Discussion meeting on Quality Issues and Challenges for Accreditation

NAAC had organised one day Discussion Meeting on “Quality Issues and Challenges for Accreditation” to mark the Foundation Day on September 16, 2010. Prof. Goverdhan Mehta, Chairman, EC, NAAC.....

NAAC & APQN International Conference on ‘Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Expectations and Achievements’

The Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), successfully organized the International Conference on the theme “Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Expectations and Achievements” between 2-4 March, 2011 at Bangalore, India.....

International Workshop on Institutional and Programme Accreditation: Connections and Opportunities

On the eve of signing the MoU, NAAC played host to the international workshop on “Institutional and Programme Accreditation: Connections and Opportunities” jointly with IEEE during January 21-22, 2011.....
From the Editor’s Desk......

Quality Health checkups for Higher Educational Institutions

Maintaining a good and robust health is vital in a person’s life. It is a known fact that as a person gets older, health becomes a victim of ailment unless or until the person undertakes interventional strategies like maintaining a strict fitness regime and subject himself or herself to clinical processes to monitor bodily functions and seek appropriate remedy or treatment. On the same parlane, maintenance of quality standards of an institution assumes greater significance as deterioration of the same could have adverse affect on a variety of stakeholders like students, society and finally the Nation as a whole. Understandably the deterioration of standards or quality could be checked to great extent if an institution at a nascent stage undertakes a strict regime of quality health checkups at regular intervals of time.

Understandably most of the problems dogging the Higher Educational Scenario in the country, particularly with respect to quality concerns have their roots deeply entrenched in elementary stages of conceptualization of an institution. As institutions mushroom with no basic prenatal research, they take birth with congenital disorders and defects. Such a predicament can have cascading effect leading to evolutionary problems in quality assurance and maintenance of standards. Ultimately the products churned out from such substandard institutions would be mediocre in nature. What is even more bizarre is the fact that the policies on higher education are being doled out adopting a blind eye ostrich approach to inherent problems and addressing lateral concerns. As Prof Goverdhan Mehta, Chairman, EC, NAAC puts it, Assessment is comparable to Health Checkup of an Institution. As a Knowledge Browser defines Educational Assessment as “process of documenting, usually in measurable terms, knowledge, skills, attitudes and beliefs. Assessment can focus on the individual learner, the learning community (class, workshop, or other organized group of learners), the institution, or the educational system as a whole”, Akin to this the entire gamut of assessment process can be comparable to clinical processes wherein, I would liken the role of National Assessment and Accreditation Council to that of a diagnostic centre. The NAAC merely assesses the performance of institutes of higher learning besides exploring the reasons for their accomplishments and limitations.

The NAAC has evolved a set of parameters over the years and assesses institutions on the set criteria like curricular aspects, teaching-learning etc., just as diagnostic centers have their own clinical and pharmacological parameters for analysis or testing and come to a diagnosis with respect to a particular patient or an individual. The NAAC, through its peers, assesses an institution’s strengths and weakness using the time-tested parameters and gives an assessment report once in five years. But as William Pollard puts it “Learning and Innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow.” Just as a human being is afflicted with age-related ailments so are institutions subject to systemic changes of the environment continually. As time passes, new age brings forth its own challenges and changes; that need to be countered as the situation warrants. Institutions have to evolve and innovate by having a systemic check on their policies, courses, schemes, syllabi etc to keep in synch with the changing times.

Weeds are but natural in any system and higher education is no exception. The challenge that NAAC had to face was the fact that quality is non-negotiable, introspective and mostly a result of the inner urge to achieve perfection. To tide over the systemic changes and challenges, The NAAC has continuously upgraded its instruments to retain in more objectivity and built a brand name not only for itself but for all the assessed institutions that pride on the grading awarded by NAAC. The NAAC only takes a diagnostic approach and gives the report, but it is for an institution to treat the maladies that bog the system perpetually. Any system resting on the laurels of the NAAC grade might become defunct as it comes of age. The only remedy is to take up quality maintenance as a perpetual mission of institutes.

Prof. H. A. Ranganath
One-Day Discussion Meeting on “Quality Issues and Challenges for Accreditation”

The NAAC had organised a one-day Discussion Meeting on “Quality Issues and Challenges for Accreditation” to mark the Foundation Day on 16 September, 2010. Prof. Goverdhana Mehta, Chairman, EC, NAAC in his inaugural address threw light on issues of Quality in Higher Education and role and challenges of NAAC. The effectiveness of NAAC methodology depends on professionalism of assessors, he opined. Prof. Mehta pointed out that Quality is an emerging issue and NAAC’s role in management of quality assumes great significance in the days to come.

Prof. H.A. Ranganath, Director, NAAC while welcoming the delegates made a presentation on “NAAC Journey so far”. While explaining the challenges of NAAC, he told inculcating transparency and accountability in Higher Education Institutions is a major challenge before NAAC. Shri Pawan Agarwal, IAS, made a presentation on “Quality Strategy for India Higher Education”. He highlighted the accreditation strategies and challenges of higher education in different countries and lessons to be learnt. He also stressed that incentives may help to improve the quality of Indian Higher Education rather than coercion and penalties.

The SWOT analysis of present NAAC methodology and Strategy for the third cycle of Accreditation was also discussed in the sessions. Around fifty eminent educationists participated in the discussion. The discussion took place around strengthening of Internal Quality Assurance Cell established in the institutions, selection of assessors, mechanism of executive training and academic research in the fields of assessment and accreditation to train and empower a wider group of academicians and profession, stake holders feedback on the quality of institution, responsibility of Universities towards developing its affiliated colleges, autonomy and accountability of Universities, Indicators to evaluate quality of teachers, quality of research & publication, and quality of teaching learning evaluation, bench marks for third cycle of accreditation, outcome based approach, programme accreditation, ranking of institutions, etc.

