




CAPACITY BUILDING FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE: LESSONS LEARNED

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The Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

- Founded in Hong Kong in January 2003.
- Current host: Shanghai Educational Evaluation Institute (SEEI)
- Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA): 2003 – March 2009
- Fairy Godmothers: The World Bank and UNESCO



Development Grant Facility

In 2004, APQN became the first network to receive a 3-year World Bank Development Grant Facility (DGF) to strengthen its institutional capacity and the technical capacity of its member organizations.



Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC)

a partnership between **World Bank** and **UNESCO** launched in March 2008 to support capacity building in quality assurance of higher education in developing countries and countries in transition.



Membership:

59 members from 25
countries and
7 observers from
5 countries



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.





Vision

To be a self-sustaining Network, a first point of reference for advice or support, efficient in operation and open in information sharing.



Activities supported by the grants:

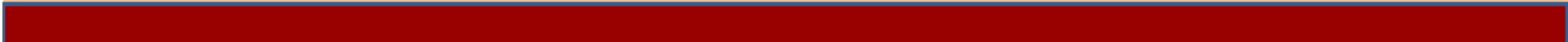
- Expansion of the website and databases of consultants to achieve better electronic communication and information-sharing
- Workshops and conferences to build quality assurance capacity in developing countries/territories.


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- Internship and Cross-regional Staff Exchange Programme
 - Training Materials and Resource Package
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Impact

Most impact has occurred:

- in improving QA mechanisms across national systems in various countries,
 - in the exchange of ideas and of expertise,
 - in promoting communication, cooperation and mutual understanding among agencies and institutions.
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Countries where workshops, conferences and training programs were conducted

- Australia
- Bangladesh
- China
- Fiji
- India
- Japan
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- New Zealand
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Vietnam
- Indonesia



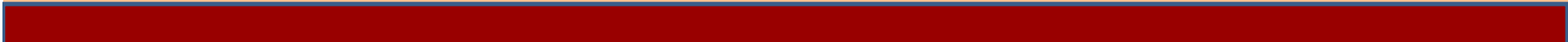
INTERNSHIP AND CROSS-REGIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (2008-2009)



Countries served

- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Bangladesh
- Mongolia
- Indonesia



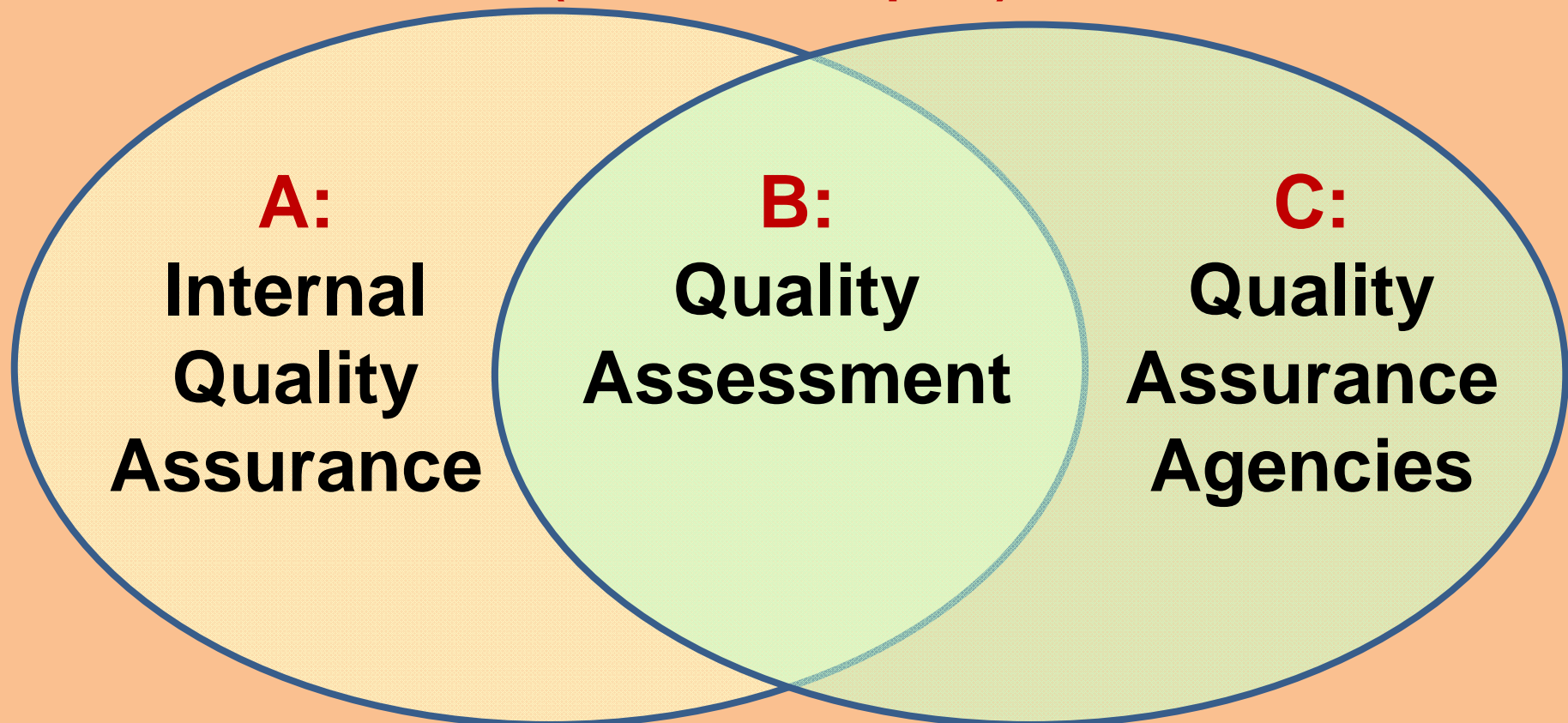
Lessons learned:

- A regional approach is an efficient and cost effective mechanism to deliver capacity building across a wide and diverse region.
 - The regional approach has led to greater capacity to learn and share.
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- The regional model tends to develop higher education QA systems more quickly and efficiently.
 - The subject of educational quality is global, but the work of QA, for the most part, is local.
 - International cooperation and commitment towards building capacity in QA as demonstrated by the World Bank and UNESCO are yielding positive results.
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Framework for Higher Education Quality Assurance Principles in the Asia Pacific Region

(Chiba Principles)






Challenges

- Continued expansion of the website to provide a platform for discussion and exchange of information among members
- Developing other internet-based knowledge sharing and capacity building tools for QA



Challenges

- Developing a vocabulary of key QA terms describing how these terms are used in different contexts.
 - Continuous training of staff and external reviewers
 - Sustainability of the network
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Thank you!

