. Under the theme “*Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education,*” delegates examined how stronger partnerships between academia and industry can reshape teaching, learning, and quality assurance in a rapidly changing world.

The APQN Anthology 2025 comprises contributions from the keynote addresses and more than thirty peer-reviewed papers presented in eight parallel sessions. The papers featured in the APQN Anthology 2025 revolve around four major sub-themes that framed the conference discussions.

The first sub-theme, *“Professional Relevance and Quality of Higher Education: Collaboration and Integration with Industry,”* focused on how institutions can collaborate and integrate with industry more effectively. Contributors explored ways to build partnerships that provide students with both academic grounding and practical skills.

The second thread, *“Innovation and Quality in Higher Education Curriculum and Pedagogy in Line with Industry Collaborations,”* examined curriculum and pedagogy. Several papers have explored how industry input influences what and how students learn, with particular attention to artificial intelligence and other new technologies. Contributors weighed the opportunities these tools offer against the need to protect academic standards and ensure graduates leave with genuinely useful skills.

“Fostering Quality of Flexible Learning Pathways” formed the third area of focus. With lifelong learning now a practical necessity for many, authors discussed micro-credentials, stackable qualifications and other adaptable models. A recurring question was how to keep these routes flexible without diluting their quality or credibility.

The largest group of papers addressed the sub-theme *“Driving for Excellence in Higher Education: Role of External Quality Assurance.”* Contributors considered how quality agencies are shifting from regulators to partners, and what this means for international accreditation, capacity building and new collaborative approaches in an environment shaped by AI. The emphasis was on quality assurance that supports improvement rather than simply checking compliance.

The APQN Anthology 2025 serves as a practical guide for universities, agencies, and policymakers seeking to strengthen industry engagement, harness digital transformation responsibly, and ensure that quality assurance drives innovation. As higher education across the Asia-Pacific adapts to rapid technological change and deeper industry integration, this volume stands as both a timely reference and an invitation to continued dialogue.

Written by Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), China

APQN at the UNESCO Central Asia Higher Education Policy Dialogue

Dialogue

UNESCO convened the Central Asia Higher Education Policy Dialogue, titled “Leveraging the UNESCO Recognition Conventions for Regional Integration,” on June 17 – 18, 2026, at Coventry University in Astana, Kazakhstan. The two-day hybrid event brought together representatives of ministries of education, universities, and quality assurance agencies from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and UNESCO’s regional and international partners. The dialogue was organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and with the support of the UNESCO-Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust.



The first in-person meeting for Central Asian countries was prompted by the growing number of students studying abroad and the broader internationalization of higher education across the region. A key focus of the meeting was the role of the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education, known as the Tokyo Convention. These instruments support fair, transparent and efficient recognition of higher education qualifications, helping students and professionals move more easily across borders.

The dialogue was opened by Mr. Sayasat Nurbek, Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan, Mr. Kyuho Shin, Minister-Counselor of the Republic of Korea in Kazakhstan, and Ms. Zhanar Shaimenova, Secretary-General of the National Commission of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ICESCO.



The meeting followed recent regional commitments to harmonize qualification recognition systems. In 2025, Uzbekistan ratified the Global Convention, while Kazakhstan ratified the Tokyo Convention in 2026. Uzbekistan is actively developing its higher education system and is aligning it with international standards and requirements. Thus, the National Quality Assurance Agency for Education (NQAAE) of the Republic of Uzbekistan has recently joined APQN as a full member, which emphasizes the country's dedication to building a trustworthy quality culture of higher education.

Sessions held during the event addressed quality assurance, strengthening of National Information Centres (NICs), recognition of transnational and non-traditional qualifications, including microcredentials, and the role of universities in supporting mobility, joint programmes and research cooperation.

The dialogue also highlighted the importance of the Asia-Pacific Network of National Information Centers (APNNIC), which supports the practical implementation of the UNESCO recognition conventions through information sharing, capacity building and cooperation among national authorities. The participants worked on elements of a regional roadmap for Central Asian higher education cooperation, focusing on quality assurance, recognition systems, institutional capacity and flexible learning pathways. Mr. Dean Chen, Associate Programme Specialist, UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok and Office for UN Coordination for Asia and the Pacific, moderated the Panel discussion on promoting transparency and fairness for mobility: the role of National Information Centers (NICs). He also presented the Tokyo Convention Roadmap to 2030 and the APNNIC Action Plan to 2030, which would play a pivotal role in shaping the future of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region.



Galina Motova, APQN President, was invited as a speaker to deliver a presentation on the latest trends in quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific region and the role of APQN in the development of higher education quality culture in Central Asia. Galina suggested using a formula that would facilitate recognition of qualifications in the Asia-Pacific region and could significantly advance internationalization of education in Central Asian countries. During the second day of the event, Galina Motova and Umankulova Onolkan, APQN Board Director, facilitated the breakout discussion “Quality Assurance: Towards a Central Asian Common Framework.” During the session, the participants elaborated a step-by-step action plan to strengthen the capacity of experts and accreditation bodies. They also recommended establishing a working group to coordinate joint efforts and support the development of higher education in Central Asia. In addition, the participants proposed that APQN may serve as a platform for enhancing the potential of Central Asian quality assurance agencies.