The experts/academicians also felt that it is time for NAAC to undertake a re-evaluation of the existing methodology in the light of massive and rapid expansion of Higher Education System and inculcate competitive spirit to increase the quality consciousness. They also felt that NAAC may develop region specific indexes as equity and access is also important.

Eminent Academicians like Prof Madhav Menon, Prof Anil Bhatnagar, Prof Deshpande, Prof Venkata Rao, Prof Veena Mistry, Prof Mazumdar and a host of other academicians participated in the discussion meeting and threw light on a variety of topics related to quality. Mr. Madhukar, Deputy Adviser NAAC and Dr. Sujata Shanbhag, Assistant Adviser, NAAC coordinated the meeting.

Bad things do happen; how I respond to them defines my character and the quality of my life. I can choose to sit in perpetual sadness, immobilized by the gravity of my loss, or I can choose to rise from the pain and treasure the most precious gift I have - life itself.

- Walter Anderson
Making the Accreditation Process User Friendly: Random Thoughts from Experience

I am currently in the US on a holiday and as Prof. H. A. Rangnath, Director of NAAC sent me an email asking me if I could contribute to the Guest Column of NAAC News in a couple of days. I thought that I could pen some of my views on the need to refine assessment and accreditation methodology and generate more responses from the readers.

My experience with the NAAC activities is limited to half a dozen visits to Colleges/universities as the Chairperson of the Peer Team. Yet, these few visits for accreditation have been very rewarding. They have enhanced my knowledge, understanding, and perception of higher education scenario in different parts of the country to an extent. There was so much to learn from the accreditation process itself. The interaction with the educational institutions, education managers as well as members of the peer team with diverse backgrounds gave me new insights. I am happy to share with you my perceptions, though briefly, through this guest column.

Accreditation being a dynamic process, it is possible to incorporate changes and rein in refinement periodically (say once in 5 years) based on the experience of not only the peer teams but also the stakeholders. Entire process beginning from the preparation of SSR and assessment by the visiting peer team needs to be user friendly and as transparent as possible. This will ensure smooth and more uniform accreditation. In the past, great pains have been taken by the members of the committee who evolved methodology for accreditation from time to time. The accreditation methodology that is now in vogue was developed in the year 2007.

Hence, it is time to review the present methodology based on our experiences, feedback on the merits and demerits of each parameter used for accreditation and incorporate new parameters, judicious changes in the weightage given to different parameters and ensure uniform assessment.

I strongly believe that in addition to grading, an institution’s assessment and accreditation process should provide additional benefits to various stakeholders, primarily the institutions and also pave way for better higher education scenario in the country in the years to come. With this philosophy in mind, my random thoughts (listed below) run in the direction of making the accreditation process more user friendly, more meaningful as well as guide the institutions under accreditation to march forward and build quality educational institutions. After all, it is the good education that ensures good human resource needed for societal transformation and strengthening science and technology base for India. Accordingly, I wish to highlight on the following 10 points at present.

1. Design of Self Study Reports (SSR): First and foremost, I think there is a great need to reformat the SSR so as to eliminate redundancies, ambiguities and anomalies. It needs to be crisp, to the point, user friendly and focused to highlight accomplishments and salient features only. The reader should be able to retrieve needed information with ease. Ideally, the SSR may be limited to about 100 pages. It is desirable to provide a revised format for uniformity.

2. Emphasis on Faculty Position: No educational institution can do justice with inadequate faculty strength (number and quality). NAAC could attach considerable importance/weightage to this aspect. It is embarrassing to grade an institution with ‘A’ or even ‘B’ Grade when its faculty strength is ≤ 50% of what it needs to have. NET qualified faculty amount to less than 10% in most institutions accredited with such good grades!

3. Emphasis on Personality Development Courses, holistic Counseling and Placement Cells: These three aspects are very important in not only molding the students especially of those located in rural settings and/or rural background but also for their eventual placement. An emphasis on the need for such facilities and provisions is timely. Providing such facilities is indeed an obligation on the part of all good educational institutions. In the long run, these initiatives can expect rich dividends.

4. Emphasis on ICT based learning and teaching: The very concept of ICT based learning and teaching is unclear to the institutions and faculty members. Mere provision of LCD projector, OHPs and a few computers do not guarantee ICT based learning and teaching methods. Hence, it is desirable for NAAC to make parameters related to ICT based education explicit in its format with appropriate weightage.

Contd...
5. Computerization of Administration and Examination wings: Effective and transparency in administration are possible when the entire process of administration starting from admission of students, day to day administration, conduct and declaration of results are computerized. An interactive website with all needed information is quite essential. Therefore, the extent of computerization may be considered as an important parameter for accreditation.

6. Healthy Practices /Best Practices: Often these aspects overlap and SSR reports do not distinguish between the two. These parameters need to be revisited.

7. Relationships with Stakeholders: These aspects are generally on slippery ground. Often there are name-sake Alumni Associations that are neither registered nor active. The institutions claim that they meet their alumni and the parents regularly and obtain feedbacks informally. These claims often lack documentation and credibility. In the absence of a registered alumni and visible fruitful interaction and benefits received by the institution, no credit should be given during accreditation.

8. Weightage for Accomplishments: There should be a clear provision of weightage for notable achievements of the institution, both by the students and faculty. Only state/national/international level awards, recognitions for the curricular and extracurricular accomplishments should be considered. The revised format may clearly indicate the same.

9. Dealing with the negatives: Curbing and punishing negative aspects is a serious issue. Many educational institutions are plagued by bad practices such as mass copying, various kinds of harassments to the students, plagiarism in research and numerous court cases. By and large, these aspects are not taken cognizance during the accreditation of an institution. There is a need to debate on how to deal with such issues especially when brought to the notice of the Peer Team. Should these be ignored or taken cognizance. If so how?

