

APQNews (Issue 32)

December 30, 2025



Main Contents

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4. The Board
5. Upcoming event

Chief Editor:

Galina Motova

Editorial Committee:

Galina Motova, Taohong Chen, Jianxin Zhang, Jagannath Patil, Umankulova Onolkan and Timur Kanapyanov

2025

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 32, 2025)

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

2025

APQNews (Issue 32)

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Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQN's President Address



Dear APQN Members,

As we stand at the edge of 2026, I extend to each of you my warmest greetings and sincere wishes for the coming 2026.

This past year has been the time of meaningful reconnections, thorough strategic planning, and effortless day and night work toward the shared goals of APQN. It is with deep pride and gratitude that I reflect on what we have done together, and with great optimism I am looking forward to the future we will continue to build.

The 2025 will be remembered as a time when the APQN community came together in Hong Kong with remarkable energy and focus. The success of the Annual Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting stands as a proof of our collective commitment. Hosted with professionalism and hospitality by The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), this event gave inspiration and encouragement to all the participants.

Under the powerful theme, “Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education,” we convened nearly 400 experts, practitioners, and educators from across our vast region and beyond. The presence of esteemed dignitaries, particularly Dr CHOI Yuk-lin, JP, Secretary for Education of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Mr JIANG He, Deputy Director General of Education Quality Evaluation Agency of the Ministry of Education of the Government of the People’s Republic of China; and Mr Teng Sio Hong, Deputy Director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) highlighted the critical role APQN plays in shaping policy and practice.

Over this year APQN strengthened its position by welcoming six new members, including the Center for Education Accreditation from Vietnam and higher education institutions from the Maldives and Pakistan. Our community now proudly encompasses 206 members across 45 countries and territories, solidifying APQN’s position as a preeminent voice for quality in the Asia-Pacific and the second-largest network of its kind in the world.

The accomplishments of 2025 are the result of sustained collaboration and dedication from every APQN member:

1. Strengthening Quality: Our core instruments - the Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR), the Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DAQAR), and the APQN Quality Label (APQL) have seen increased engagement and utility. The DAQAR, in particular, continues to be an unparalleled regional asset, now containing outcomes in the form of over 10,000 accreditation reports from 1225 higher education institutions, providing invaluable transparency and benchmarking data.

2. Advancing Knowledge: The publication of the 2024 Anthology, featuring 37 peer-reviewed articles, and the consistent release of our bi-annual APQNews, ensure the vital dissemination of ideas and best practices. The Annual Awards Ceremony in Hong Kong was a highlight, celebrating exceptional contributions in categories such as International Cooperation and the Best Model of a QAA, while the introduction of the Climate Champion Award reflected our commitment to addressing pressing global challenges.

3. Embracing a Digital Future: A major strategic milestone was the development of our completely redesigned and modernized APQN website. This initiative, undertaken to enhance user experience and facilitate dynamic interaction, reached a key phase with the presentation of its prototype in Hong Kong. This new platform is designed to be a more intuitive, resource-rich hub for all members, symbolizing our Network's forward-looking ethos.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the incessant guidance, wisdom, and tireless effort of key individuals and groups. I wish to express my profound personal and professional appreciation:

To Prof. Dr. Jianxin ZHANG and Dr. Jagannath PATIL, I extend my deepest gratitude for your invaluable support, astute assistance, and thoughtful guidance throughout the year. Your experience and insights have been a cornerstone of our strategic deliberations and operational stability.

To the APQN Board Directors, my sincere thanks for your unwavering commitment, strategic oversight, and collaborative spirit. Your committed work in reviewing submissions, holding meetings, and steering APQN through a complex global landscape is deeply respected and appreciated.

To the APQN Secretariat, I offer my heartfelt admiration and thanks. Your dedication is the engine of APQN. Your meticulous work in member communication, event coordination, application reviews, website maintenance, and daily operations is exemplary. You are the vital link that holds our global community together.

Most importantly, to every APQN member—the quality assurance agencies, higher education institutions, and professionals who form the heart of APQN. Your active participation in AAC, your feedback, your contributions to publications, your engagement in APQN activities, and your daily work to uphold quality standards are what give APQN its purpose and its impact.

The discussions in Hong Kong have made it clear that we are operating in a period

of profound transformation. The integration of Artificial Intelligence, the demand for new skills and credentials, and the imperative for deeper university-industry ecosystems are not future concepts—they are present realities. Our mandate, therefore, is to lead with both principle and adaptability.

Our key priorities for 2026 are:

1. *Hold the leadership position in ethical innovation:* We will champion the responsible integration of AI in quality assurance, exploring its role as a tool for automating routine tasks and data analysis while safeguarding the irreplaceable human elements of expert judgment, ethical reasoning, and contextual understanding.
2. *Promote meaningful collaboration:* We will move from dialogue to action in fostering industry-academia partnerships. APQN will develop resources and platforms for the fruitful dialogues to support curriculum co-creation, joint research, and pathways that enhance graduate employability and institutional relevance.
3. *Ensure sustainability:* We are committed to implementing strict risk management procedures and diversifying our funding sources. This financial and operational stability is essential to securing APQN's ability to serve members effectively for years to come.
4. *Encourage the growth:* We will heartily welcome our new members who share the mission and values of APQN and are committed to the high quality in education.
5. *Amplify our global voice:* We will proactively strengthen cooperation with INQAAHE and other networks worldwide, ensuring the Asia-Pacific perspective is strongly represented in global quality assurance initiatives.

This ambitious agenda cannot be accomplished without the energy and intellect of our entire membership. Thus, I call upon each of you to welcome this responsibility as an active architect of APQN's future.

Share your research, case studies, and challenges through our publications, webinars, and conferences. Volunteer for presentations and opinion exchange sessions. Your unique experience is our collective knowledge.

Actively use the new website, prove your compliance with APQR and upload your accreditation results in DAQAR, and also apply for the APQL. Provide candid feedback to help us refine these resources to better meet your needs.

Reach out to members in other countries for joint publications, peer learning, or guiding. Nominate worthy colleagues, agencies or institutions for awards and recognition.

Engage with the Secretariat and Board. Tell us what support you need to excel in your quality assurance mission. Let your input be the guiding light for our strategic planning.



Dear colleagues,

as we turn the page to 2026, let us move forward with a shared sense of responsibility and the feeling that anything is possible provided we contribute our time, efforts and focus to it.

The challenges before us are significant, but so is our collective expertise and commitment. Together, we will continue to ensure that APQN remains a diverse yet close-knit community and a powerful force for positive change in higher education across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy New Year filled with peace, joy, prosperity, good health, and inspiring achievements.

With great optimism for our joint and very successful future,

Dr. Galina Motova

President

Asia Pacific Quality Network

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QA Conference

2025 APQN AAC and AGM Held in Hong Kong SAR, China

After more than 20 years since APQN was founded in Hong Kong, the 2025 APQN AAC and AGM was held in Hong Kong hosted by the Hong Kong Council for Academic and Vocational Accreditations for 20-23 November 2025. The Conference was held at Nina Hotel Tsuen Wan West, which is one of the biggest hotels in Hong Kong.

Academics, experts, professionals and leaders from the international quality assurance community had gathered in the city again for in-depth exchanges on the latest development, innovations, good practices for enhancing the quality of higher education in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. Leveraging on HKCAAVQ's strong connectivity in the sector, the conference was fruitful platform for networking with friends and building partnerships and collaborations among higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies from bridging the boundaries for a Quality Region.



The Conference theme was “**Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education**”. The concept of industry collaboration represents an emerging trend for the future of higher education, refining the traditional boundaries between academia and industries, with a more integrated approach to learning, where higher education institutions and industries work together in preparing students for the complexities of the modern workforce, ensuring that they acquire not only theoretical knowledge but also practical skills that are applicable in their professional lives. This emerging trend emphasizes the importance of adaptability and lifelong learning, amidst the rapid pace of technological advancement and globalization. By fostering direct connections with

industry, universities can become hubs of innovation. When educational institutions partner with industry leaders, they gain access to cutting-edge technologies and industry expertise, including applications of AI, which can be integrated into the curriculum.

