

---

# LESSONS LEARNT AND NEW CHALLENGES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

---

**CONCEPCION V. PIJANO**  
President  
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.
- Secretariat is hosted by the Australian Universities Quality Agency.



## Membership:

57 members and  
6 observers from  
27 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.

# Objectives

---

- Promote good practice in the maintenance and improvement of quality in higher education in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Provide advice and expertise to assist in the development of new quality assurance agencies in the region.

- Develop links between quality assurance agencies and acceptance of each others' decisions and judgments.
- Assist members determine standards of institutions operating across national borders.
- Facilitate recognition of qualifications throughout the region.
- Enhance mobility of students between institutions and member nations.

# 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.

## ***Activities supported by the DGF grant:***

---

- Workshops and conferences 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 with other regional organizations working on quality assurance.

## Highlights of the Evaluation Review of the APQN

---

- DGF funding and in-kind contributions from individuals and member agencies have enabled APQN to target the establishment of QA agencies in many countries.
- It has strengthened practices that support the enhancement, reform and renewal of emerging and developed QA assurance systems.

- APQN has well defined procedures and organizational administrative framework and has succeeded in delivering programs and other activities to build QA capacity within the region.
- It has created a critical mass of resources, networks and expertise to ensure that the benefits of the Network are maintained.

# Impact

---

Most impact has occurred:

- in improving QA mechanisms across national systems in various countries,
- in the exchange of ideas and of expertise,
- in enhanced institutional capabilities, and
- in promoting communication and cooperation between agencies and institutions.

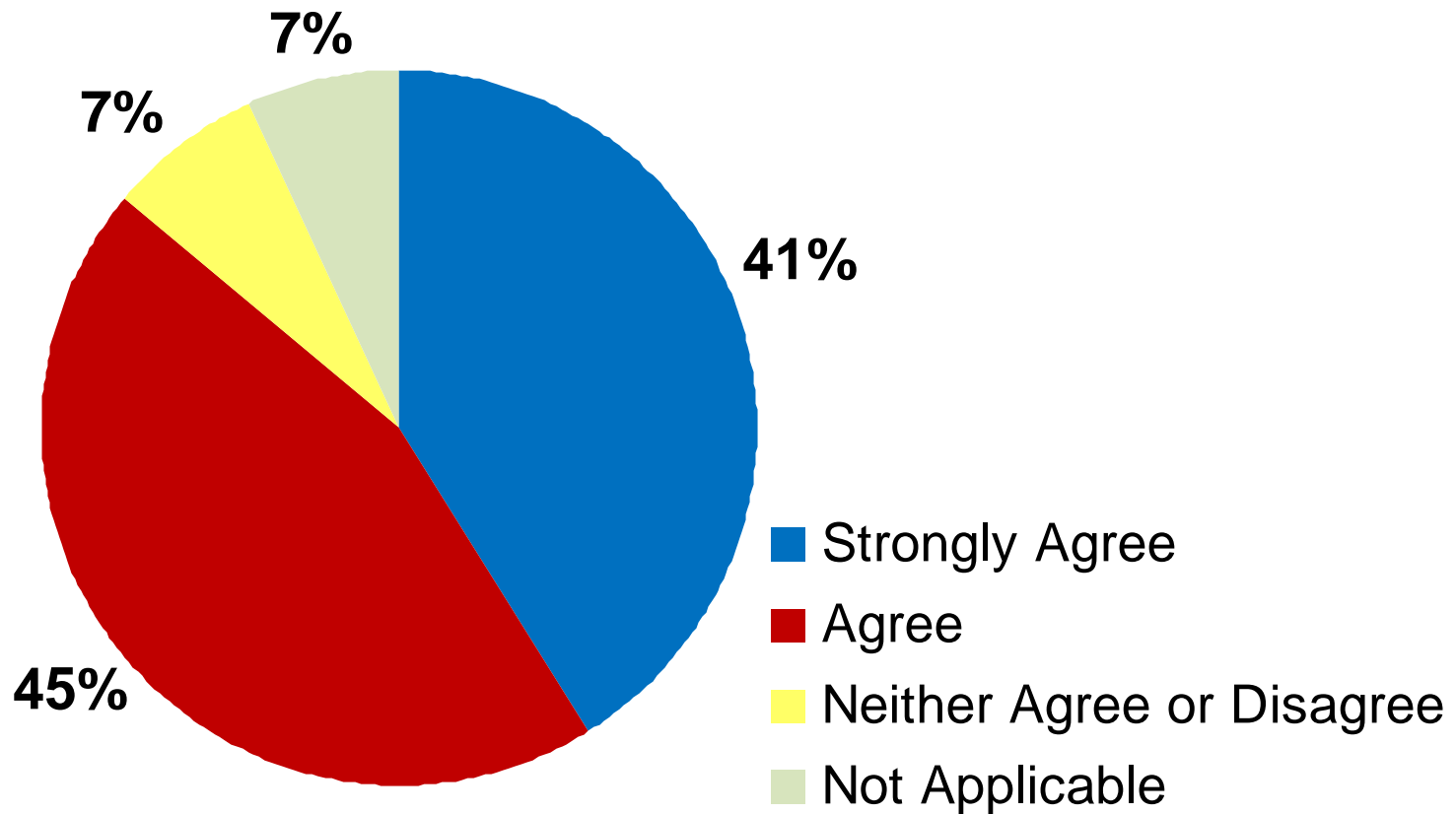
## Countries where workshops, conferences and training programs were conducted

---

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

# Extent to which APQN activities have contributed to capacity building

---



## Lessons learnt:

---

- 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.

- The regional model serves 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.

# 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.

## Purposes of GIQAC

---

- To serve as a worldwide vehicle to build capacity for quality assurance in developing countries and countries in transition
- To support regional training and knowledge-sharing activities and engender a coherent global programme of activities
- To assist emerging quality assurance systems in building capacity by sharing information on good practices from around the world, facilitating communication and supporting the production of analyses and guidelines.

## Approved GIQAC Projects

---

- APQN Website: Expansion/Maintenance and Database Development
- Internship and Cross-regional Staff Exchange Programme
- Training Materials and Resource Package
- Chinese Translation Project

## New Challenges

---

- Creating a strong sense of ownership among its members
- Becoming a sustainable network valued by all stakeholders
- Developing other internet-based knowledge sharing and capacity building tools for QA

- Training external reviewers in developing countries to undertake QA exercises in their home countries

**Thank you!**