10. Future Projections: The SSR should provide an executive summary not exceeding 5 pages to highlight all important accomplishments (to represent core/desirable indicators) of the institution during the past 5 years. This will be very useful to the members of the peer team. In addition, the institution should be asked to project its future plans for next 5 years. When the institution goes for re-accreditation, achievements of the set future plans could be judged. This will make the institution to think, plan and work towards the set objectives. It is my fond desire that the NAAC plays a dynamic role in not only grading educational institutions but also become an instrument for promotion of much needed changes and excellence in the higher education scenario in the country. With this in mind, I have made a few points, which are merely representative. The main objective is to kindle new thinking and evolve assessment and accreditation methodology that is ideal, practical and goal oriented so as to ensure accomplishment of visible improvements in our colleges/universities in the next five years.

The author is a former Vice Chancellor of Karnataka University, Dharwad.

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Third National Consultative Committee Meeting of the NCTE and NAAC

The third National Consultative Committee Meeting of NAAC and NCTE was held on 14 December 2010 at Board Room, NAAC. Chairman and Vice Chairman of NCTE, Director NAAC and other members attended the meeting. Pressing issues regarding the assessment of Teacher training institutions were discussed during the meeting. Prof. Ranganath, Director, NAAC shared his concern over the scarcity of good assessors for the process of A&A. He further said that, NAAC Peer team in case of Teacher Education Colleges would include sitting/former Vice-Chancellors as chairpersons, Professor of Education and accredited teacher education college Principals as members. Issues regarding the convenient time for sending the peer team and logistics were discussed during the meeting.

It was further resolved that institutions which offer B.Ed., M.Ed. along with D.Ed., D.Ped., D.E.C.Ed. would be taken up for assessment by NAAC along with B.Ed., M.Ed. courses as single institution. It was also resolved that D.Ed., D.Ped. D.E.C.Ed. institutions would not be considered for assessment as they offer Diploma courses. During the meeting it was agreed upon that NAAC and NCTE would jointly organize awareness programmes on assessment and accreditation in different parts of the country. Director, NAAC suggested that NAAC may organise awareness programme in collaboration with regional offices of NCTE for Teacher Education institutions. It was further agreed upon funding that NAAC would provide assistance for the organization of workshops and awareness programmes. Dr. Ganesh Hegde co-ordinated the programme.
NAAC believes that the quality of the assessment depends on the quality of the Assessors. In view of this, NAAC has decided to empanel some of the best experts in the field for helping NAAC in Assessment and Accreditation exercise. As a prelude to empanelling assessors, the NAAC organised a series of Assessors' Interaction Meetings (AIM) at NAAC. The programmes were aimed at providing an insight to the experts on the NAAC's philosophy, process of assessment and accreditation and evaluation framework. The programmes engaged the experts through simulation exercises, role plays and group work, thus making it interactive and educative. In all, around 200 assessors attended the meeting from across the country. The experts were drawn from various disciplines like Basic Science, Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, Teacher Education, Engineering and Languages.

**AIM held on 4 and 5 October 2010:**
Assessors Interaction Meeting for Engineering and Technology faculty was held on 4 and 5 October 2010 at NAAC. Around 27 participants from fifteen states from across the country including premier institutions like IISc, IIT-Delhi, Kharagpur, Mumbai, Roorkee, Banaras Hindu University and other reputed Universities in the Country participated in the programme.

Prof. H. A. Ranganath, Director, NAAC welcomed the participants and elaborated on a wide range of quality issues with respect to the assessment of Engineering and Technology institutions. While stressing on the need for a collegium of assessors from various fields, he shared his concern about quality and consistency of assessments and assessors. He said that engaging best faculty in assessment process is vital as the image of NAAC broadly depends on the quality of its assessors.

Dr. M. Anandakrishnan, former VC, Anna University, former Vice-Chairman, TANSCHE and presently Chairman IIT - Kanpur spoke on Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Accreditation as a Tool for Quality Improvement. He structured his presentation in three parts, viz., present process of assessment, the international perspective and the new bill of accreditation.

Prof. A. Sridharan, Former Deputy Director & Adviser, IISc spoke on NAAC Methodology of Accreditation and Grading. In his candid style, he gave the briefing about how to go head about the NAAC process. He also touched upon the issues like analyzing the Study of Self-Study Report, Pre-visit discussions, visits to various departments in groups, discussion with senior faculties and other administrative staff and peer team besides the preparation of Peer Team reports. Prof. B. S. Sonde, Former VC, Goa University and former professor at IISc, spoke on Report Writing and Grading: Challenges and Opportunities of an Assessor.

In the afternoon session, the delegates were divided into five groups and each group was guided and facilitated by the Academic staff of NAAC. Group works included role plays, peer team visit simulation, report writing, key aspect-wise, criterion wise CGPA scores finalization and Grading.

The faculty of NAAC gave adequate inputs regarding various aspects that the assessors have to consider while assessing an institution. In his valedictory address Prof H. A. Ranganath thanked everyone for their time and requested them to be available to NAAC whenever NAAC requests them to be the part of the peer team. Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Assistant Adviser, co-ordinated the programme.

**AIM held on 31 October 2010:**
Assessors’ Interaction Meeting of Academic Staff Colleges was held at NAAC on October 31, 2010. Prof. Ranganath, Director, NAAC welcomed the delegates and in his inaugural address informed the delegates that the Ministry of Human Resource Development has entrusted NAAC with the responsibility of reviewing the performance of Academic Staff Colleges (ASC). The AIM was attended by about twenty six Vice Chancellors across the country. He further said that NAAC has initiated the process of developing the Methodology as the
Chairman, NAAC has constituted the committee with the responsibility of preparing the manual and guidelines and the outcome of the committee’s work has been circulated among the stakeholders for comments and suggestions. Dr. Ranganath intended to enlist the support of the ASCs in completing the process as there were 66 ASC covering about 26 states. He further informed that 1,04,636 faculty have received the benefit of the Orientation Programme where as 2,57,301 teachers have attended the Refresher Course.

Prof. Mariamma A. Varghese and Prof. S.P. Thiyagarajan briefed the members on the reviewing process. The methodology, scoring pattern, report writing, selection of peers, and duration of the review were discussed and overall the manual, guidelines and other details were accepted during the interaction. Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Assistant Adviser coordinated the meeting.