During the Conference, the following four sub-themes:

- (i) Professional relevance and quality of higher education: Collaboration and integration with industry
- (ii) Innovation and quality in higher education curriculum and pedagogy in line with industry collaborations
- (iii) Fostering quality of flexible learning pathways
- (iv) Driving for excellence in higher education: Role of External Quality Assurance

offered a framework for higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies to share knowledge and experiences amidst the changing landscape of higher education and industry collaborations, as well as the challenges and opportunities brought by technological advancement, such as AI, on curriculum design, pedagogy, research and assessment, leading to flexible learning pathways for higher education. High-quality education relies on robust internal quality assurance mechanisms in institutions. There are also challenges in terms of maintaining academic standards, quality of collaboration, and balance of interests among stakeholders. The functions of external quality assurance standards and processes are extending from gatekeeping to supporting development and enhancement.

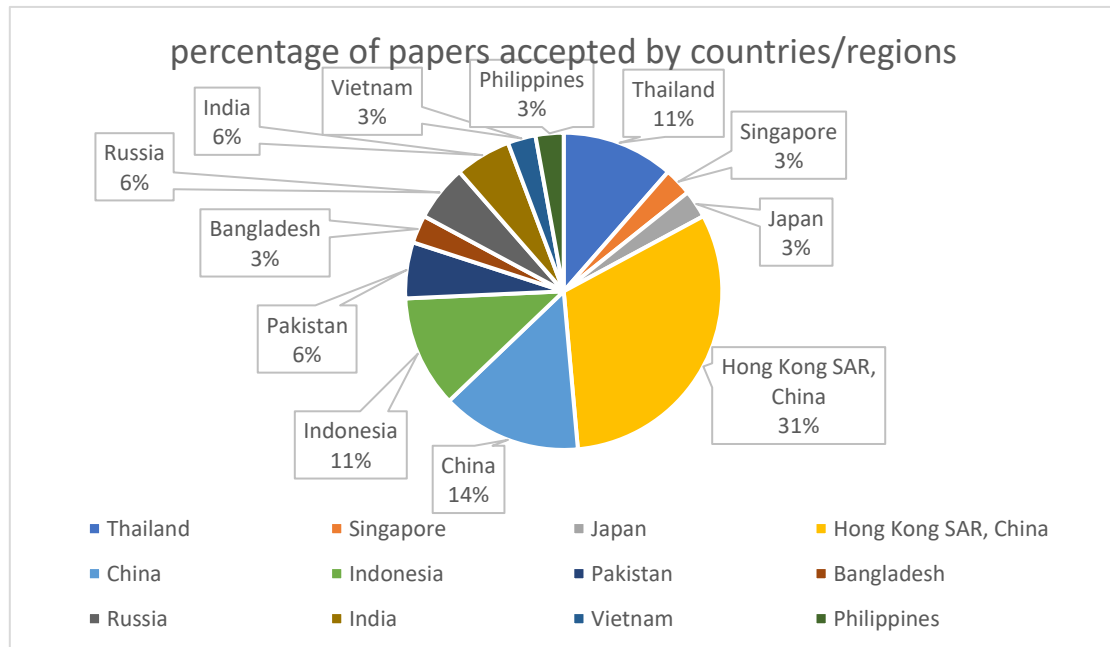
To facilitate international exchanges, 5 renowned keynote speakers coming from different regions of the world were invited. They were:

Keynote Speaker 1	Mr. Albert CHOW	Executive Director, Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), Hong Kong SAR
Keynote Speaker 2	Dr. HATTORI Yasunao	President, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), Japan
Keynote Speaker 3	Mr. Bert VERHOEVEN	Program Director, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Academy, University of Newcastle, Australia
Keynote Speaker 4	Dr. Fengchun MIAO	Chief, Unit for Technology and AI in Education, UNESCO HQs
Keynote Speaker 5	Dr. Lucas KAVLIE	Provost and Senior Professor, American National University and the University of Fairfax, USA

Apart from keynote speakers, international experts and leaders in the education and quality assurance sectors were also invited to join the plenary sessions.

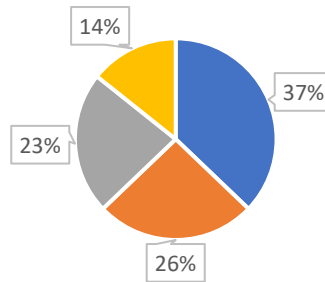
Plenary 1	<p><u>Chair & Commentator</u> <i>Prof. Sheelagh MATEAR</i> - Independent Consultant / Former Executive Director, Academic Quality Agency (AQA) for New Zealand Universities</p> <p><u>Plenary Speakers</u> <i>Prof. Paul LAM</i> - President, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, HKSAR <i>Prof. Stephen CHEUNG</i> - President, Saint Francis University, HKSAR <i>Prof. Alan LAU</i> - President, Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi), HKSAR <i>Prof. Sally CHAN</i> - President, Tung Wah College, HKSAR</p>
Plenary 2	<p><u>Chair & Commentator</u> <i>Prof. Richard YUEN</i> - Chair Professor of Architectural Engineering Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, City University of Hong Kong</p> <p><u>Plenary Speakers</u> <i>Prof. Björn STENSAKER</i> - Professor of Higher Education, University of Oslo, Norway <i>Mr. Douglas BLACKSTOCK</i> - Former President, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) <i>Dr. Sau Mee CHIU</i> - Deputy Executive Director (VPET), The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), HKSAR</p>
Plenary 3	<p><u>Chair & Commentator</u> <i>Prof. Olgun CICEK</i> - International Advisor, Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (THEQC)</p> <p><u>Plenary Speakers</u> <i>Prof. Rhys ROWLAND-JONES</i> - Former Commissioner Education, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Education and Scientific Research Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) <i>Dr. Alina ZHUMAGULOVA</i> - Candidate of Juridical Sciences, General Director of the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) <i>Mdm Halinordina MAT SAAT</i> - Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Management), Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) <i>Prof. Ari PURBAYANTO</i> - Director, National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (BAN-PT)</p>

The Organizing Committee of APQN 2025 AAC received a total of 56 papers submitted for parallel sessions. All the papers were in high quality, and the Committee decided to accept 34 for paper presentation in the parallel sessions. These papers were submitted by authors from 12 countries/regions. Please see the figures below.



Paper presentations were categorized under the four sub-themes. Among the papers submitted, the sub-theme “Driving for Excellence in Higher Education: Role of External Quality” received the highest number of submissions, followed by “Innovation and Quality in Higher Education Curriculum and Pedagogy in line with Industry Collaborations” and “Professional Relevance and Quality of Higher Education: Collaboration and Integration with Industry”. Please see figures below:

Number of Papers Accepted by Sub-themes



- Driving for Excellence in Higher Education: Role of External Quality
- Innovation and Quality in Higher Education Curriculum and Pedagogy in line with Industry Collaborations
- Professional Relevance and Quality of Higher Education: Collaboration and Integration with Industry
- Fostering quality of flexible learning pathways

A Conference Website was launched in May 2025, with Call for Papers started at the same time and online registration opened in August 2025. This year, all papers could be submitted online via an e-Portal to facilitate the paper review by the Organising Committee. Registration and fee payment were also handled online.

apqn
ASIA PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK

香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications

About The Conference | Programme | About Hong Kong | Supporting Organisations

20-23 November 2025

Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education

APQN Annual Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Hong Kong SAR, China
Local Host - HKCAAVQ