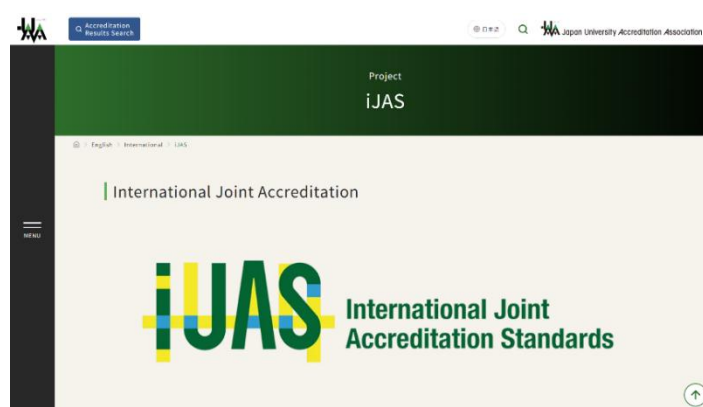
Such events strengthen cooperation among countries, promote mutual trust and contribute to creating a shared vision for the development of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region. By bringing together policymakers, universities and international partners, the dialogue provided an important platform for exchanging experience, identifying common priorities and developing practical solutions for the recognition of qualifications.

Written by Galina Motova and Anna Ishutkina (NCPA)

QA Activity

iJAS Releases Institutional Accreditation Standards for Future-Ready Higher Education

The International Joint Accreditation Standards (iJAS) Project has officially released the Institutional Accreditation Standards (version 2.0), following approval by the Accreditation Committee in April 2026.



Jointly initiated by the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) and the Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA), the iJAS Project has expanded into a regional collaboration with the participation of Thailand's Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), the Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA), and the Center for Education Accreditation of Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City (CEA VNU-HCM). Together, these agencies are working to promote mutual understanding and quality enhancement across higher education systems in Asia.

Version 2.0 represents the first comprehensive revision of the iJAS institutional accreditation framework since the project's launch. The revision was developed through a year-long process involving international quality assurance experts, benchmarking against global QA frameworks, and consultations with practitioners from participating agencies and higher education institutions. The updated standards reflect emerging developments in higher education while maintaining sufficient flexibility to accommodate diverse institutional missions and national contexts.

The revised framework places greater emphasis on strategic governance, evidence-based internal quality assurance, student learning and development, stakeholder engagement, and institutional accountability. It also incorporates contemporary themes—including digital transformation, artificial intelligence, sustainability, and social engagement—to encourage institutions to strengthen their capacity for innovation and long-term development.

Another key feature of Version 2.0 is its stronger developmental orientation. The standards are accompanied by five-level developmental rubrics that enable institutions to assess their current level of maturity, identify areas for improvement, and support continuous enhancement. Rather than serving solely as an external evaluation tool, the framework is designed to facilitate institutional self-reflection, strategic planning, and quality culture development.

The iJAS Project continues to demonstrate how regional collaboration among quality assurance agencies can contribute to the development of internationally relevant yet context-sensitive accreditation frameworks. Moving forward, the participating agencies will continue to strengthen cooperation through joint accreditation initiatives, reviewer development, professional exchange, and international dialogue, supporting higher education institutions in advancing quality assurance and responding to the evolving higher education landscape.

For more information, please visit the official iJAS Project website: <https://www.juaa.or.jp/en/international/project/>

Written by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) and Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA)

HIRS 2025: Landmark International Symposium for Horizon Campus

In an era defined by rapid technological leaps and complex global challenges, isolation is the enemy of progress. The symposium focused on achieving the intersection of different fields. Horizon Campus proudly hosted its flagship Horizon Interdisciplinary Research Symposium (HIRS 2025): a vibrant forum built specifically to bridge the gaps between theory, empirical data, and real-world industry practice.

HIRS serves as a premier collaborative ecosystem for scholars, academics, researchers, and industry experts to share, discuss, and debate emerging issues from diverse theoretical, methodological, and practical perspectives. By bringing together minds from completely different fields, the symposium fosters the kind of unique, cross-cutting thinking needed to solve modern problems. The strategic vision for this milestone project was set by Vice Chancellor Prof. S. J. B. A. Jayasekera. The project was chaired by Mr. Chrishankar Janathanan, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Management.

Tremendous Response from the Research Community

The enthusiasm for this year's symposium was nothing short of extraordinary. The review committee is thrilled to announce that over 400 articles were received from researchers, academics, and professionals across the region. This massive volume of submissions highlights the growing appetite for collaborative, interdisciplinary dialogue.

To maintain high academic standards, every submission underwent a rigorous peer-review process managed via the Microsoft Conference Management Toolkit (CMT), ensuring that only the most impactful, high-quality research reached the presentation floor.

Highlights Across the Six Core Track Pillars

The accepted presentations spanned six diverse academic faculties, offering attendees a wide variety of insights: (1) Management: Navigating modern business strategy, HR, marketing, and corporate resilience in shifting economic climates; (2) Information Technology: Diving into advanced data science, artificial intelligence, cyber security, and networking; (3) Science & Technology: Exploring biotechnology, innovative agriculture, and bioresource management; (4) Education: Investigating new pedagogical methods, teaching frameworks, and the evolution of modern classroom learning; and (5) Law:

Analysing contemporary legal frameworks, policy evolution, and international human rights.

Thank you to all the authors, reviewers, and track chairs who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make HIRS 2025 our most successful, well-attended symposium yet. The team is engaged in developing a journal platform – the Transdisciplinary Journal of Research and Development- to strengthen the research culture and provide a platform for researchers to showcase their findings.



Social media link: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/25428906370066925/>

Website link: <https://horizoncampus.edu.lk/hirs>

Proceedings booklet available on:
<https://horizoncampus.edu.lk/pdf/HORIZON%20HIRS%202025%20Version%2030.pdf>

Written by Horizon Campus in Sri Lanka

Achievements from the Bangladesh Accreditation Council

The Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) is a statutory body established under the Bangladesh Accreditation Council Act, 2017. The BAC is established to accredit academic programs and higher education institutions for quality assurance and for international recognition of higher education in Bangladesh.