AIM held on 3 and 4 November 2010:

As part of its effort to continuously refine A&A process and enhancing the pool of Assessors, NAAC regularly organises Assessors’ Interaction Meeting (AIM) and one in the series was organised during 3-4 November 2010, especially focussed on Health Science Institutions across the country. Health Science Institutions including AIMS-New Delhi, PGIMER-Chandigarh, IMSBHU-Varanasi, NIMS - Hyderabad, JIPMER- Pondicherry and NIMHANS- Bangalore, etc. were among the invited experts. The interactive meet invited experts from various disciplines like Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, etc.

Dr. S. Chandrashekar Shetty, former Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences and Prof. Bharat C. Chapparwal, former Vice Chancellor, Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya were invited as the external resource persons for the workshop.

Prof. H. A. Ranganath, Director, NAAC, gave an overview of NAAC and conducted the proceedings of AIM. Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar, Mr. B. S. Madhukar, Dr. Jagannath Patil, Mr. B. S. Ponmudiraj, Mr. Wahidul Hassan, Mr. Kiran R. Jere and Mr. D. S. Srikanth acted as internal facilitators. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Adviser NAAC was the convener of the programme.

AIM held on 23 and 24 November 2010:

The Assessors’ Interaction Meeting was held during November 23-24, 2010 at NAAC, Bangalore. Prof. H. A. Ranganath, Director, NAAC welcomed the participants. Prof. K. Sudha Rao, former VC, KSOU; Prof. B. S. Sonde, former VC, Goa University and Prof. K. P. S. Unny, former Professor and Registrar, JNU were invited as Resource Persons for the programme. The resource persons were involved in handling the technical sessions during the programme.

The participants were divided into eight groups with facility for role play. All the participants were given an imaginary Self-study Reports, viz., ‘Dhritarashtra University’, ‘Hastinapur’ and ‘Bharatkhand’. Special characters were introduced like Dr. Duryodhan, Dr. Karan, Dr. Shakuni Maharaj and Dr. Vidura respectively as Vice Chancellor, Pro-VC, Registrar and Steering Committee Co-ordinator, to make the task more interesting with active involvement. Based on the SSR, the participants were motivated for simulation and encouraged to don these characters during the role play.

The participants assigned with different role plays completed the task given by sharing their experiences and finally resolved the feedback among the groups with presentations by each group. During the Mock Exit meeting the imaginary characters were introduced on the stage. The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC.
Region-Wise Awareness Programmes/Workshops/Seminars

Workshop for Assistance in Accreditation / Reaccreditation of Colleges in CoochBehar and Jalpaiguri

The Quality Assurance Cell (QAC) of West Bengal State Council of Higher Education, Kolkata, organized a Workshop in collaboration with Thakur Panchanan Mahila Mahavidyalaya on February 26, 2011 to motivate colleges in the districts of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar, affiliated to the University of North Bengal, which are yet to go for assessment by NAAC.

Shri Dipak Chandra Sarkar, Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Uttar Cooch Behar inaugurated the workshop. He stressed on the need for accreditation and sought proactive role of the managements of institutions in going for Quality assessment and accreditation. Dr. Jibendu Kumar Ray, Head, SLQAC spoke on ‘Quality Assurance in Higher Education – Role of State Level Quality Assurance Cell. Prof. Dipak Bhattacharyya, Member Secretary, WBSCHE made the keynote address. Dr. P. K. Chaudhuri, former Member Secretary, WBSCHE spoke on Accreditation / Re-accreditation of Higher Education Institutions by NAAC. Representatives of eight colleges discussed the difficulties faced by stakeholders in the whole process. There was an all round acceptance that there is a need to sensitize the governing councils of institutions to go for A&A. Huge gap in staffing of Non-teaching vacancy positions was a grave concern in achieving quality, as expressed by the stakeholders. Dr. Manjari Biswas, Principal of Thakur Panchanan Mahila Mahavidyalaya (TPMM) collaborated with the Quality Assurance Cell for organizing this Workshop.

SQAC, Manipur’s Workshop on Assessment and Accreditation

The State Level Quality Assurance Cell of Govt. of Manipur organized a two day Seminar-cum-Workshop on assessment and accreditation at D. M. College of Teacher Education between 3-4 December, 2010. The Seminar was inaugurated by Shri. L. Jayantakumar Singh, Hon’ble Minister of Higher Education, Manipur as Chief Guest and presided over by Shri. K. Moses Chalai, IAS, Commissioner, Higher Education.

The first session was presided over by Dr. R.K. Ranjan Singh, Director, Academic Staff College, Manipur University. Dr. Th. Oliver, OSD, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University and Dr. S. Noren Singh, Reader in Statistics, Imphal College, Imphal were the resource persons. The event evinced active participation from 123 delegates comprising Principals and teachers from 60 Colleges in Manipur.

A detailed roadmap was made for subjecting the college to the assessment process which included; setting the A&A process in motion in a phased manner, overcoming the social unrest with the intervention of the Government as it affected the higher education system, mobilization of internal resources, garnering funding from the UGC and public domain, facilitate launching of job-oriented and market-relevant courses, appointment of regular principals for colleges, active assistance of SQAC to all colleges, etc.

NAAC Seminar on Quality Management in Higher Education

Two day NAAC sponsored National Seminar on “Quality Management and Global Challenges in Higher Education” was organized during August 06-07, 2010 by Uma Arts and Nathiba Commerce Mahila College, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Prof. Arun Nigavekar, former Chairperson UGC and founder Director, NAAC in his keynote address emphasized the role of the UGC in the years to come and the need to change the future of higher education in India with possible participation of foreign universities.

Prof. N.R. Dave, Director General, Pandit Dindayal Petroleum University, Gandhinagar was the Chief Guest and he spoke on the need to create not only degree holders but to create sensible human beings who can use their learning in human welfare. Shri Maneklal Patel, Chairman of Kadi Sarva Vidyalya, Gandhinagar presided over the seminar and focused on the positive participation of industrialists and philanthropists in education.