About The Conference

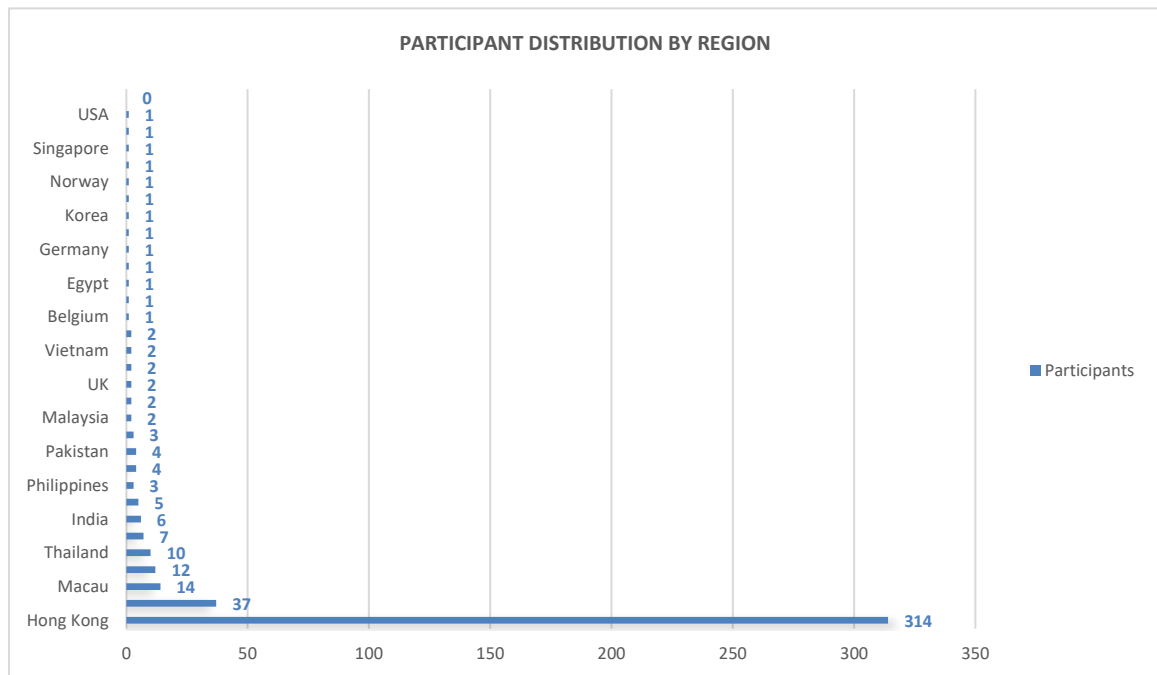
Scheduled for 20-23 November 2025 in Hong Kong SAR, China, the 2025 APQN AAC & AGM themed "Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education" will facilitate discussions on innovations and best practices to enhance regional standards in higher education across the Asia-Pacific. The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), one of the founding members of APQN, is devoted to maintaining the esteemed tradition of excellence of the conference as the local host.

Learn More

About APQN

About HKCAAVQ

The conference was well-attended with 444 participants from **32 countries/regions**.



DAY 1 (20/11)

Day 1 (20/12) was scheduled for four internal meetings:

APQN 1st Board Meeting 2025

Topic: 2024 Annual Report and Preparation of 2025 AAC & AGM

Chair: Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee, APQN Board Director, Dr. Timur Kanapyanov

Participants: 1) APQN Board Directors; 2) the local host (HKCAAVQ); 3) special guest(s) from the host of 2026 AAC.

Finance Committee Meeting

Topic: 2025 Finance Report and 2026 Budget

Chair: Dr. Galina MOTOVA, APQN President

Participants: All Members of APQN Finance Committee

APQR Council Meeting

Topic: APQR Report in 2024 and Plan for 2025

Chair: Dr. Jagannath PATIL, APQR Chairperson

Participants: All Members of APQR Council

APQL Council Meeting

Topic: APQL Perspectives

Chair: Prof. Dr. Jianxin ZHANG, APQL Chairperson

Participants: 1) all members of APQL Council and APQN Secretariat

DAY 2 (21/11)

Day 2 of the Conference saw the Opening Ceremony, officiated by the Welcome Speech from Dr. Choi Yuk Lin, Secretary for Education, Education Bureau of HKSAR, followed by the Conference Theme Address delivered by Dr. Galina MOTOVA, President of APQN.



[Dr. Choi Yuk Lin]



[Dr. Galina Motova]

In the Opening Ceremony, there were announcement on the Release of publication of APQN 2024 Anthology, made by Prof. Dr. Jianxin ZHANG, and the Release of APQN new website, introduced by Dr. Taohong CHEN.



[Dr. Jianxin ZHANG]



[Dr. Chen Taohong]

The programme of Day 2 (21/11) was dedicated to three well-received keynote speeches presented by three internationally renowned experts in the quality assurance and AI pedagogy. There were also two plenary sessions participated by leaders in the sector to share insight and inspiration, and discuss experiences and challenges.

The first keynote speaker was Mr Albert CHOW, Executive Director, Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ). His keynote speech addressed the “Development of Universities of Applied Sciences in Hong Kong”, by which he provided exposition and reflection of UAS development in Hong Kong

in line with development of international education hub. The purposes of its establishment together with its strategic aspirations was elaborated together with an initial exploration of the challenges ahead. His address formed the background of the subsequent discussions of Plenary 1 by the Heads of members of Alliance of UAS.



[Mr Albert Chow]

The first keynote speech was followed by the first plenary session which focused on “Higher education with industry collaborations”, chaired by Prof Sheelagh MATEAR, Previous Executive Director, Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities. Speakers included: Prof. Paul LAM, President, HK Metropolitan University; Prof Sally CHAN, President, Tung Wah College, HK; Prof Alan LAU, President, Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi); and Prof Stephen CHEUNG, President, Saint Francis University, HK. The session was structured with questions and comments made by Prof Matear, the four leaders in the development of universities of applied sciences in Hong Kong shared their insight, inspirations, visions and experiences.



[Plenary Session 1]

The second keynote speech was presented by Dr HATTORI Yasunao, President, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE). With his speech on “Bridging the Academia-Industry Gap: Insights from Japanese Universities and the Role of QA Agencies in Asia”, he introduced initiatives at Japanese universities aimed at addressing the gap between academic education and the

evolving needs of industry. He also highlighted efforts led by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), to address this gap by fostering highly skilled professionals in growing sectors. His discussion focused on how QA agencies can contribute to facilitating smooth transitions for learners—from secondary to higher education, and from higher education to industry—by promoting dialogue among stakeholders, developing evaluation frameworks suited to diverse contexts, and strengthening the evolving role of quality assurance across the Asia region.



[Dr. Hattori]

Further to the Japanese experience, the second plenary session, chaired by Prof Richard Yuen, Chair Professor of Architectural Engineering Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering City University of Hong Kong, explored the role and challenges of QA in the development of industry collaborations from the European perspectives and Chinese experiences. Speakers included Prof Bjorn STENSAKER, Professor of Higher Education, University of Oslo; Mr Douglas BLACKSTOCK, Previous President, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA); and Dr Sau Mee CHIU, Deputy Executive Director (VPET), HKCAAVQ.



[Plenary Session 2]

The third keynote speech, presented by Mr Bert VERHOEVEN, Program Director,

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Academy, University of Newcastle, Australia, on “AI as a Pedagogical Shift: Rethinking Assurance of Learning in Higher Education”. His presentation introduced a Human-Centric, GenAI-First (HCAIF) pedagogical framework, developed through 30 months of action research at the University of Newcastle’s Innovation & Entrepreneurship program. Central to this work is the 3P AoL model—Product, Process, Person (Reflection)—which establishes verifiable, developmental evidence of learning in AI-integrated environments. By embedding programmatic, competency-driven assessment, diversifying modalities (written, oral, practical, digital artefacts), and mandating transparent AI use through prompt logs and reproducibility checks, the model ensures integrity, depth, and relevance in student learning outcomes. His keynote explored how this approach bridges pedagogical innovation with global quality assurance, offering higher education leaders practical pathways to uphold standards while embracing AI’s transformative potential.



[Mr Bert Verhoeven]

The Annual General Meeting of APQN was held after the third keynote speech. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Galina MOTOVA, APQN President

1. Welcome to new members in 2025 by awarding the Certificates by APQN Secretariat
2. Announcement of Constitutional Amendments at APQN by Prof. Dr. Jianxin ZHANG APQN Board Director
3. Report from APQN President by Prof. Galina MOTOVA
4. Report on APQN finances by Dr. CHEN Tao Hong
5. Report on APQR by Dr. Jagannath PATIL

DAY 3 (22/11)

Day 3 of the programme was scheduled for two keynote speeches, one plenary session and 8 parallel sessions.

Dr. Fengchun MIAO delivered the 4th keynote speech by video presentation on “Human-centred AI Competency Development”. He summarised UNESCO’s work on AI policy development in the past 7 years. He also introduced the latest AI Competency Frameworks, for teachers and for students, which were comprehensive and useful to educators.



[Video presentation of Dr Fengchun Miao]

The third plenary session on “Collaborations for International Accreditation” was chaired by Prof Olgun CICEK, International Advisor, Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (THEQC), Turkey. In this session, four agency heads from four countries were invited to share the latest development and experiences on international accreditation in their country. They are:

Prof Rhys ROWLAND-JONES - Former Commissioner Education, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Education and Scientific Research Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA), UAE

Dr Alina ZHUMAGULOVA - Candidate of Juridical Sciences, General Director of the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), Kazakhstan

Mdm Halinordina MAT SAAT - Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Management), Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), Malaysia

Prof Ari PURBAYANTO - Director, National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (BAN-PT), Indonesia

Using an interactive approach, Prof CiCek structured the session with questions and comments to lead the discussions and sharing of experiences and views on international accreditation in the 4 countries. The comprehensive coverage of the sharing was useful and inspiring for other QA agencies.