BAC has made notable progress in strengthening external quality assurance in higher educational institutions. The big achievement of BAC is that on 12 March 2026, it awarded Certificates of Accreditation for eight academic programs and Certificates of Confidence for three academic programs of 4 universities. External Quality Assessment (EQA) processes for additional academic programs are ongoing across universities. Furthermore, 49 universities covering 463 academic programs have shown interest in full accreditation and they are conducting BAC for advice and suggestions.

BAC has also organized extensive workshops, seminars, and professional training activities involving university teachers, directors and additional directors of Institutional Quality Assurance Cells (IQACs), academic auditors, industry practitioners, and university leadership. A total of 15 programs were conducted in which more than 600 stakeholders participated.



Consultation Workshop on Accreditation in Higher Education with Industry Practitioners

Workshop on Standards and Criteria for Institutional Accreditation with Vice Chancellors

A major national milestone has been the implementation of the Bangladesh National Qualifications Framework (BNQF), which follows a global standard approved by the Government of Bangladesh in 2021. Following the framework developed by BAC, the accreditation standard and criteria for quality assurance of higher education and BAC are implementing the framework and using these standards and criteria for awarding accreditation of academic programs and institutions. To support this initiative, BAC has developed Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) Guidelines to facilitate both vertical and horizontal student mobility and promote lifelong learning. According to the expectations of the framework BAC has developed CAT guidelines to ensure student mobility, recognize experiential learning and promote lifelong learning as a whole.



Professional Training Course on Capacity Building for IQACs of Higher Education Institutions held at CVASU, Chattogram (31 March 2026 to 12 April 2026)



Professional Training Course on Capacity Building for Institutional Quality Assurance Cells (IQACs) of Higher Education Institutions held at BAC (16 – 27 November 2025)

Research and international engagement remain central priorities of BAC. As the only government body in Bangladesh providing financial assistance for research on quality assurance and accreditation in higher education, BAC continues to support evidence-based development of the sector. BAC funded 27 research projects from 2022 to 2025. These research initiatives covered diverse themes, including quality assurance, accreditation practices, outcome-based education (OBE), educational technology, institutional readiness for accreditation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), and artificial intelligence integration in higher education. BAC has also published proceedings based on completed research activities and continues to promote research-informed policy and institutional improvement.

BAC continues to strengthen its international engagement to enhance the global recognition of accreditation in Bangladesh. It has achieved Intermediate Membership of APQN and is pursuing Full Membership. BAC has also established partnerships with leading international quality assurance agencies through MoUs and an MoC with organizations in the UK, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Russia, reinforcing its commitment to internationally aligned and quality-driven higher education.

In the financial year 2024-25, The Bangladesh Accreditation Council, chairman has attended APQN AAC and AGM conducted in Saint Petersburg, Russia and also attended the international conference on South Asia Deep Dialogue on Transnational Education in higher education conducted in Sri Lanka.



BAC Chairman delivering speech at APQN Annual Conference, Russia



BAC Chairman and Member Participated in “South Asia Deep Dialogue on Transnational Education” in Sri Lanka

Written by the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) in Bangladesh

University of Wah Achieves Recertification for ISO 9001 and 21001

The University of Wah has successfully achieved recertification for ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System) and ISO 21001:2018 (Educational Organization Management System) on 23 January 2026, reaffirming its commitment to quality and international best practices in higher education.

An external audit conducted on November 5, 2025, by M/S CONSTECH, Islamabad, evaluated the University's compliance with both standards, focusing on quality assurance mechanisms, institutional effectiveness, and continuous improvement.

These globally recognized standards support efficient governance, learner-centered education, and sustained quality enhancement. The achievement reflects UW's dedication to maintaining high standards in academic and administrative processes.



Written by the University of Wah, Pakistan

JSS AHER Ranked among the Top 100 Universities Globally in THE

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, has achieved remarkable recognition in the Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, securing an Overall World Rank of 74th and 3rd in India. This accolade was announced at the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2026, Jakarta, Indonesia, under the visionary leadership of His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji, the Chancellor. JSS AHER excelled in various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ranking World 11 and India 1 in SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), World 14 and India 2 in SDG 1 (No Poverty), and demonstrated strong performances in SDGs 6, 7, and 15.



During the Congress, a senior delegation from JSS AHER showcased their efforts in addressing societal challenges through research and community partnerships. Notably, Dr. B. Suresh, Pro Chancellor, presented on "*Transforming India's Sickle Cell Disease Response*," highlighting collaboration with governments and communities to implement evidence-based interventions.

Additionally, JSS AHER participated in an international panel discussing the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in sustainable development. Dr. Suresh articulated the university's vision of leveraging AI to enhance healthcare delivery, educational outcomes and research, emphasizing the ethical deployment of AI technology.

He reiterated that this recognition affirms the role of universities as agents of societal transformation. JSS AHER integrates academic excellence with social responsibility through its colleges, hospitals, and outreach initiatives, contributing significantly to public health and environmental sustainability.

As the world strives to achieve the SDGs by 2030, JSS AHER aims to deepen its commitment to sustainable, inclusive growth. Building upon this

recognition, the University remains committed to expanding its global impact through innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration and meaningful partnerships.

Quality Conclave-2026 held at JSS AHER

The Quality Conclave-2026 was held on 1st June 2026, organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Quality Division of JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research. The conclave aimed to construct a quality ecosystem across JSS institutions by convening educators, stakeholders and quality experts to deliberate on strategies for enhancing institutional performance across national and international accreditation and ranking frameworks, including NAAC, NIRF, QS and Times Higher Education (THE).



Dr. Suresh B, Pro-Chancellor of JSS AHER, in his keynote address emphasized that quality should be regarded as a technical requirement and a moral responsibility. He highlighted the importance of identifying the causes behind institutional shortcomings and fostering trust among stakeholders to nurture a culture of continuous improvement.