Mr. B.S. Madhukar, Deputy Adviser and Regional Coordinator, Western Region, NAAC spoke on the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC): A Post Accreditation Quality Sustenance Activity. Prominent themes of the seminar were 1. Quality enhancement in the contemporary system of higher education 2. Benchmark of global quality level and value trends in higher education, 3. Quality management and gender sensitivity in higher education. There were about 72 presentations of immense research value.

Some of the eminent speakers during the seminar were Dr. B.P. Bhatnagar, former Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University; Prof. D.T. Kapadia, Director, Kadi Sarva Vidyawati Vidyalaya, Gandhinagar; Mr. Vivek Kapadia, Visiting Faculty, CEPT University, Ahmedabad; Udaipur and Prof. Shyam S. Lodha, Professor and Chairman- Marketing and IB Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, USA.
NAAC sponsored two day National Seminar on Quality Teacher Training: ‘Yes but … to Yes Please…’ was organized by Shri Ramkrishna Seva Mandal’s Anand College of Education, Anand, Gujarat during 24-25, July 2010. Dr. D.R. Goel, Chairman, Western Regional Committee, NCTE was the Chief Guest for the Inaugural function and he enlightened the teacher community by focusing on the role of teachers and the need to update their knowledge on a continuous basis.

Prof. R.G. Kothari, Professor, Department of Education presented a paper on Quality Teacher Education Programme: Some Issues. Prof. Kothari in his concluding remarks said that teacher education institutions need to come out with better pedagogy to train teachers not only in teaching and intellectual skills but also to awaken moral sense, humanistic, ethical and spiritual values to encourage peace, justice, freedom and equality among students. Dr. Bhadrawu Yachharajani, Professor-Director, UGC-Academic Staff College, Saurashtra University, Rajkot spoke on Quality Assurance: Need of the time. Dr. M.K. Yagnik, Professor and Head, Department of Education, Sardar Patel University enlightened on the Realities of Teacher Education in India. Dr. Pallavi P. Patel Professor and Dean, Department of Education, Sardar Patel University delivered the valedictory speech. There were about 400 delegates who evinced keen interest in the deliberations.

NAAC Sponsored Workshop at University of Burdwan, West Bengal

The University of Burdwan (BU) Internal Assurance Cell and UGC Academic Staff College jointly organized the Workshop on Quality Culture in Higher Education during November 2-4, 2010 sponsored by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bangalore and UGC.

About 100 participants consisting of the Principals of the affiliated colleges of BU, academic administrators of the University and Heads of the PG Department of Studies.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Subrata Pal, Vice-Chancellor, BU who stressed the importance of enhancement of quality in higher education. Professor Marmar Mukhopadhyay, Director, Educational Technology and Management Academy, New Delhi and former Director, NIEPA, New Delhi delivered the key-note address on ‘Student Involvement in Quality Management in Higher Education – Case for Stake Holding Model’. The key resource persons of the different sessions were Prof. Subimal Sen, Chairman, West Bengal State Council for HE, Prof. D K Basu, former Vice-Chancellor, Burdwan University and Tripura University, Prof. P K Chaudhuri, former Member Secretary, WBSCHE, Dr. S Dan Registrar, BU, Prof. A Chattopadhyay, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Commerce, Law, Management, Music & Fine Arts, Prof. P Chakraborti, Dean, Faculty of Science and others.

There were five Technical Sessions in the workshop. The speakers and panelists of different sessions discussed the trends, changes and quality culture in the present context of HE. The sessions were highly interactive and sharing of experiences from the participants. The brainstorming session on ‘Quality Culture: Students’ Feedback’ became very lively where more than 25 students representing different PG departments gave their candid opinions regarding the situation prevailing in the University. Professor Arabinda Kumar Das, Director of IQAC and former Vice-Chancellor, Kalyani University and Dr Apurba Ratan Ghosh, Director, UGC Academic Staff College conducted the workshop.

National Seminar on “Quality Perspectives in Curriculum Development for Teacher Education”

Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Maharishi Dayanand College of Education, Ahbohar, Punjab organized a two day National Seminar on Quality Perspectives in Curriculum Development for Teacher Education on 26 and 27 November, 2010. The NAAC sponsored seminar evinced participation from 42 Delegates from Punjab, 21 delegates from Rajasthan, Haryana and Jammu. Dr. Ranveer Pratap Asija, Principal was the Director of the seminar and Mr. Anurag Asija was the convener.

The seminar focussed on quality upliftment of teacher educators and themes included National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, Encouraging the use of innovations among teacher trainees, concerns and vision of Teacher Education, Integrating ICT in Teacher Education Curriculum etc. Resource persons, research scholars, academicians, practitioners and students from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Jammu and Delhi participated and presented papers on the sub themes in the seminar. The seminar concluded with some practical suggestions and conclusions for implementation by teacher education institutions.
The Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), successfully organized the international conference on the theme “Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Expectations and Achievements” between 2-4 March, 2011 at Bangalore, India.

The APQN conference is the major annual event that facilitates discussions related to issues on quality assurance in higher education in the Asia Pacific Region. The flagship event hosted by NAAC evinced participation from more than 500 delegates including representatives from over 40 countries from across the globe.

Sir John Daniel, Chairman, Common Wealth of Learning (Col) in his keynote address stressed on the role played by NAAC in enhancing quality assurance standards and termed the conference as the outcome of NAAC’s consistent efforts in taking forward the agenda of quality assurance. He appreciated NAAC for maintaining the momentum of quality consciousness that it has generated in the context of Indian Higher Education.

Dr. Antony Stella, President Elect, APQN in her inaugural address touched upon a wide gamut of issues related to quality and the subsequent role played by APQN in upholding quality assurance in Higher Education in the Asia Pacific Region. While outlining the Growth of APQN in the last decade, Dr. Stella touched upon the role played by APQN in promoting good practices, facilitating research, providing advice, information and expertise and developing links between quality assurance agencies.

