

Speaker and Panelist Biography



Tsutomu Kimura

President, NIAD-UE (National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation), Japan

Dr. Tsutomu Kimura has been President of NIAD-UE since 1998. His previous position was President of Tokyo Institute of Technology. He had served as academic staff at Tokyo Institute of Technology over 30 years, as a professional of the fields of Geotechnical Engineering and Soil Engineering. He has contributed to the development of quality assurance of higher education internationally. He was Board Member of INQAAHE from 2003 to 2005. He was Vice Chairman for Central Council for Education and a member of Science Council of Japan until 2007.

He received Master of Engineering from University of Tokyo and Doctoral Degree from Tokyo Institute of Technology. He was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (C.B.E) in 2004.



Kimito Kubo

Deputy Director-General, Higher Education Bureau, MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), Japan

Mr. Kimito Kubo has been Deputy Director-General, Higher Education Bureau of MEXT since 2007. He has served MEXT for nearly 30 years. During his career at MEXT, he held various positions including higher education and lifelong learning: Director, Personnel Division of Minister's Secretariat; Director, Minister's Secretariat; Deputy Director-General, Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau; Director, Private Education Institution Administration Division, Higher Education Bureau.



Concepcion V. Pijano

Executive Director, PAASCU (Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities)
APQN President

Concepcion V. Pijano is the President-designate of the Asia Pacific Quality Network and the Executive Director of the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU). She has worked in the field of academic accreditation since 1978 and has shared her experiences and expertise in accreditation with various institutions and organizations, both national and international. She has served as a consultant for accreditation and quality assurance in a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. At present, she is the adviser and consultant on quality assurance to the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia. She also serves as an accreditation specialist and resource person for the Asian Development Bank.

She has authored several manuals and tools for accreditation, conducted workshops on quality assurance systems for various countries and presented papers in both regional and international conferences. She holds an M.A. in Public Administration from Pace University in New York, U.S.A.



Peter Williams

Chief Executive, QAA (The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education), UK

Peter Williams is a graduate in English from the University of Exeter. Following a brief spell as a management trainee with the British Printing Corporation, and three years in the Registry of the University of Surrey, he moved in 1974 to the University of Leicester, where he was in charge of the Higher Degrees Office. In 1978 he was promoted to Assistant Registrar in the Medical School, becoming Secretary of the School in 1982. From 1984 until 1990 he was the Deputy Secretary of the British Academy. In 1990 Peter was appointed as the first (and only) Director of the CVC Academic Audit Unit (AAU), one of the first quality assurance agencies, and between 1992 and 1997 was the Director of the Quality Assurance Group of the Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC), which took over the responsibilities of the AAU. In August 1997 Peter became the Director of Institutional Review in the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), which was formed by a merger of HEQC and the quality assessment divisions of the UK's higher education funding councils. In August 2001 he additionally took on the role of Acting Chief Executive. In March 2002 he was appointed Chief Executive of QAA.

In addition to his work in the UK, Peter has lectured and made presentations in many other countries and has participated in a number of international quality assurance projects in Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, India, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the USA. In 2004-05 he was a Vice President, and in September 2005 was elected President, of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and represents ENQA on the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG). He was re-elected President of ENQA in 2006 and 2007.



Li Zhihong

Deputy Director, HEEC (Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education), China

Master of Education, senior engineer. Having been engaged in the field of higher education administration, Mr. Li held the posts of deputy director of the Academic Affairs Office of Northern Jiaotong University, deputy director and consultant of the Science and Technology Education Department of Higher Education Ministry, director of Higher Technical & Vocational Education Department. In July 2004, he was appointed as the deputy director of Higher Education Evaluation Center. At present, he also serves as executive vice chairman of National Engineering Education Professional Certification Expert Committee, deputy secretary-general of Adult Education Association of China, deputy director of China Vocational Education Committee, vice-chairman of China Institute of Higher Education Cooperative Education Branch, committee member of the National Mathematical Contest in Modeling Organizing Committee, deputy secretary-general of National Undergraduate Advertising Art Competition Organizing Committee etc.. Meantime, he is also part-time professor of Beijing University of Technology and National Academy of Education Administration.



Molly Lee

Co-ordinator of APEID & Specialist in Higher Education, UNESCO

Dr. Molly N.N. Lee is the Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Programme for Development (APEID) and Programme Specialist in Higher Education at UNESCO Asia and the Pacific Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok. Prior to joining UNESCO Bangkok, she has been a Professor of Education in University of Science, Malaysia, in Penang. As the Coordinator of APEID, she runs programmes on higher education, technical and vocational education, education for sustainable development and ICT in education.



Nuanthip Kamolvarin

Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University

Dr. Nuanthip Kamolvarin is the Associate Professor of Chulalongkorn University. Also, she has been jointly appointed as Representative of ONESQA, and also APQN board member.

Other than these careers she has contributed to higher education by her various experiences that relate to quality assurance and quality assessment: Thailand Quality Award Assessor; Committee on curriculum quality assurance and development system of Chulalongkorn University; The Higher Education Institution Performance Evaluation Committee of The Office of the Public Sector Development Commission Thailand; Committee on Standards and Criteria Development for Science School of Thailand; Participating in Standards and Criteria Development for Higher Education Institution Assessment of Thailand (Second round); Chair of the performance evaluation committee of 18 universities, performing for The Office of the Public Sector Development Commission Thailand; Chair of the quality assessment committee, 2nd round, of The Thai Red Cross Nursing College, and Payap University, performing for The Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organization); Chair of quality assessment committee of Preclinical Science Office, Thammasart University, Chair of quality assessment committee of Faculty of Law Chulalongkorn University, Chair of quality assessment committee of departments, Faculty of Medicine Chulalongkorn University; Quality system administration committee, Chulalongkorn University; Committee on standards and indicators development for Chulalongkorn University quality system.

Dr. Nuanthip kamolvarin received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Mahidol University.



Mike Willing

Deputy Chief Executive, Quality Assurance, NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority)

Joined NZQA on August 1 2006 as Deputy Chief Executive, Quality Assurance from Fonterra Co-operative Dairy Company.

At Fonterra employed as the Product Conformance Manager based in Hamilton with responsibility for all the manufactured dairy product testing and grading with approximately 550 staff.

Prior to Fonterra was Global Quality Manager for the New Zealand Dairy Board.

Initially trained as a teacher and after extensive overseas travel and returning to NZ moved into adult education as the Executive Manager with the NZ Fishing Industry Training Council, followed by a similar role with the NZ Dairy Industry Training Council.

Current interests include cycling, sports critiquing, reading and movies.



Hidetoshi Seiwa

Senior Researcher, JUAA (Japan University Accreditation Association)

Dr. Hidetoshi Seiwa has served as Senior Researcher at JUAA. He has joined several committees on university education and university evaluation including a committee member of JUAA since 2000 and external evaluator of NIAD-UE from 2000 to 2002. He is also Project Leader of Research and Investigation Department of Japan Association of National Universities (JANU).

He served as academic staff in the field of experimental research in clinical psychology at Hiroshima University for nearly 40 years, where he held senior positions including Vice-President. He is Emeritus Professor of Hiroshima University. He received Ph.D. from Hiroshima University.