Dr. Basavanagowdappa H, Vice-Chancellor, outlined the essential role of quality as a strategic imperative for excellence, calling for a culture driven by innovation and stakeholder engagement. Dr. Prashant M. Vishwanath, Dean (Research), discussed the institution's quality journey, emphasizing IQAC's crucial role in accreditation and strategic planning.

The conclave featured various insightful sessions including 'How Relevant are Rankings for Students?' led by Dr. Maheshwar Peri, which highlighted the significance of rankings in shaping institutional reputation. Mr. Raghavan S addressed the balance between quality assurance and institutional growth, while Dr. Hemamalini S focused on gap analysis within higher education systems.

A dynamic panel discussion brought together eminent academics to discuss quality frameworks and the essential role of IQAC in driving institutional transformation. The conclave concluded with a collective call to create robust ecosystems that promote innovation, accountability and continuous community engagement.

*Written by Registrar of JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research
(JSS AHER), Mysuru, India*

IAB Holds Meeting on International Accreditation of Educational Programmes

On 23 June 2026, the International Accreditation Board (IAB) of the Russian Register held its regular meeting to consider the international accreditation of educational programmes. The meeting was conducted online and was chaired by Dr. Sergey Mikhailov, Deputy Chair of the International Accreditation Board.

Opening the meeting, Arkady Vladimirtsev, Director General of the Russian Register Certification Association and Head of the Agency for Independent Assessment of the Quality of Education, welcomed the Board members and emphasized the importance of further developing independent quality assurance mechanisms and strengthening the international recognition of educational programmes offered by Russian universities.

The main agenda item was the review of the accreditation results for educational programmes delivered by two Russian universities: National Research Mordovia State University (MRSU) and Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography (MIIGAik).

Presenting the evaluation results for Mordovia State University, Dr. Evgeniya Korneva, Coordinator of the Russian Register Independent Educational Quality Assessment Programme, introduced the Board members to the findings of the expert review and the university's compliance with international accreditation standards. During the discussion, Board member Dr. Larisa Nefedova highlighted the university's dynamic development in recent years and its leading position within the region.

Following the voting procedure, the Board granted five-year international accreditation to the following educational programmes at National Research Mordovia State University: (1) Info-communication Technologies and Communication Systems; (2) Electronics and Nanoelectronics; (3) Biotechnology; and (4) Food Products of Animal Origin.

The Board then reviewed the accreditation results for the educational programmes of Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography (MIIGAik). Dr. Snezhana Tanasković, Reviewer of the National Entity for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Serbia (NEAQA), noted several institutional issues related to the university's internal quality assurance processes and emphasized the importance of monitoring the university's progress throughout the accreditation period.

Based on the results of the open vote, the Board approved five-year

international accreditation for MIIGAiK's educational programmes in: (1) Cartography and Geoinformatics; (2) Information Security; (3) Land Management and Cadaster; and (4) Geodesy and Remote Sensing.

The university was also recommended to conduct a further analysis of the identified areas for improvement and to implement measures aimed at strengthening its internal quality assurance system.

During the meeting, Board members emphasized the importance of post-accreditation monitoring. Throughout the validity period of the accreditation certificates, the Russian Register will monitor the implementation of improvement plans developed by the universities and assess their continued compliance with international accreditation requirements.

Concluding the meeting, Dr. Sergey Mikhailov, Deputy Chair of the International Accreditation Board, noted the constructive nature of the discussions and the high quality of the accreditation reviews. The Board unanimously confirmed that the meeting agenda had been completed and reaffirmed the importance of further developing international accreditation mechanisms and independent quality assurance in higher education.

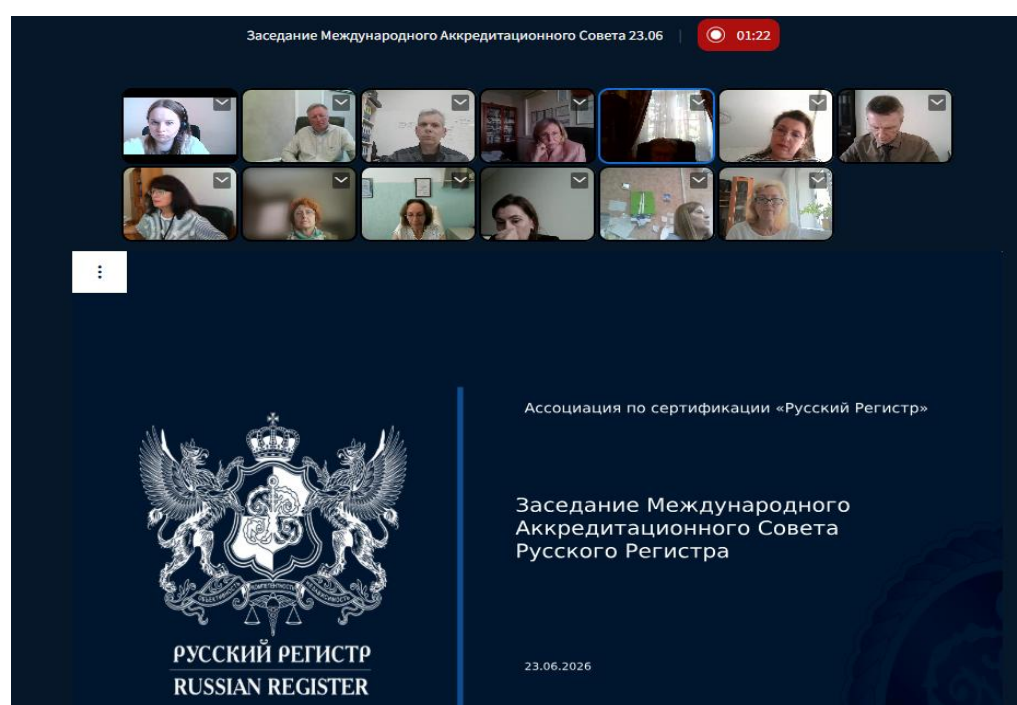


Figure 1. Meeting of the International Accreditation Board of the Russian Register, 23 June 2026.

