February 19, 2008
Chiba City, Japan

EMERGING CHALLENGES AND NEW INITIATIVES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

CONCEPCION V. PIJANO
President-designate
Asia-Pacific Quality Network

The Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

- Founded in Hong Kong in January 2003.

- Incorporated as an association in December 2004 in the State of Victoria, Australia.

- Administration of the Secretariat is hosted by the Australian Universities Quality Agency.

Mission

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.

Objectives

The purposes of APQN are:

- to promote good practice in the maintenance and improvement of quality in higher education in the Asia-Pacific region.

- to provide advice and experience to assist the development of new quality assurance agencies in the region

- to facilitate links between quality assurance agencies and acceptance of each others' decisions and judgements.

- to assist members of APQN to determine standards of institutions operating across national borders.

- to permit better-informed international recognition of qualifications throughout the region.

Activities

- Dissemination of information through newsletters, documents, journals and books, whether paper-based or in electronic form.

- Training and development through seminars, workshops and conferences.

Development Grant Facility

In 2004, the *W*orld Bank approved a grant to the APQN for a period of three years (until December 2007) to strengthen its institutional capacity and the technical capacity of its member organizations.

Activities supported by the grant are:

- Workshops to build quality assurance capacity in developing countries/territories.

- Consultancies and external reviewer services to quality assurance agencies in developing countries/territories.

- Regional staff exchanges and secondments for capacity building.

- Project groups and regional information clearinghouse.

- Liaison functions among other regional organizations working on quality assurance.

Capacity Deficits that Need to be Addressed:

1. The need for more qualified quality assurance personnel in member countries;

2. A greater sharing of knowledge, expertise and information in easily accessible form in English and other widely spoken national languages such as Chinese;

3. Electronic training packages and case studies;

4. The development of the database of consultants;

5. Reviewers to be accessible to members via the website and the strengthening of the on-line discussion forum.

Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC)

a partnership between **World Bank** and **UNESCO** to support capacity building in quality assurance of higher education in developing countries and countries in transition.

August 2007

Guidelines on Good Practice

-	*"institutional and programmatic quality and quality assurance are primarily the responsibility of the higher education institutions themselves"*

CHEA®

Council for Higher Education Accreditation

AAC&U

Association of American
Colleges and Universities

January 30, 2008

Washington, D.C.

New Leadership for Student Learning and Accountability

- *"the primary responsibility for achieving excellence falls on the colleges and universities themselves. Accrediting organizations have played a significant role in advancing the assessment of learning outcomes and must continue to do so while encouraging institutions to set the highest possible standards"*

London Communique

May 18, 2007

Towards the European Higher Education Area: Responding to Challenges in a Globalized World

- *"main responsibility for quality lies with the HEIs"*

Brisbane Communique Initiative

February 18, 2008

Workshop on Higher Education Quality Assurance in the Asia Pacific

- Developing an agreed set of principles for quality assurance in the broader Asia Pacific.

Thank you!