[Plenary Session 3]

The last (but not the least) keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Lucas KAVLIE, Provost and Senior Professor of American National University and the University of Fairfax, USA, who spoke on the inspiring topic “From Compliance to Co-Creation: Reimagining Quality Assurance in the AI Age”. His keynote explored how quality assurance agencies and institutional leaders could work in concert to support responsible, inclusive, and future-aligned industry collaborations. Drawing on lessons from national and international practice, he examined emerging quality paradigms that honor both professional relevance and academic integrity. From co-designed micro-credentials to AI-enabled teaching and assessment, he offered a roadmap for building mutual trust, ensuring accountability, and supporting student success in ways that were both rigorous and responsive. His proposed model of co-creation where quality assurance is not a finish line, but a foundation for meaningful collaboration marks the directions for developments in quality assurance practices.



[Dr Lucas Kavlie]

With the large number of high-quality academic papers submitted, eight parallel sessions for 34 papers categorized under the four sub-themes were scheduled in two timeslots in Day 3, with one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The eight parallel sessions were:

Parallel Session 1 - Driving for Excellence in Higher Education: Role of External Quality Assurance

Parallel Session 2 - Fostering Quality of Flexible Learning Pathways

Parallel Session 3 - Innovation and Quality in Higher Education Curriculum and Pedagogy in line with Industry Collaborations

Parallel Session 4 - Driving for Excellence in Higher Education: Role of External Quality Assurance

Parallel Session 5 - Professional Relevance and Quality of Higher Education: Collaboration and Integration with Industry

Parallel Session 6 - Driving for Excellence in Higher Education: Role of External Quality Assurance

Parallel Session 7 - Innovation and Quality in Higher Education Curriculum and Pedagogy in line with Industry Collaborations

Parallel Session 8 - Professional Relevance and Quality of Higher Education: Collaboration and Integration with Industry



[parallel sessions]

The closing session was held after the parallel sessions. The next host of 2026 APQN ACC & AGM was announced by the President, Dr. Galina MOTOVA. Next year, the conference will be hosted by Symboiosis International (Deemed University), in Pune, India. Dr. Hardik Vachharajani, Professor and Director, Quality Benchmarking and Management of the University gave a short introduction of the University and invited all participants to join the conference next year.



[Dr. Galina Motova & Dr. Hardik Vachharajani]

In the closing session, Prof Jianxin ZHANG, APQN Immediate Past President, announced the passing of the Constitutional Amendments of APQN, followed by closing remarks made by Dr. Galina MOTOVA, on behalf of the APQN Board; Dr. Timur KANAPYANOV, as Chair of the Programme Committee; and finally, Mr Albert CHOW, on behalf of the local host.

Media Coverage

Local media provided strong coverage of the event, with major Hong Kong outlets highlighting both its scale and impact on higher education quality assurance. Wen Wei Po reported on the APQN AAC and AGM co-organised by HKCAAVQ, noting the participation of nearly 400 international experts, policymakers and industry representatives and its focus on enhancing higher education quality and strengthening collaboration with industry. On.cc and Oriental Daily further underscored the conference's role in addressing emerging challenges such as digital learning, micro-credentials, and AI applications, reinforcing the event's position as a significant platform for regional dialogue on education quality and innovation.



蔡若蓮：持續推動應用科技大學發展

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蔡若蓮期望應用科技大學與不同行業界加強合作 吳秉權
來源：商台新聞



香港學術及職業資歷評審局協辦2025亞太教育質量保障年度大會 聚焦高等教育質素與業界合作

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2025年亞太區教育質量保障組織年會及周年大會於香港開幕。(評審局圖片)

香港文匯報訊 (記者 黃楠) 香港學術及職業資歷評審局與亞太區教育質量保障組織 (APQN) 選為協辦機構, 於11月20日至23日舉行「2025年亞太區教育質量保障組織年度學術會議及周年大會」, 為期四天的會議以「推動高等

Gala Dinner

A Gala Dinner was hosted on the 21 Nov (Day 2) for all participants at the Grand Ballroom of Nina Hotel. Over 300 participants joined the dinner, a traditional Chinese banquet. Guests were welcomed with the traditional Lion Dance, a cultural performance for signifying good fortune and prosperity.



[Lion Dance]

The Dinner was opened with speeches from the Guest of Honour, Dr. CHOI Yuk Lin, JP, Secretary for Education, Education Bureau of HKSAR, followed by Dr. Galina MOTOVA, APQN President and Ir Prof Richard YUEN, Acting Council Chairman, HKCAAVQ. After the toasting ceremony, the dinner started at 8pm.



[Gala dinner toasting]

The APQN Quality Awards Ceremony was conducted during the Gala Dinner. There were 9 awards, for 11 awardees. The list is as follows:

Award Category	Awardee	Country/Region
APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA	The Agency for quality assurance in education "EdNet"	Kyrgyzstan
APQN Award of International Cooperation in QA	Education Quality Evaluation Agency of the Ministry of Education (EQEA)	China
	National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)	Japan
	Korean Council for University Education (KCUE)	Korea
APQN Climate Champions Award	Our Lady of Fatima University	Philippines
APQN's Best Model of QAA Award	Education Quality Evaluation Agency, Ministry of Education	China
APQN's Best Model of QAA Award	The National Centre for Public Accreditation	Russia
APQN's Best/Model Internal QA Award	Hong Kong Police College	Hong Kong SAR, China
The Quality Champions Award	Dr Soetrisno Soemarjo	Indonesia

APQN Successful Award	Host	Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ).	Hong Kong SAR, China
Honorary Fellow of APQN	Life	Dr Galina Motova	Russia



[APQN Quality Award Ceremony]

There was another entertaining cultural performance during the dinner. It was the Sichuan-style Face-changing performance which is an important intangible cultural heritage of China. Guests found it interesting and enjoyable.



[Sichuan-style Face-changing performance]

DAY 4 (23/11)

Half-day city excursion and buffet lunch

The 2025 APQN Annual Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting concluded on 23 Nov (Final Day) with a half-day city excursion. The programme commenced with an open-top bus tour showcasing Hong Kong's cityscape, followed by a guided tour at the Hong Kong Palace Museum. The excursion concluded with a buffet lunch at Hotel ICON, the teaching and research hotel operated by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, providing participants with a unique opportunity to observe a distinctive model of applied learning that integrates classroom instruction with real-world professional practice. This closing activity provided participants with both cultural enrichment and professional insights, marking a memorable conclusion to the conference.



[City excursion]



Feedback Survey

A mass post-event survey was sent to all participants to collect their feedback, and the key findings are summarized as follows.

Pre-Conference (Registration & Communications)

- **Survey focus:** Registration instructions, support during sign-up, and pre-conference communications (emails, website updates).
- **Satisfaction rating:** 4.66 out of 5 (highest among all sections).
- **Feedback highlights (summarized):**
 - Some participants noted that confirmation details for presentations could be shared earlier to support preparation.

Conference Content & Context

- **Survey focus:** Overall experience, programme alignment with the theme “*Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education*”, relevance to delegates’ work, and balance of academic, networking, and cultural activities.
- **Satisfaction rating:** 4.47 out of 5.
- **Feedback highlights (summarized):**
 - Delegates expressed interest in receiving slides or recordings in advance to enhance engagement.
 - Suggestions included extending plenary sessions and creating more structured networking opportunities.
 - Ideas were shared about incorporating local perspectives, university visits, and broader recognition of contributors in paper presentations.

Hospitality & Support

- **Survey focus:** Atmosphere, staff support, meal arrangements, Gala Dinner, City Excursion, and dietary considerations.
- **Satisfaction rating:** 4.7 out of 5.
- **Feedback highlights (summarized):**
 - Participants mentioned that hotel check-in could be smoother and that a city-center location might be more convenient.

Requests were made for a wider range of vegetarian options at meals.