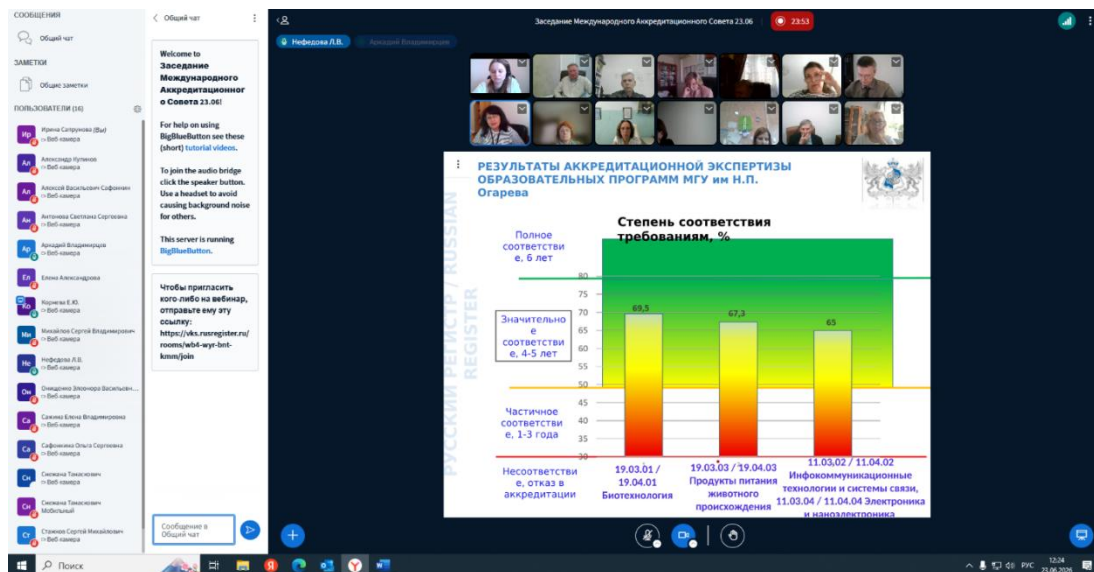


Figure 2. Accreditation evaluation results for the educational programmes of National Research Mordovia State University.

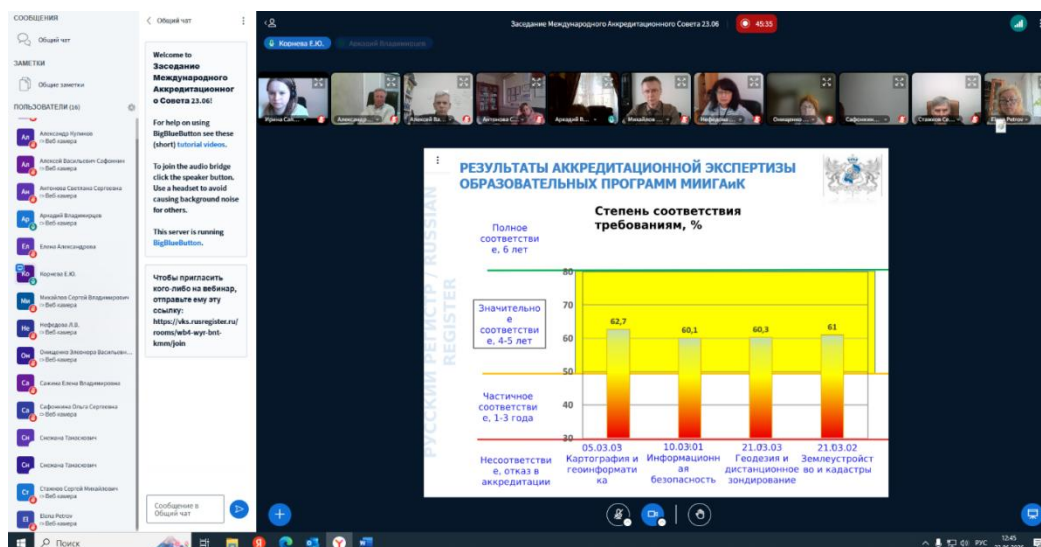


Figure 3. Accreditation evaluation results for the educational programmes of Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography (MIIGAik).

Written by the Russian Register, Russia

Announcement

Call for Paper of 2026 APQN Academic Conference (AAC)

I Background

APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) are annual highlight events to discuss and advance quality assurance in higher education in the Asia Pacific Region. The APQN Board is delighted to announce that the next AAC and AGM will be hosted by Symbiosis International (Deemed) University (SIU) from October 29 - November 1 (Thursday - Sunday), 2026 in Pune, India.

The target audience for the AAC and AGM are primarily those associated with quality assurance in the Asia-Pacific region. It includes all types of APQN members and observers, the Board, the Committees and the various project groups. In addition, other higher education institutions (HEIs), quality assurance agencies (QAAs), and organizations working in the field of quality assurance in any part of the world are welcome to attend AAC events, which are open only to all registered delegates with the exception of the AGM, which is for APQN members only.

II Conference Themes

Theme of 2026 AAC: [Reimagining Quality Assurance in a Rapidly Changing Higher Education Landscape](#). Sub-themes: (1) Cross-Border Quality Assurance: Diverse Approaches to Excellence, Mutual Trust and Recognition; (2) Responding to Change: Internal QA in the Era of Digital and Hybrid Education; (3) Regional and Global Perspectives on Accreditation and Collaboration between QA Networks; (4) The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Quality Assurance Processes.

