

ASEM EXPERT SEMINAR ON REGIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

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Regional Framework for QA in Asia-Pacific: The Chiba Principles

QA Developments in Asia-Pacific

- Enhanced attention to QA among policy makers
- Shared understanding about 'quality of quality assurance' among QA professionals
- Growing excitement about the role of QA networks
- Desire for further co-operation among countries and their QA agencies
- Influence of guidelines of good practices in QA

Asia-Pacific is now well positioned for a regional QA strategy. Chiba Principles is a beginning...

Background to Chiba Principles

- 2006
- Inaugural Asia-Pacific Education Ministers' Meeting
- Brisbane (Australia)
- Ministers and senior officials from twenty-seven countries
- Brisbane Communiqué



... agreed to collaborate on key goals related to the recognition and quality of education and training in the region.

- Responsibility - Senior Officials Working Group (SOWG)
- Chaired by Australia
- 2007 - scoping studies including QA
- SWOG commissioned APQN on QA
- Carried out by Antony Stella

SWOT

Strengths

- Strong commitment and interest in QA at Ministerial level
- Broad similarity in underlying approaches in QA between countries
- Presence of regional QA body in APQN
- UNESCO-OECD Guidelines on CBHE
- INQAAHE Guidelines of Good Practice
- Lessons from Bologna Process
- High degree of cross-border provision and collaboration

Weaknesses

- Considerable diversity between actual QA practices
- Considerable differences in capacity of QA agencies
- Weaknesses in dealing with QA of distance and CBHE
- Lack of a strong Asia-Pacific regional identity.

Threats

- Insufficient commitment and resources to resolving QA issues
- A focus on national approaches
- A developing understanding of the benefits of QA and regional cooperation in QA

Opportunities

- Reach agreement on principles for QA
- Build capacity of QA agencies
- Share best practice and learning
- Raise awareness of benefits and relevance of QA to education systems
- Economies of scale and enhanced effectiveness and efficiency through a regional QA approach

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Three major challenges in the region

- Diversity Capacity Commitment
- Need a regional identity but necessarily through development of a new set of principles
- Acknowledge what has worked well
- Endorse the international good practices
- Build around existing frameworks
- Avoid contradictions and ensure complementarity



Based on the scoping study SOWG developed a
*Framework for Higher Education Quality Assurance
Principles in the Asia Pacific Region*

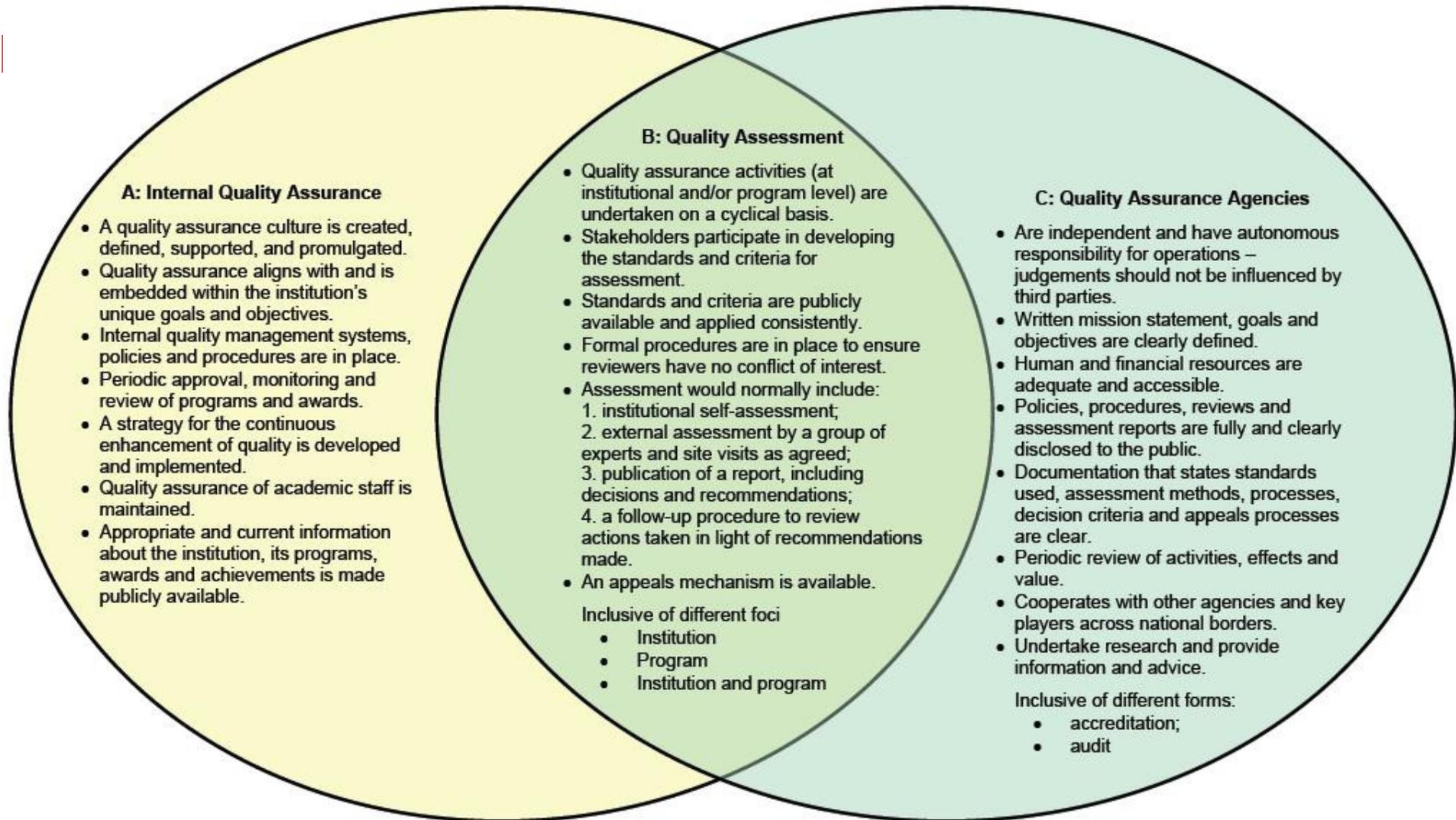
- Workshop at the 2008 APQN Conference in Chiba, Japan
- Recap in the 2009 APQN Conference in Hanoi



The *Chiba Principles* has three main sections –

- Internal Quality Assurance,
- Quality Assessment, and
- Quality Assurance Agency.

A Framework for Higher Education Quality Assurance Principles in the Asia Pacific Region



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- 2009 – Survey to seek inputs from the members on revising the principles so that they are better fit for the regional context

 - Supported by GIQAC

- A survey questionnaire with 32 items was developed Prof. Jianxin ZHANHG
- The survey was administered by the APQN Secretariat
- The responses were analysed by Dr Antony Stella

Results of the Survey Analysis

- ❑ Strong agreement for the Principles
- ❑ Many APQN members are already in alignment
- ❑ Some more fine tuning is necessary
- ❑ Terminologies need to be tightened
- ❑ Missing aspects
- ❑ Some overlaps in the principles
- ❑ Purpose of the principles and the roles of various stakeholders
- ❑ More active involvement of institutions

Further Action

- Examples of good practices
- Understanding where the APQN members stand – developmental stage, continuous improvement stage or exemplar stage?
- Seeking support from other major players and stakeholders - governments and regional bodies

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- 2011 - APQN project to review two QA agencies with GIQAC funding
 - APQN's work on good practices in QA
 - There is more work to do

Work in Progress



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