(Written by Dr. Christina Ng from HKCAAVQ, SAR China)

Key Speeches

Welcome and Theme Address by APQN President



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues and distinguished guests,

It is my great honour to welcome you here, in Hong Kong for the 2025 APQN Annual Academic Conference!

I extend my profound gratitude to our host, The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation and Vocational Qualifications. As a founding member of APQN, the Council promotes the spirit of excellence

and collaboration among APQN members. Thank you for your efforts and dedication.

Dear Colleagues, over the next few conference days, we will address one of the most crucial issues in our field: how to bridge the gap between academia and job market. Our theme “Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education” is about establishing stronger partnerships. These partnerships must ensure that our graduates are not only qualified but are truly ready for any future: predictable or not.

To understand the scale of this task, we must first look at the global context.

We have entered a new era of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, which are fundamentally reshaping all aspects of our society and changing the world as we know it.

Future economic and industrial development, as well as human well-being and security, will now heavily depend on our ability to use these new technologies for our benefit.

The labor market now demands from job seekers soft skills, digital competencies and AI skills not just professional knowledge.

Businesses expect AI to assist in their operations to do away with unproductive jobs, and create new, more economically effective ones.

In this process, AI is not a goal in itself but a powerful catalyst. It helps overcome language and administrative barriers, analyze markets, and adapt technologies at extraordinary speeds.

Global challenges and fundamental shifts affect both industry and higher education. They are changing the concept of education and the mission of the classical university.

In the field of engineering education, the so-called T-shaped learning model is used. Deep knowledge in their field makes a student an invaluable specialist in their field (vertical line). A modern specialist also needs interdisciplinary knowledge. This includes skills such as communication, project management, and understanding related areas (horizontal line). Specialists with T-shaped skills who can solve complex professional tasks.

They can view challenges from multiple perspectives and develop innovative, non-standard solutions.

This T-shaped model of skills is equally good for education in both - sciences and humanities, because all modern specialists have to be also proficient in working with databases, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence.

Digitalization accelerates the growth and accessibility of information. Knowledge becomes outdated too fast. Therefore, we have to teach students to constantly learn new things, change their career paths, and be able to master new professions. We now need to shift from the concept of “employment” to “employability”, and from the concept of “lifelong learning” to the concept of “an educational journey”.

This requires a change in the mission of the university.

The classical university model, where teachers and students interacted in the same place at the same time, is becoming a thing of the past. Today, this interaction and access to information can happen anywhere, at any time. Alternatives to classical education are emerging, provided by the companies like EdTech, other IT companies, and corporate universities. In addition to traditional qualifications (like BA, MA), micro-credentials and digital degrees are creating a more diverse and accessible learning ecosystem.

All AI capabilities are already being used in higher education. By these I mean:

- educational process management,
- creating educational content in various languages and formats,
- developing assessment materials, grading student work, analyzing results, and predicting outcomes,
- collecting stakeholder feedback.

The key questions are:

What is the future of HE in the age of AI?

How can we strategically use AI in HE?

How do we teach young people when it is essential to use these new technologies and when it is better to keep away from them, especially where human life and health are at risk?

The central issue that we are facing now is how to ensure excellence in education and training of graduates.

What do we do when we have doubts about the authorship of the student work: was it done by the student themselves or generated by AI?

Are student papers like theses and dissertations necessary at all these days?

Perhaps we should ban AI altogether?

Maybe we shouldn't assess WHAT the student did but HOW they did it?

First, the internet challenged our reliance on testing knowledge only. Now, the rise of AI threatens to make our entire paradigm of assessing academic competence outdated.

What is the future of a university as an institution?

Will it be a laboratory for creating hybrid intelligence representing a unified cognitive system where AI serves as external memory and a computational module, and humans provide creativity, emotion, and ethical judgment?

In such a university, the educational process would focus not on disciplines, but on ways of thinking.

Or should the university become a center of competencies, an integral component of the labor market for training AI system operators?

In this scenario, education becomes the cultivation of talent within industry supply chains, like an "outsourced" corporate university.

Given these challenges, what does industry specifically expect from higher education?

In order to train highly qualified professionals, collaboration between academia and business must move far beyond theory. We need to build integrated ecosystems.

This means co-designing curricula with industry partners, embedding real-world projects into the core of learning, and facilitating academic and professional mobility.

Such collaborations ensure that the skills taught in our classrooms are the skills needed in the workplace. They transform our institutions into dynamic hubs of innovation, facilitating economic and social development.

This brings us to the crucial linking element between academia and industry: the role of accreditation agencies.

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network brings together an expert community responsible for internal and external quality assurance in higher education. Our primary goal is to evaluate and ensure the quality of educational programs and education providers.

However, there is another very important question. Should we integrate AI into our quality assurance processes? And more importantly: how can we use it effectively and ethically. Can expert judgment be replaced by AI tools? What is AI's role in accreditation: a helping tool or an impartial judge?

We can identify clear advantages of using AI in quality assurance. These are:

- automating routine and labor-intensive tasks like text analysis, data monitoring, and systematizing evaluation results. This can serve as a decision-making support system.
- fact-checking and verifying evidence, potentially increasing the objectivity of evaluation procedures.

However, there are also clear disadvantages:

- insufficiency of large volumes of accumulated data / and problems with training data quality
- a lack of ready-made, out-of-the-box AI solutions for accreditation agencies / and staff with adequate digital competencies.

Education and quality assurance expertise are social phenomena. Artificial intelligence cannot fully replace teachers or experts.

Only an expert who is skilled in both digital technologies and AI can appropriately evaluate the educational environment and processes under new conditions.

The key advantages of a human expert over an AI assistant are:

- the ability to doubt;
- the ability for emotional dialogue that can confirm or refute facts;
- the ability to make an ethical choice in situations of uncertainty, where there is no single correct answer / and one has to choose between equally important values;
- the ability to ask the right questions - both to AI and to stakeholders.

Given the important role of quality assurance in higher education, we have to adhere to a key principle in our work. We should act not merely as gatekeepers and controllers for the higher education system, but as guides in the world of new trends and technologies. We should identify and disseminate best practices, promote dialogue and experience sharing, and be equal partners to universities. Furthermore, we should lead by example, demonstrating responsibility, integrity, objectivity, independence, and commitment to quality.

To achieve this, we need to:

- keep pace technologically with those we evaluate
- stimulate and support innovations in learning through our evaluation procedures
- involve field experts experienced in using technological innovations in our procedures.

In order to reduce excessive bureaucracy, we suggest:

- using digital platforms for collecting, analyzing, and generating reports and feedback results
- integrating our digital platforms with universities' internal information systems
- using AI to replace routine tasks for university staff during self-evaluation/ and for

experts during external review procedures

- shifting from reactive to proactive monitoring, providing recommendations for risk prevention, optimization, and efficiency.

We should continue to be guided by Daniel Stufflebeam's principle that has been well-known for a long time: “The purpose of evaluation is not to prove, but to improve”.

The most important principles for quality assurance should be:

- preserving expert quality evaluation, adapted to changing student needs and the rapidly evolving technological landscape.

- adhering to the academic integrity, ethical standards, and values when using artificial intelligence.

- ensuring data security and confidentiality.

Dear Colleagues,

We now begin our conference.

I am confident that here we will share powerful innovations and best practices. These will advance higher education standards across entire Asia-Pacific region.

I am convinced we will have a productive and engaging conference. I look forward to our fruitful discussions and meaningful collaborations.

Let's make it happen!

And please note, I prepared this speech myself powered by coffee only. So every word is human-generated.

Galina Motova
President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Welcome Remarks by Ir Prof Richard YUEN, Acting Council Chairman



A warmest welcome and good morning to you all. For friends from afar, welcome to Hong Kong.

It is my great privilege and pleasure to welcome you to the opening ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) Annual Academic Conference. We are very honoured to have nearly 400 honoured guests, respected attendees, and valued participants from near and far among the regions joining us here today. On behalf of HKCAAVQ, the local host of this year, I am very pleased to take this opportunity to extend our warmest welcome to you all, as we come together to reconnect with old friends and build new connections.

Your presence highlights the importance of this Conference and underscores its goal of fostering collaboration, enhancing international cooperation, and encouraging the sharing of knowledge and experiences. We sincerely appreciate your engagement with us and would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your support and involvement. In particular to **Dr Choi, Mr Teng, and Mr Jiang** for honouring us with their presence at the Opening Ceremony this morning.