Prof H A Ranganath, Director, NAAC and Chairman of the Organizing Committee spoke on the quality assurance initiatives undertaken by NAAC from its inception. He said ‘as a quality assurance agency, the NAAC has a multi-fold role to play and new strategies need to be worked out to deal with newer challenges that may arise. International conferences like this would not only help institutions but also help NAAC to achieve excellence in all its activities’.

The conference was spread over three days and had specific objectives and themes for the conference themes and sub themes. The list of subthemes included sessions on quality assurance and diversity of higher
education systems, issues of quality and access, multiple QA agencies: prospects and problems, mutual recognition, quality assurance in India, QA cycles and building on successive cycles, ranking of HEIs issues and concerns, ensuring synergy between IQA and EQA, research on QA and IQA, QA of cross border higher education, what next for APQN and a host of other relevant topics.

Eminent Panelists and speakers like Dr. David Woodhouse, AUQA Australia and INQAHE President, Dr M Anandakrishnan, Chairman, IIT Kanpur, Prof Gnanam, former Chairman, NAAC, Prof R C Sobti, Vice Chancellor, Punjab University, Prof Ram Takwale, former Chairman, NAAC, Dr Galina Motova, NCPA, Russia, Dr Kazua Okamoto, NIAD-UE, Japan, Rob Fearnside, Hong Kong, Dr Zeynep Varoglu, UNESCO, France and a host of other distinguished dignitaries participated actively in the plenary and parallel sessions.

The three day mega-event -probably the biggest annual conference hosted by APQN received tremendous response from all stakeholders across the world. In all the conference received 220 abstracts on various themes of the conference, around 80 poster presentations, 50 oral presentations and had 6 parallel sessions on all days. It was a unique event wherein academicians from over 40 countries shared and interacted with their Indian counterparts from over 200 Higher Educational Institutions.

The conference was preceded by workshop on 'Dual Mode universities' jointly sponsored by NAAC and Common wealth of Learning (COL) which was attended by select invitees from 20 countries. On the sidelines of conference, a Memorandum of Co-operation between NAAC and Malaysian Qualifications agency was signed by Dato Syed Hussein, CEO, MQA, Malaysia and Prof. H. A. Ranganath, Director, NAAC.

Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Adviser of NAAC and Elected member of APQN Board coordinated this mega event as the Convener of the Organizing committee with help of NAAC staff and APQN Board. Dr.M.S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC was the Chairperson of the local organizing committee and member of organizing committee. The details including photographs and presentations are available on www.apqn2011.org and also on www.apqn.org
A one day NAAC sponsored workshop on Quality Assessment and Accreditation was organized by the State Quality Assurance Cell, Karnataka on 17 January 2011. The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr. B.L. Bhagyalakshmi, Joint Director, Academics & Quality. She called upon the Principals and IQAC Coordinators of select 57 colleges to hasten up the process of Assessment and Accreditation. Prof. Eranna, Joint Director, Training Cell, was present on the occasion. Dr. Venugopa, Principal, Government R C College of Commerce presided over the function.

Dr. K. Mahesh, Coordinator, SQAC invited the Principals and NAAC Coordinators of 57 eligible Government Colleges and offered them all possible help in the preparation of SSR and completing the process of A&A. A detailed roadmap was announced for subjecting these colleges to NAAC evaluation process.

One day workshop on “Best Practices and why Accreditation is necessary?” was held in Directorate of Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh on 29 November, 2010. Principals and representatives from 71 Govt. Colleges participated in the workshop along with some officials from the Directorate. The Head, QAC, Directorate of Higher Education welcomed all the participants. Dr. O.P. Sharma, Director of Higher Education addressed all the participants and stressed on the need to bring out quality in education throughout the state. He emphasized that the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has the primary mission of assessing and accrediting Higher Education Institutions of the country. He stressed that accreditation of Colleges is mandatory, hence all the eligible Colleges must undergo the process of accreditation so that quality in education could be ensured.

The second session was chaired by Sh. Dinkar Burathoki. Dr. Yogender Verma, OSD Central University, H.P at Dharamshala and Dr. Narendra Awasthi, Jt. Director of Colleges spoke on Best Practices and Why Accreditation is Necessary. Dr. Yogender Verma suggested various methods/techniques to bring quality in education. The Head QAC, Directorate of Higher Education directed all the concerned Colleges to submit “Letter of intent” for accreditation and re-accreditation. He stressed on the need to carry out various activities for the overall development of students to meet global employability standards in higher education.

Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar’s interaction with OECD’s Mission Team

Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar interacted with Samuel Hill, Economist, China/India Desk from France and participated in the meeting of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) mission team on the issues provided in the questionnaire on 15 July, 2010 in the office of the Ministry of Finance, New Delhi with reference to second Economic Survey of India. The questions raised by OECD revolved around the complexity and size of Indian higher education system and the size and shape of the quality assurance system required to take care of it, besides the challenges ahead for NAAC in catering to the aspirations of a large number of stakeholders for quality assessment. Various issues pertaining to Higher Education scenario in India in general and quality assurance issues in particular were also discussed. Dr. Shyamasundar could provide convincing answers and made value addition to the whole discussion and deliberation process.

Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren’t used to an environment where excellence is expected. - Steve Jobs
International Workshop on Institutional and Programme Accreditation: Connections and Opportunities

International Workshop on Institutional and Programme Accreditation: Connections and Opportunities, was organized at NAAC on 21-22 January 2011. The co-chairs Prof. H. A. Ranganath, Director, NAAC and Prof. Tariq Durrani, Vice President, Educational Activities, IEEE, welcomed the delegates. There after Prof. Moshe Kam, IEEE President and CEO, ECE Department Head, Drexel University USA spoke on the topic 'Trends in Program and Institutional Accreditation' in the plenary session chaired by Prof. H. A. Ranganath, Director, NAAC.