III Timeline - key dates and events

Time	Key Event
May 2026	Press releases and the announcement of APQN 2026 AAC and AGM
15 June 2026	Launch of APQN 2026 AAC & AGM Website
23 June 2026	1. Call for Papers for the 2026 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) 2. Call for the Host of the 2027 AAC and AGM
Before 30 June 2026	Call for Nominations for the 2026 APQN Awards
Before 20 August 2026	Deadline for Paper Submissions to the 2026 APQN Academic Conference (AAC)
Before 30 August 2026	1. Deadline for Nominations for the 2026 APQN Awards 2. Deadline for the EoI to Host the 2027 AAC and AGM
1 August – 15 September 2026	Early-Bird Registration

Time	Key Event
15 September 2026	1. Announcement of Accepted Papers 2. Announcement of the Host of the 2027 AAC and AGM by the APQN Board 3. Announcement of APQN 2026 Award Recipients by the APQN Board 4. Release of the First Draft of the Programme for the 2026 AAC & AGM
15 September – 25 October 2026	Regular Registration
October 29, 2026 (Thursday)	Arrival in Pune, India for APQN 2026 AAC and AGM
October 30 – 31, 2026 (Friday – Saturday)	APQN Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting
November 1, 2026 (Sunday)	Half-day City Tour of Pune, India

IV Guidelines for Paper Submissions

Submissions should not exceed 3000 words (min. 2000 words) in length, including the appendices, tables, illustrations and photographs, and an abstract (around 100-200 words) and a bio-sketch with a photo of the author (up to 100 words). The paper must be in English and submitted as a Microsoft Word document. More details can be found in the “Guidelines for the Authors and a Format Model for the Papers” in the appendix.

All submitted papers will be reviewed by a Review Committee. The final decision regarding the acceptance of papers for presentation at the AAC rests with the Review Committee. Selected papers will be presented at the 2026 AAC and published in the “Anthology of 2026 AAC” by APQN after the Conference. Publishing permission will be requested from the author.

Submissions (in Microsoft Word format) should be made through the online submission system. Authors who are unable to access the system may submit their papers by email to the APQN Secretariat (apqnsecretariat@163.com). For email submissions, authors are kindly requested to complete the attached “PAPER SUBMISSION FORM” and submit it together with their paper as email attachments. The paper files should be named in the following format: “your name + your country + Sub-theme number”. To avoid duplicate submissions, authors are requested to submit their papers through only one channel, either the online submission system or email. We look forward to receiving your submissions by **20 August 2026**.

If your paper is accepted for presentation at the 2026 APQN Conference, the distribution of supplementary material to the audience will be at your own discretion and responsibility.

All papers MUST strictly follow the APQN format and layout of Template B, including margins, fonts, naming conventions and the Harvard referencing system. Please visit the APQN website

APQN Seventh Board on June 22, 2026

Call for Eol to Host 2027 AAC and AGM

Dear APQN members,

Warmest greetings from the APQN Seventh Board!

The APQN Board is seeking Expressions of Interest (Eol) from member organizations to co-host 2027 APQN Annual Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM). We welcome Eol to host the conferences from all members (it is not the practice to hold the consecutive event in the same country).

AAC and AGM are major events of the year and good opportunities for members to update themselves on the latest trends in quality assurance and liaise with their colleagues in the region. They focus on improving quality assurance in education, academic and practical exchanges and communications, not involving any political issues of any country. The goal is “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region” and the mission is to “enhance the quality of higher education in the Asia and the Pacific Region.”

The proposed dates of AAC might be from June to December 2027. The tentative program of AAC and AGM is as follows:

Day, Time	Agenda
Day-1	
13:00	Registration
16:00-19:30	The 1 st Board meeting and other Council meetings (Board Directors only)
Day-2	
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:30	Opening
10:30-12:30	Keynote Speech-1 Plenary Session-1
13:30-18:00	Plenary Session-2 Parallel Sessions 1-2; Workshop 1
18:00-20:00	Welcome Dinner APQN Quality Award Ceremony
Day-3	
09:00-12:30	Keynote Speech-2 Plenary Session-3 Parallel Session 3-4; Workshop 2
13:30-14:30	Plenary Session-4
14:30-15:30	Closing Session
15:30-16:30	Annual General Meeting (APQN members only)
16:30-18:00	The 2 nd Board Meeting (Board Directors only)
Day-4	
08:30-13:00	City tour

The responsibilities of the local host:

- Making the following drafts and submitting them to the APQN Board:
 - 1) the overall theme and 4 sub-topics;
 - 2) the budget;
 - 3) the proposed registration fee (no more than 300 USD).
- Handling onsite registrations. The registration fees are used by the local host, but 50 USD per international participant will be submitted to APQN to meet its overheads and processing charges. APQN Board members (no more than 10) and invited keynote speakers (no more than 3) will be registration waivers; while for local participants, the host can have its own decision.
- Being responsible for the expenditure, including the registration kit (the programmes; the booklets of participants; conference materials, etc.), 3 buffets, 4 coffee breaks, a half-day excursion including a meal (the participants could be charged a small fee as a guarantee and help the organizers book transportation and meals), travel for the keynote speakers, complimentary gifts and certificates for chairs, speakers and presenters.
- Arranging for all the venues (including the venues of the Board meetings and other committee meetings on the sidelines of the conference) and the conference facilities (including a paper printer for the Secretariat, a computer and a slide show for PPTs in each session room, Wi-Fi for AAC, good photos of all presenters and the chair, etc.) Upon informing the APQN Secretariat at least 7 days before AAC.
- Arranging up-dating the registrants and handling the queries on travel, accommodation and visas, providing invitation letters for visa applications, and facilitating the visa procedure, if needed. Setting up a website for the 2027 AAC with all the necessary information for participants, if possible.
- Conducting an onsite or online evaluation survey of AAC and AGM and writing a 500-word report on the results; writing the 3000-word report of the AAC with 10-20 photos to be published in APQNews.
- Publishing APQN Proceeding of the selected papers with the financial support from APQN (if the host is willing to do), whose first responsibility and rights should be APQN.