As a founding member of APQN, HKCAAVQ takes pride in supporting the network's mission to enhance the efforts of quality assurance agencies and promote collaboration throughout the Asia-Pacific region. This year, together with the APQN Secretariat, we are privileged to host this distinguished Conference in Hong Kong, marking the first conference of its kind in the higher education sector in Hong Kong.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to **Dr Galina MOTOVA** and the APQN's Secretariat for their support in organising this conference alongside HKCAAVQ. This collaboration enhances our shared initiatives, opens doors for significant collaborations and enhances the future of quality assurance in education. I sincerely appreciate your support to this Conference.

This year, we are excited to present our conference theme "Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education", HKCAAVQ plays an essential role in fostering quality excellence and enhancing collaborations within the higher education sector. For years, we have been engaging in exchange and collaborations with partner organisations, jointly sharing knowledge and fostering a robust community of quality assurance in higher education.

Working together with industry is fundamental to industrial collaboration. We promote collaboration between educational institutions and industry stakeholders.

These partnerships offer essential perspectives that align with the actual dynamics of the higher education environment. We are confident that nurturing these partnerships is crucial for developing a higher education system that is both responsive and dynamic, capable of addressing the changing manpower needs of the global economy.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly integrated into higher education. Apart from revolutionizing students' learning experience, it also offers us the opportunity to harness valuable data analytics, allowing for a more effective and efficient assessment of accreditation outcomes, fostering ongoing enhancement on quality assurance in higher education.

In the forthcoming keynote addresses and plenary discussions, our esteemed speakers will engage in significant presentations and dialogues, cultivating an enlightening exchange on Universities of Applied Sciences development, engagement of industry partnerships, role of technology in line with quality assurance in the era of AI and so on.

As we embark on our discussions in the days ahead, we invite you to join us in sharing your valuable insights and experience, discovering the ways we can unite our efforts to unlock the possibilities of these partnerships, and enhancing the quality assurance of higher education.

Lastly, for all distinguished international guests from afar, I would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to you to take a moment to explore the wonderful experiences how Hong Kong can provide. It is a pleasure to welcome you to this vibrant city, renowned for being the unique bridge of Eastern and Western cultures. Here, you can discover our impressive skyline and enjoy the rich flavours of our delicious cuisine. I encourage you to spend yourselves in the exceptional experiences that capture the true spirit of Hong Kong.

Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your presence and engagement. We hope this Conference will spark engaging discussions, strengthen valuable relationships, and stimulate collaborative initiatives that will elevate the standards of higher education across the globe. Thank you all for being here today and wish you all a truly enriching and thought-provoking conference experience. Thank you!

Ir Prof Richard YUEN
Acting Council Chairman, HKCAAVQ, Hong Kong

Closing remarks by Chair of Programme Committee Timur Kanapyanov



Dear colleagues, esteemed guests, and friends,

As we come to the end of the APQN Annual Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting 2025 here in Hong Kong, my heart is full.

Full of gratitude, full of respect, and, most of all, full of hope.

Over these days together, in this beautiful Nina Hotel with a view of Hong Kong's skyline and harbour, we were more than just conference participants. We were a community. We were a family that shares one important belief: **quality education can change lives and can change our region.**

Looking back on these days together

Our theme this year was *"Embracing Industrial Collaboration for Quality Higher Education."*

When I think about everything we heard and discussed, I see that this was not only a title of a programme. It became our common language.

On the first day, we heard about the development of **Universities of Applied Sciences in Hong Kong**, and how a system can grow when industry, government, and universities move in the same direction.

We listened to **Dr. Hattori Yasunao** speaking about bridging the gap between academia and industry in Japan and the role of quality assurance agencies in Asia. He reminded us that quality assurance is not only about checking and controlling – it is about *building trust* between universities, employers, and society.

Our plenary sessions brought many strong messages:

- From presidents and leaders of Hong Kong institutions, we heard how they build **industry partnerships** into the heart of programmes, not as decoration, but as core value.
- From our colleagues in Europe and Asia, we learned how **external QA** can support innovation and not kill it; how it can guide institutions to design programmes that are relevant, flexible, and future-oriented.
- We saw that **collaboration with industry** is not only about internships or guest lectures. It is about co-creating curricula, co-designing learning outcomes, and sharing responsibility for graduates' skills.

We also stepped into the new world of **artificial intelligence**:

- We listened to human-centred AI for education from UNESCO.

- We talked about AI as a *pedagogical shift*, not just a tool, and how it changes assessment, feedback, and assurance of learning.
- We heard how QA systems must move “from compliance to co-creation” in the AI age.

Behind all these presentations, one message was clear and simple:

Quality assurance must walk together with change, not behind it.

What we achieved together

Over these two conference days and the AGM, we did much more than follow a programme.

- In the **parallel sessions**, you shared case studies, research results, and honest reflections. We heard about external QA, flexible learning pathways, micro-credentials, curriculum innovation, new forms of partnership with industry, and many other topics.
- We discussed how to keep quality while opening more doors for learners: adults, part-time students, those in vocational and professional education, and those in non-traditional pathways.
- At the **AGM**, we welcomed new members into our APQN family. We listened to the reports of our President, our Secretary/Treasurer, APQR and APQL. We also heard about important constitutional changes that will make APQN stronger, more transparent, and more sustainable.

Our **Gala Dinner** was another special moment.

We enjoyed the lion dance, the Sichuan face-changing performance, speeches from our hosts, and the APQN Quality Award Ceremony. But more than that, we enjoyed talking to each other at the tables – sharing stories, laughing, planning new projects, making new friendships.

These may look like social moments, but in fact they are the real engine of APQN. Our network lives in these conversations, in these connections, in these moments of trust.

Thank you

As Chair of the Programme Committee, I want to say a very warm and sincere *thank you*.

First, to our local host, **HKCAAVQ** – to Mr. Albert Chow and his team.

You prepared not only a high-level programme, but also a very human, very warm atmosphere. Your organisation showed us what it means to be a strong, respected quality assurance agency that also listens, learns, and shares. This year you celebrate your **35th anniversary**. It is an honour for APQN to celebrate with you.

Second, to our **APQN President, Dr. Galina Motova**, and the whole Board.

Your leadership, your calm and steady work in sometimes difficult times, gives APQN stability and direction. You guide us, but you also give us space to contribute. Thank you

for your trust.

Third, to Prof. Jianxin Zhang, to Dr. Jagannath Patil, and to the APQN Secretariat.

You are the invisible power behind this conference – the emails, the documents, the website, the membership, the awards, the anthology, the annual report, all the details that we sometimes take for granted. Without you, there would be no “programme” to chair.

Fourth, to all speakers, panelists, moderators, and chairs.

You prepared your talks in busy schedules, you travelled long distances, you answered questions, you stayed in the rooms even when you were tired. You gave us your best ideas. This is a gift to all of us.

Fifth, to the participants – our colleagues from QA agencies, universities, ministries, and partner organisations across the region and beyond.

Your presence makes APQN alive. You asked honest questions, you shared your local realities, you also shared your worries and your hopes. I know many of you had to negotiate budgets, visas, and long flights to be here. Thank you for making this effort.

And finally, a special thank you to the **volunteers and technical staff** of the hotel and HKCAAVQ. You made sure our microphones worked, our rooms were ready, our coffee was hot, and our time in Hong Kong was comfortable and safe. Often your work is quiet, but we see it and we appreciate it.

Please, let us give a big round of applause to all of them.

What we take home

Dear friends,

The real value of this conference will be seen not today, but in the coming months and years.

When you go back home to your QA agencies, to your universities and colleges, to your ministries and councils, I hope you will carry with you at least **three things**.

First – Courage. Courage to try new forms of collaboration with industry, even if they are not perfect at the beginning. Courage to open your doors to new partners, new technologies, new learners.

Second – Responsibility. Responsibility to keep our quality assurance systems fair, transparent, and trustworthy. Responsibility to ensure that industrial collaboration does not weaken academic standards, but makes them stronger and more relevant.

Third – Warmth. Yes, warmth. We speak a lot about systems, frameworks, and indicators. But at the centre of everything we do are people: students, teachers, reviewers, managers. If we keep our work human, respectful, and kind, then quality assurance will not be a burden – it will be a support.

APQN's path ahead

APQN is now more than twenty years old. It has more than 200 members from across

the Asia-Pacific region. It has its own register (APQR), its own quality label (APQL), its own database (DAQAR), its own publications.