Prof. Moshe Kam started by giving an introduction to Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers (IEEE) and said that it is the largest multi-national professional engineering association in the world with close to 4,00,000 members in 160 countries. He mentioned that IEEE at present spans technical interest across the spectrum of technology and has a specific interest in accreditation, so that it can introduce the voice of the profession and its practitioners into the decision making process of educational institutions. He spoke on different approaches and styles of accreditation i.e., The Minimal Model; The Regulatory Model; The Outcome-Based Model; the Peer-Review Model and the Program Club Model. He indicated that many of the countries are moving to Outcome-based Model.

After the tea break, the session was continued by Prof. Tariq Durrani, UK and Prof. Bea Lacquet, Engineering Council of South Africa, who spoke on the topic ‘Institutional and Programme Accreditation Practices’ chaired by Prof. S. Sadagopan, Director, IIT-Bangalore. During the 2nd day of the programme there were plenary sessions on 'Institutional Accreditation in India'. Prof. H. A. Ranganath, Director, NAAC and Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC made joint presentation on ‘NAAC Journey So Far’. Prof. S. P. Thyagarajan, former VC, University of Madras spoke on the topic ‘Parameters and Criteria for NAAC Accreditation’ and ‘Training of Accreditation Team Members & Documentation for Training’ session presented by Prof. Mariamma Varghese, former VC, SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai, M.S, the session was chaired by Prof. Tariq Durrani.

After lunch, the session was started by the speakers from Australia Dr. David Woodhouse, Executive Director, Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA), Australia on the topic 'Institutional Accreditation in Australia'. subsequently Dr. Antony Stella, Audit Director from AUQA, spoke on ‘Programme Accreditation in Australia. The final session focussed on ‘Institutional & Programme Accreditation in India and the lead speaker was Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, former VC, Anna University & Chairman IIT, Kanpur. The Panels included Prof. Prasad Kodali, Prof. H.P. Kincha, Prof. Bhoomitra Dev, Prof. Furqan Qamar, and Prof. Jancy James. All the NAAC officers were divided into groups and acted as rapporteur for the plenary sessions on both the days of the programme. The programme concluded with the ‘Conference Summary and Next Steps’ by the co-chairs and ended with vote of thanks by Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC. The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar.

I do not think that there is any other quality so essential to success of any kind as the quality of perseverance. It overcomes almost everything, even nature.

- John D. Rockefeller
NAAC at International Fora

Dr. Jagannath Patil is now the Vice President of APQN

Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Adviser, NAAC has been appointed as Vice President of Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN). The appointment was made by APQN board from amongst the elected members for the years 2011-13. Earlier in January 2011, Dr. Patil had won the election as APQN board member for which nomination was made by Prof. H A Ranganath, Director, NAAC.

APQN is the network of Quality Assurance Agencies and institutions having interest in Quality Assurance in higher education across the Asia Pacific region. Currently APQN has about 90 institutions/agencies as its members spread over 40 countries in the region. NAAC is the founder member of APQN and has jointly conducted various activities with APQN; the recent venture being the APQN 2011 Conference and AGM held in Bangalore during 2-4 March, 2011. Dr. Patil is the project leader and board member of APQN for 5 years and has conducted various activities under the auspices of APQN including various UNESCO and World Bank missions.

Dr Jagannath Patil conducts 'APQN Workshop' at KL Malaysia

The Asia Pacific Quality Network’s Reviewers’ Training Package Workshop was held between 7-9 November 2010 at Kaulal Lumpur. The event was hosted by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Adviser, NAAC & APQN Board member conducted the workshop in conjunction with Prof Zita Mohd Fahmi of MQA, Malaysia.

Participants from six countries attended the workshop along with Prof Zita Mohd Fahmi and Dr. Jagannath Patil as facilitators. APQN Project on Reviewers’ Training Package led by Prof Colin Peris had the goal to consolidate existing materials of various QAAs and use them to prepare a comprehensive training package which can then be made available to members electronically through the website or other electronic means. The draft package was prepared and was reviewed by an expert. The key objective of the workshop was to pilot the Training Package and to consider its coherence, appropriateness, completeness, usefulness and applicability for training reviewers for APQN members which will support the capacity building of their QA systems.

Dr. Shyamasundar on APQN sponsored project

Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar has been nominated by NAAC as a member of the project on Mutual Recognition sponsored by APQN. Accordingly, he participated in the first meeting of Mutual Recognition Project at Kaultalum, Malaysia on October 21, 2010. Other members include Dr. Antony Stella, Audit Director, Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA), Australia - (Project Leader); Dr. Jan Cameron, Director, New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit (NZUAU), New Zealand and Dr. Zita Mohd Fahmi, Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), Malaysia.

Phase 2 of the project aims to build on the deliverables of phase 1 and it involves observation visits, sharing experiences with the APQN members in the APQN AGM and reporting the outcome. This project would mainly build on the work already done by other Quality Assurance groups. Significant ground work has been done by a number of interested groups and a few significant issues recognised by the group include: a) INQAHE’s work during 2000-2001 b) APQN’s purpose and work since 2004 c) Work done in Europe (ENQA and ECA) d) The Washington Accord. Some of the significant activities planned for Phase 2 include: observation of QA exercise of an agency by two other members, sharing of experience through teleconferencing, a mid-term meeting after three or four meetings of the groups and submission of the final report after the final meeting of the group members.

Where quality is the thing sought after, the thing of supreme quality is cheap, whatever the price one has to pay for it.

- William James

NAAC for Quality and Excellence in Higher Education
Project Report on “Programme Accreditation”

(The contents of the article are based on the inputs received from NAAC colleagues as well as outcome of meetings held at NAAC. The information is compiled by Project co-ordinator Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar and assisted by Project assistant Mr. K.S. Bharat.)