The Responsibilities of APQN:

- Supporting in announcing and popularizing the conference information to its members and mailing list subscribers and providing support and guidance on conference registration arrangements.
- Preparing the timeline for the AAC and AGM, developing the whole programme, which is made up of 1 finance committee meeting, 2 board meetings, 1 APQR Council meeting, 1 quality awarding ceremony with local cultural performances (dances, songs and music); keynote speeches; panel discussions; parallel sessions,

workshops and related meetings.

- Identifying keynote speakers and communicating with them about the topic of speeches and open speeches.
- Calling for the AAC papers, reviewing the submitted papers, and contacting the authors on the papers and presentations, giving guidelines to the paper presenters as well as the chairs of different meetings.
- Calling for: 1) the application for APQN Quality Award; and 2) the hosting of the next AAC and AGM, and the review of the three categories of applicants.
- Informing the local host the exact number of different venues and the conference facilities, such as a paper printer for the Secretariat, a computer and a slide show for PPTs in each session room, Wi-Fi for AAC, 1 group photo, good photos of all presenters and the chair, etc. at least 7 days before AAC.
- Uploading presentation PPTs and photos to APQN website, publishing all kinds of AAC reports in APQNews and helping the local host publish the Anthology.

APQN requests a brief proposal covering its interest and capability. The annexes are the Guidelines for EoI to host 2027 AAC and AGM and the Sample Budget, which could be used for your reference.

The Initial EoI should be made to the Board of APQN through the APQN Secretariat by email to Mr. Weimin Shi at apqnsecretariat@163.com as well as galina_motova@mail.ru, which is kindly requested to be submitted by August 30, 2026.

APQN Seventh Board on June 22, 2026

Call for Nominations for 2026 APQN Quality Awards

I. Introduction

APQN Quality Awards were initiated in 2013 which aimed to mark decennial celebrations of APQN. By 2025, 81 awards have been given to prize winners both within and outside the Asia-Pacific Region. The Awards have given positive energy for APQN's long march of "Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region" as well as "to enhance the quality of higher education in Asia and the Pacific region through strengthening the work of quality assurance agencies and extending the cooperation between them".

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. Based on "APQN Procedures Manual (version 3, 2017)", 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.

II. Award Category

The 2026 APQN Quality Award categories are as follows:

1. APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA (Two categories)

Category 1: This award is open to full and intermediate APQN members. This award recognizes organizations which have engaged in successful cooperation with other organizations internationally to further cross-border education and quality assurance of international initiatives.

Category 2: This award is also open to organizations outside the APQN region. This award recognizes organizations which have engaged in successful cooperation with organizations and institutions within the Asia-Pacific region to further cross-border education and quality assurance of international initiatives.

2. APQN's Best/Model Internal QA Award

This award category is for institutional and associate members only. The members who have committed to quality assurance mechanisms and quality culture building are encouraged to apply for this award so as to make much wider circulation about their best or model IQA practices and experiences.

3. APQN Climate Champions Award

This award recognises APQN members who have made exemplary contributions in terms of green and sustainable initiatives in response to

climate change. Institutional efforts for research on global warming and climate action, on campus and beyond campus, through active collaboration of faculty, students and society will be considered for this award. This award is for institutional and associate members category.

APQN's Best Model of QAA Award

This award is for quality assurance agencies (QAAs) only that are either full or intermediate members of APQN. The QAAs who have committed to EQA new-mechanisms, such as new standards, methods, measurements to match the IT and social development, are encouraged to apply for this award so as to make much-wider circulation about their best model EQA practices and experiences.

III. Nomination Form and Submission

We invite all eligible members and institutions to showcase their excellence in quality assurance by applying for the 2026 APQN Quality Awards. This is an opportunity to gain international recognition, share best practices, and contribute to the advancement of higher education quality across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond

Eligibility:

Only Chief Executive Officers of APQN Full, Intermediate and Associate members and APQN Board members 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.

Generally APQN member will not be considered for award in same category for two consecutive years. Members can submit up to two nominations free of cost. If more nominations are made, fee of USD 50 per nomination will be applicable.

Required Documents:

- ✧ Completed nomination form (link)
- ✧ Supporting evidence (e.g., case studies, reports, links, collaboration agreements, etc.)

Submission Deadline: August 31, 2026

Submission Method: Email to APQN Administrator Mr. Weimin Shi at apqnsecretariat@163.com.

IV. Selection Procedure

After the nomination forms are received, the administrator will fill in the

“Description on Contribution to APQN” according to the historical records.

APQN board will review all the nominations and make final decision on Quality Awards.

No appeal will be provided as this is a peer review or judgment.

V. Award Presentation

APQN Quality Award will be presented during APQN Annual conference to be held during October 29 - November 1 (Thursday - Sunday), 2026 in Pune, India. In addition, award winners should present a 50-word awarding speech at the Award Ceremony on October 31, 2026, and a 500-word article with 1-2 photos should be submitted to be released in APQNews.

VI. Feedback and Query

If you have any feedback or queries, please email to APQN Administrator SHI Weimin (apqnsecretariat@163.com).

July 24, 2026
APQN Seventh Board

Call for Contributions for the Next Issue of APQNews (Issue 34)

Dear APQN members,

Greetings from the APQN Board. We are pleased to announce that preparation of APQNews (Issue 34) has begun. We warmly invite all APQN members and partner organizations to contribute news, updates, and articles for inclusion in the upcoming issue.