But most importantly, APQN has **you**.

Each one of you is part of this story. Each agency, each university, each individual brings something unique. When we join together – like we did here in Hong Kong – we become more than the sum of our parts.

In the coming year, there will be new projects, new surveys, new site visits, new conferences, and, yes, new challenges. Political, financial, technological, and social. We cannot predict them all.

But we *can* promise one thing:

We will face them **together**, as a community.

A personal note

On a personal level, I want to say that it has been a deep honour for me to serve as Chair of the Programme Committee for this conference.

When we began planning, this was just a set of ideas on paper. Today, looking at this room, seeing your faces, hearing your feedback, I feel that the work was worth it.

Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your patience. And thank you for making this programme – and this conference – come alive.

Farewell – but not goodbye

Tomorrow some of you will join the city tour and see more of Hong Kong – its streets, its harbour, its life. Very soon, we will all return to our homes, our offices, and our daily routines.

Please remember: when you go back, you are **not** going back alone.

You carry with you the support of the APQN family. You carry with you the energy of this conference. And you carry with you the knowledge that, somewhere in another part of our region, a colleague is working on the same problems, with the same commitment.

Let us stay in touch. Let us write to each other, invite each other, review each other, and support each other – until we meet again at the next APQN AAC and AGM.

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

Thank you for your hearts, your minds, and your time.

I wish you all safe travels home, good health, and many new successes.

Dr. Timur Kanapyanov,

APQN Board Director and the Chair of the Conference Committee, Kazakhstan

QA Activity

APQR Annual Report by Dr. Jagannath Patil, APQR Chairperson

It gives me great pleasure to submit a brief report on activities undertaken by Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR).

The APQR Review of QAA's:

APQR has received EoI from 2 Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs) to undergo the process of inclusion on APQR.

- Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care (ECAQA, Republic of Kazakhstan)
- International Cooperation at the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), Republic of Kazakhstan

APQR has registered/ renewed 2 Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs) on APQR.

- “Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health” (IAAHEH) based in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- “Agency for the Assessment of the Quality of Tertiary and Vocational Education” Certification Association “Russian Register,” Russia

Promotion of Desk Review as well as Virtual Review

In case of QAAs unable to undergo for APQR onsite review process, the QAAs may undergo desk review as well as online (virtual) site visit with the approval of APQR Council.

Due to pandemic, APQR decided to permit virtual site visits for APQR review since 2020. Based on experience we may continue the same of use blended mode in upcoming reviews.

Acceptance of other Reviews for Inclusion onto APQR:

APQR also accepts the reviews conducted by distinguished quality assurance organizations/networks that have collaboration with APQR.

The cost for this process would be lesser than full reviews on APQR, except for travel and other expenses which may not occur if an on-site visit does not take place.

DAQAR Database:

In November 2022 following the meeting of APQR Council, a roadmap for further development of the register was prepared. One of the points of this roadmap was the development of a database of accredited programs and higher education institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region (later we called it DAQAR database).

The main purpose of DAQAR database is to provide information on the results of external quality assurance procedures in order to increase the credibility, recognition and

competitiveness of educational programs at the national and international levels. It is supposed that all agencies registered in APQR will have access to the database and will be able to upload their accredited programs and higher education institutions.

The National Centre of Public Accreditation is responsible for the creation of DAQAR and they are handling website very efficiently.

As of now following 10 QAAs are registered on APQR.

- I. "Fiji Higher Education Commission" (FHEC) based in Suva, Fiji.
- II. Certification Association "Russian Register" (RR) based in Saint Petersburg, Russia. [Renewed]
- III. "National Centre for Public Accreditation" (NCPA) based in Russia. [Renewed]
- IV. "Indonesian Accreditation Agency for Higher Education in Health" (IAAHEH) based in Jakarta, Indonesia. [Renewed]
- V. Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA), Mongolia.
- VI. Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), Republic of Kazakhstan.
- VII. Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQA), Republic of Kazakhstan.
- VIII. Finance Accreditation Agency (FAA), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- IX. "EdNet" Agency on Quality Assurance in Education, Kyrgyzstan.
- X. Samoa Qualification Authority (SQA), Samoa.

Other highlights:

APQR Council continues to work in sync with 7th Board of APQN with following members

APQR Council:

- ❖ Dr. Jagannath Patil, Chairperson
- ❖ Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang, Co-Chairperson
- ❖ Dr Galina Motova, APQN President
- ❖ Prof. Jeanette Baird, Member
- ❖ Libing Wang, PhD, Member
- ❖ N.B. Raika, Member

APQR Council reconfirmed its earlier decision to register APQR as a legal entity on lines of AQAR. Chairperson may take suitable steps to register APQR in a suitable country/territory.

This year a new outreach initiative was done by APQN to reach all its members and encourage them to join APQR and DAQAR. We are receiving enthusiastic response to this outreach and new letters of interest have been received.

Overall, it was a great experience of learning and sharing with APQN quality assurance family. We hope to continue the legacy of APQN as the torch bearer of higher education quality assurance networking in Asia-Pacific.

(Written by Dr. Jagannath Patil from APQN Board)

Enhancing Education Quality in Russia: a Focus on Independent Accreditation

Russia's higher education system is undergoing a transformative phase, with a growing emphasis on independent quality assurance. This shift aligns with global trends



toward transparency, accountability, and international competitiveness. The foundation of this evolution traces back to 1995 when the Centre for State Accreditation of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation was established under the leadership of Professor Vladimir Navodnov. Building on this legacy, the same team of innovators took a step further in 2010 by founding the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), merging time-tested practices with modern methodologies to advance independent and international accreditation. This continuity of expertise has secured NCPA's role as a guarantor of educational quality.

Originally under exclusive state control, Russia's higher education system began developing a dual framework of state oversight and independent accreditation after 2012. This shift was formalized by the Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation," which provided impetus for the development of independent accreditation. Since then, NCPA has been at the forefront of fostering excellence in higher education institutions across Russia and beyond.

Russia's higher education system comprises a vast network of institutions, but independent accreditation remains relatively limited. As of 2025, the country had 1,233 HEIs including branches, yet only 37,7% of eligible institutions (267 out of 708) underwent independent accreditation, while just 23,6% of all study programs (approximately 5,900 out of 25,000) were independently accredited. Notably, nearly 47% (2,640) of these programs, delivered by 116 higher education institutions, have been accredited by the National Centre for Public Accreditation.

Although the number of accredited programs is significant, there is still room for development. Exploring international accreditation, a priority for NCPA, is expected to enhance the global competitiveness and quality assurance of Russian higher education institutions. This process involves the participation of international experts nominated by reputable and recognized partner agencies. NCPA has Memorandums of Understanding with 30 accreditation agencies and has carried out joint accreditation procedures with 7 of them. A landmark partnership between Russia's National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA) and China's Education Quality Evaluation Agency (EQEA) of the Ministry of Education has resulted in the joint accreditation of programs offered by 12 higher education institutions across both countries, demonstrating a commitment to

mutual recognition.



Accredited programs are better positioned to attract national and international students, ensuring recognized qualifications. While joint accreditation with reputable accrediting bodies enhances an institution's credibility and ensures compliance with high-quality standards, it also requires a significant commitment to rigorous evaluation processes, standard adjustments, and continuous improvement on behalf of the both agencies. These efforts are time- and labor-intensive, but the ultimate goal of enhanced quality makes them worthwhile.

For stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, where cross-border education and accreditation partnerships are increasingly vital, Russia's framework offers new opportunities for quality enhancement, collaboration, and student mobility. APQN members are invited to explore partnerships with Russian accreditors and higher education institutions, leveraging shared standards and adapting approaches to bridge systems. To initiate this process, stakeholders should submit an application to their national accrediting body requesting joint international accreditation by both the national and Russian accreditors. With 30 years of accreditation experience, Russia has much to offer and share with Asia-Pacific countries.

Russia's independent accreditation model is maturing. By adopting best practices and scaling successful initiatives, Russia can strengthen its role as a hub for quality higher education, aligning with the priorities of Asia-Pacific students, governments, and accreditors seeking high-quality academic opportunities.

(Written by the National Centre for Public Accreditation, Russia)

NCPA International Experts School 2025: A Bridge to Global Education Standards

From October 7 till October 10, 2025 Kazan and Yoshkar-Ola became the hub for international education quality, hosting the International School of Experts. The event, organized by the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA), welcomed 48 representatives from leading universities across Russia and Kyrgyzstan.