We welcome submissions related to, but not limited to, the following:

- Recent developments and achievements of your institution or organization
- Quality assurance initiatives, projects, and best practices
- Conferences, workshops, seminars, and other academic events
- Research activities and publications related to quality assurance in higher education
- International collaborations and partnership activities
- Other news or stories that may be of interest to the APQN community

Contributions are submitted in English and should preferably be accompanied by relevant photographs, illustrations, or institutional logos where appropriate.

Please send your contributions to the APQN Secretariat at your earliest convenience. To facilitate editing and publication, we would greatly appreciate receiving all submissions by **30 November 2026**.

If the member institution plans to organize any significant activities, events, projects, or achievements during the second half of the year, we warmly welcome your submissions at any time during this period. Please send your contribution to APQN Secretariat at apqnsecretariat@163.com.

APQNews serves as an important platform for sharing experiences, promoting good practices, and strengthening communication among APQN members across the Asia-Pacific region. We sincerely encourage your institution to participate and share your latest developments with fellow members. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

APQN seventh Board

Upcoming Event

Welcome to APQN 2026 AAC and AGM in Pune, India

Dear All,

As the Local Host of the APQN 2026 Annual Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM), Symbiosis International University (SIU) is delighted to welcome delegates from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond to Pune, India. Hosting this prestigious gathering is both an opportunity to showcase not only our commitment to quality assurance in higher education but also India's distinguished academic legacy, cultural diversity, and welcoming spirit.



The university has consistently embraced quality assurance as a cornerstone of institutional development and looks forward to facilitating meaningful discussions that contribute to the advancement of higher education.

Held under the theme "*Reimagining Quality Assurance in a Rapidly Changing Higher Education Landscape*," the conference reflects the transformative changes reshaping higher education worldwide. The conference programme encompasses four contemporary sub-themes that reflect the evolving landscape of quality assurance in higher education: Cross-Border Quality Assurance: Diverse Approaches to Excellence, Mutual Trust and Recognition; Responding to Change: Internal Quality Assurance in the Era of Digital and Hybrid Education; Regional and Global Perspectives on Accreditation and Collaboration between Quality Assurance Networks; and

The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Quality Assurance Processes. Through keynote addresses, panel discussions, paper presentations, and networking sessions, participants will explore emerging trends in quality assurance, digital transformation, internationalisation, and the future of higher education.

Beyond these thematic discussions, the conference aims to strengthen professional networks and encourage collaborative initiatives that advance quality assurance. Bringing together quality assurance professionals, higher education leaders, policymakers, researchers, and international organisations from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, the conference promises to be an engaging platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation.

As local host, our goal extends beyond organising a successful conference. We hope to create an environment where meaningful professional relationships flourish, new partnerships are established, and participants experience the warmth and diversity that India has to offer. The programme will be thoughtfully developed to facilitate the exchange of research, experiences, innovative practices, and policy perspectives among diverse stakeholders committed to enhancing the quality of higher education.

Beyond the conference programme, delegates will have opportunities to experience India's unique blend of history, tradition, cuisine, and contemporary urban life through an evening gathering and a local excursion. These informal interactions often foster lasting professional relationships and pave the way for future academic collaborations.

The conference venue is nestled amidst the scenic hills of Sahyadri at the university's Lavale campus. It combines modern academic infrastructure with a tranquil natural environment that encourages reflection, learning, and collaboration. Delegates will have access to excellent conference facilities while enjoying the vibrant academic atmosphere that defines the Symbiosis community.



As preparations continue, SIU looks forward to welcoming the global quality assurance community to Pune for what promises to be an intellectually stimulating and memorable event. We warmly invite all participants to join us in Pune as we collectively reimagine the future of quality assurance and contribute to building resilient, innovative, and globally connected higher

education systems.

The success of an international conference depends on the collective efforts of many individuals and organisations. We extend our sincere appreciation to APQN and the organising committees whose dedication and support.

On behalf of SIU, we warmly invite you to join us at the APQN 2026 AAC and AGM. Together, let us build on our shared commitment to quality, strengthen regional cooperation, and shape the future of higher education through collaboration, innovation, and mutual learning.



Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar
Pro Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed) University

X Central Asian International Forum on Quality Assurance in Education

The Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) invites all to take part in the *X Central Asian International Forum on Quality Assurance in Education*, themed "*Enhancing Quality in the Era of AI and Digital Technologies: New Horizons of Education*," dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the IAAR, which will be held on 2-3 October 2026 in Astana (Republic of Kazakhstan).



The IAAR International Forum is aimed at discussing current issues of quality assurance in education in the context of the transformation of the international educational system, expanding cooperation with foreign organisations, promoting a quality culture, constructive interaction within the academic community, and the development of the international labour market.

Representatives of authoritative organisations are expected to take part in the Forum, including the ENQA, EQAR, WFME, international agencies, government bodies, and leaders of educational organisations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, UK, Turkey, Armenia, as well as other distinguished participants.

This Forum will contribute to the development of dialogue and cooperation among APQN members and will improve understanding of challenges and innovative approaches to quality assurance in the context of the development of artificial intelligence.

We will be pleased to welcome you at the X Central Asian International Forum on Quality Assurance in Education!

<https://iaar.agency/events/future/en>

Written by Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating in Kazakhstan



Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQNews (Issue 33, 2026)

Call for Contributions for the Next Issue

APQNews is a half-year periodical newsletter on updating APQN development within the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN). It also gives members an opportunity to share QA activities within their organization. All members are invited to contribute articles for the next issue of APQNews.

A great way to get involved with the APQN community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your APQN colleagues? Are there any upcoming quality events that you would like to release in APQNews? APQN welcomes all contributions for the next issue of APQNews! Please kindly e-mail them to the Chief Editor and APQN Administrator at: apqnsecretariat@163.com.