Held across three Russian prestigious venues — Kazan State Power Engineering University, Innopolis University, and the National Centre for Public Accreditation — the school provided an intensive dive into global accreditation practices.



Key Insights from QA Leaders:

Global Trends in Accreditation: Dr. Galina Motova, NCPA Director and APQN President opened the programme with the analysis of QA systems worldwide and international accreditation models.

International Accreditation Standards: international experience and global best practices in the application of accreditation standards have been analyzed. It covered not only internationally recognized standards, but also included examples of standards from specific fields, for instance, medicine and music education.

Kyrgyzstan QA System Spotlight: Director of Kyrgyzstan accreditation agency "Bilim-Standard" shared the experience of building a national accreditation framework, discussing both the challenges and successes in aligning with international practices.





The intensive four-day programme combined traditional learning formats with highly interactive sessions. The curriculum was specifically designed to address current challenges and covered not only topical lectures but also included a strong practical component where participants analyzed real cases from university and educational programme accreditation practices, including individual and group case work and discussions of real-world accreditation scenarios.

A particular highlight was a facilitation session, led by a highly experienced expert who has participated in NCPA evaluation procedures on multiple occasions, offering unique ground-level insights.



Over the four days, participants gained an in-depth understanding of international quality assurance standards, mastered current accreditation approaches, and acquired modern skills for expert evaluation of educational programmes.

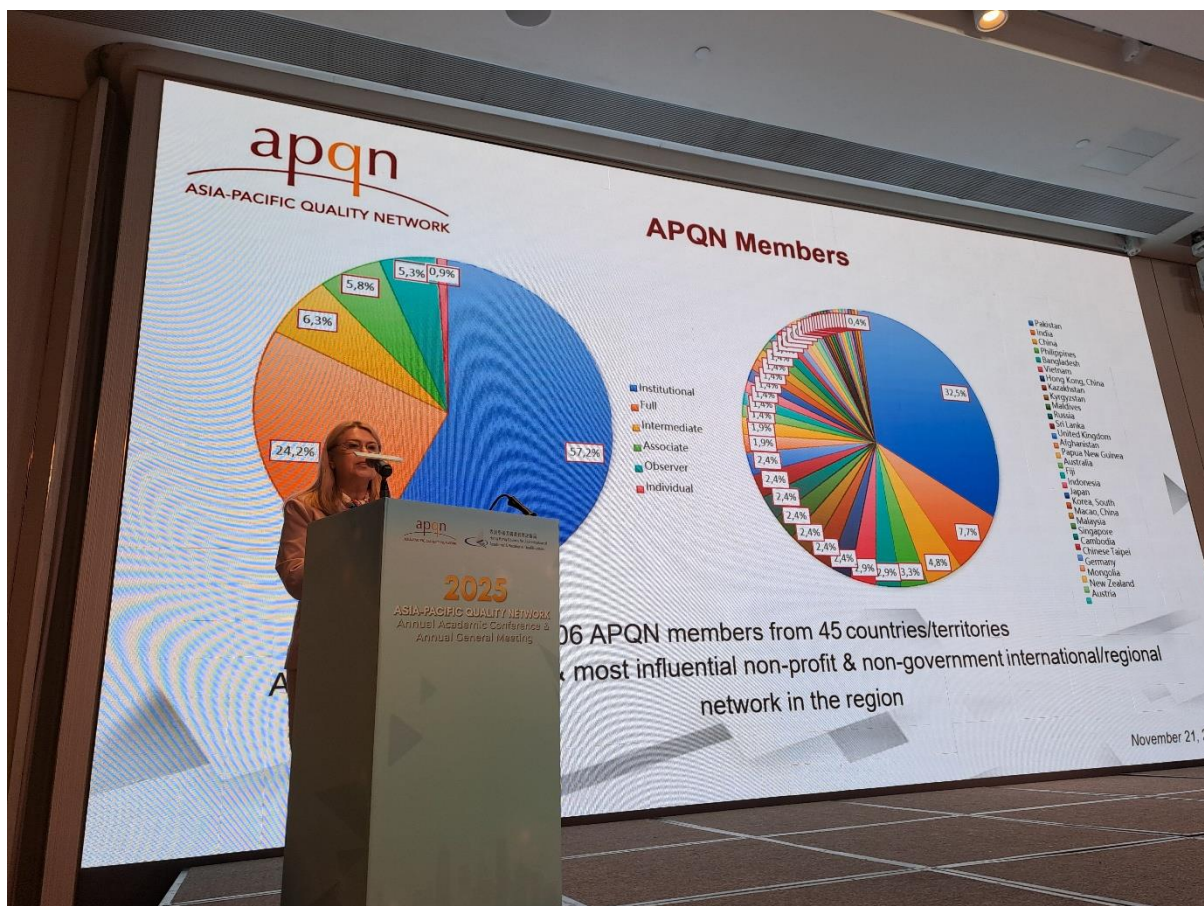
This new wealth of knowledge and practical skills will enable the graduates to confidently navigate international accreditation systems, integrate global best practices, and develop their own effective strategies for enhancing the quality of educational programmes. So the International School proved valuable for all attendees. It served as an effective professional development, a vital platform for peer exchange, and an opportunity to connect with colleagues to discuss common tasks and complexities within the higher education assessment system.

The International School of Experts brought together specialists from across Russia and neighboring countries, creating a unique space for exchanging experiences and strengthening professional competencies. Participants highly praised the organization of the event, noting the high practical value of the information received and the broad career prospects it opened up to them.

(Written by Dr. Oksana Tanikova from NCPA, Russia)

The Board

2025 APQN Annual General meeting held at Hong Kong



The 2025 APQN AAC and AGM were held in Hong Kong hosted by the Hong Kong Council for Academic and Vocational Accreditations on 20-23 November 2025.

Annual General Meeting was held on 21 November 2025 at 4.30 PM at Nina Hotel, Hong Kong chaired by APQN President Dr. Galina Motova. Agenda for the meeting was sent in advance on email and hosted on APQN website.

1. Report of APQN President was approved unanimously.

2. AGM unanimously approved the 10th edition of constitutional amendments which were circulated to all full and intermediate members 1 month prior the AAC. Changes would apply to current members, Board, etc. for implementation. Approved version of 10th edition of APQN constitution is hosted on APQN website.

3. Report of APQN Secretary Dr. Taohang Cheng was approved unanimously. It was suggested to make provision for 10,000 USD in next year budget to start about 5 Projects involving members.

4. Report of APQR Council presented by Chairperson Dr. Jagannath Patil was approved unanimously including move to register APQR as legal entity in suitable country/territory. AGM also endorsed APQR Climate Action Project to commence from January 2026.

More than 50 APQN members joined AGM meeting which included about 20 full and intermediate members.



(Written by Jagannath Patil from APQN Board)

Upcoming Event

Welcome to APQN 2026 AAC and AGM in Pune, India

2026 APQN Academic Conference (AAC) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be co-hosted by the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and Symbiosis International (Deemed) University in Pune, India

29 October – 1 November 2026



APQN and Symbiosis International (Deemed) University would like to extend a warm invitation to all professionals and stakeholders in the higher education and training sector to participate in this great event for in-depth exchanges on the latest development, innovations, good practices for enhancing the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region.



The Conference brings together education and quality assurance professionals to share knowledge, discuss current developments, and explore emerging global practices and breakthroughs. Modern technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, present both obstacles and possibilities for teaching methods, curriculum development, and quality assessment. Delivering excellence in education depends on strong internal quality assurance systems within universities and colleges. External quality assurance has evolved beyond its traditional gatekeeping role to actively contribute to institutional improvement and

progress. The Conference will also feature conversations about creating adaptable and creative educational routes, including quality assurance approaches and accreditation of alternative credentials such as micro-credentials.

The Symbiosis International (Deemed) University is a leading multi-disciplinary university with national and global recognition. Founded in 1971, it now had more than 40,000 students from 85+ countries across 6 Indian cities and Dubai.

The Conference website will be launched soon. All the details will be uploaded and updated on the website.

Welcome to 2026 APQN ACC and AGM in Pune, India!





Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region

APQNews (Issue 32, 2025)

Call for Contribution 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 Chief Editor and APQN Administrator at: apqnsecretariat@163.com.

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