As per the philosophy of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) the process of Assessment and Accreditation (A&A) is absolutely voluntary for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). NAAC has been creating a good deal of awareness about the advantages of A&A among various stakeholders. After realizing the advantages of A&A, some of the State Governments and their policy makers have taken momentous initiatives and made A&A mandatory in their states. Apart from State Governments and policy makers, some of the universities also have taken initiatives and came forward for the process of A&A. NAAC has decided to take up only Institutional Accreditation (IA) initially, to prioritise the assessment efforts. The IA is an evaluation of the entire institution, including all its programmes, sites and methods of delivery. Accordingly NAAC has accredited around 5000 HEIs spread all over the country in its journey of accreditation for the last sixteen years. Though IA process is going on well, there are some obstacles which are being detrimental in this journey - IA can’t give accurate picture of the programmes of all departments in the university; Projection of various programmes available in departments may lose the focus; and comparison of performance of programmes among various Universities across the country is not possible. So keeping this effect in mind and to give the stakeholders a good and refined accreditation process, NAAC is taking an initiative for accrediting particular specialized programmes of a particular University in order to overcome the obstacles of the IA. NAAC is planning to implement PA, which is also within NAAC’s jurisdiction, in view of many requests received and necessity to adopt to situational contexts. PA can overcome all the above mentioned obstacles and it has advantages over the IA. It is considered even today in many countries that IA could be a pre-requisite for Programme Accreditation (PA). PA is the performance evaluation of an individual programme in the department concerned from an accredited university. The main focus of the PA is to compare and contrast efficacy of a particular programme in different HEIs. This comparison may be helpful not only for the students but also for their parents to take radical decisions with respect to admissions to various programmes in different parts of the country. It also helps policy makers and the regulatory bodies to take some of the pivotal decisions. The macro level challenge for IA and PA is to accredit a large number of HEIs with different shades of diversity and complexity in the country, which is a gigantic task. PA facilitates campus placement/ recruitment, qualification enrichment of faculty and obtaining more and more research projects from funding agencies. Nonetheless PA also faces certain challenges – accrediting the total number of programmes in all the Universities in the country; contextualization of the instrument to Indian context; inclusion of relevant indicators in the instrument; availability of right kind of experts at right time and assessors’ training / orientation are some of the challenges. Prestige of an institution would be at risk, when a particular programme is not accredited. NAAC is operating a project on Programme Accreditation and during the project period, a few goals have been identified as challenges in the travesty towards PA. Our goals are - to expand development and use of evidence of student learning outcomes as well as evidence of institution and programme performance in accreditation review in order that this evidence play an increasingly influential role in judgments about academic quality and accreditation status; to expand information to the public about the findings of accreditation review as this information is developed by accrediting organizations, institutions and programs etc. While the challenges are - Preparation of Programme Accreditation manual itself; including appropriate performance indicators in the manual; capturing relevant information suitable to diversity of programs; availability of right kind of resource persons at right time. The primary methods adopted in the project are - Creation of Programme Accreditation instrument that will become a focal point for inputs on various aspects to different kinds of stake holders; Identification of performance indicators and dissemination plan need to developed to assure quality of various programmes by providing an evaluative frame work. In order to make the project to be more realistic, necessary measures and quality initiatives have been taken by using NAAC’s draft manual for departmental accreditation as a base and collected quality indicators from different sources (internet, programme accreditation instruments from various quality assurance organizations from different parts of the world, eminent scholars etc). Recently NAAC had signed MOU with IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) an US based world’s largest professional association with more than 400,000 members in 160 countries. Inputs from national and international experts had been collected during the joint workshop conducted by NAAC and IEEE, about IA and PA. Since IEEE is a body which is doing PA for the specialized programmes, NAAC is planning to emulate their model depending upon the local context. Based on the available inputs, project has come out with a draft instrument on programme accreditation. Nonetheless, favorable inputs from the academic peers and eminent scholars would be solicited to fine-tune the instrument and this draft would be placed before the National Consultative Committee. After getting the inputs from the meeting, project shall come out with a manual for programme accreditation and thereafter pilot study would be conducted in some of the HEIs in various parts of the country, before finally implementing the actual process, based on the fine-tuned inputs. The Principal Investigator of the project on Programme Accreditation at NAAC is Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Advisor and assisted by Mr. K.S. Bharat, Project Assistant.
Foreign Dignitaries at NAAC

Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar’s meeting with Ms. Victoria Collis at NAAC

Dr. Shyamasundar interacted with Ms. Victoria Collis (Director, Riverpath) External Consultant from UK appointed by UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) to undertake the final programme evaluation on 4 October, 2010. The focus of the meeting was the involvement and experience of NAAC with UKIERI. Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar gave his feedback to Ms. Victoria Collis about the enriching experience of NAAC with UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) not only within the country but also outside the country. He opined that UKIERI project needs to be continued for some more time in a phased manner in a way that is mutually beneficial to stakeholders of different categories in both the countries.

Visit of experts from University of New England, Australia

Delegation from Australia comprising Prof. Graham Webb, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of New England (UNE), Prof. Belinda Tynan, Director of DEHub at UNE (Australian Consortium of Distance Education Universities) and Dr Garina Bossu, Researcher in DEHub at UNE visited NAAC on 30th November, 2010.

Visit of Mr. Abilio de Araujo from Timor Leste under APQN Internship Programme

As an active member of Asia Quality Network, NAAC provides regular training and orientation on Assessment and Accreditation methodology to colleagues from different countries. During 13-23 November, 2010, NAAC hosted Mr. Abilio de Araujo, Q&A co-ordinator from National Commission for Academic Assessment and Accreditation (NCAAA), Timor Leste as part of the arrangement.

During the ten day programme, Mr. Abilio was acquainted with NAAC policies and procedures. He also visited 02 accredited institutions of NAAC and participated in Assessors’ Interaction Meeting. The internship programme was sponsored by APQN through Global Initiative of Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC). Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Advisor, NAAC co-ordinated the internship programme.

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Bad things do happen; how I respond to them defines my character and the quality of my life.
I can choose to sit in perpetual sadness, immobilized by the gravity of my loss,
or I can choose to rise from the pain and treasure the most precious gift I have - life itself.

- Walter Anderson
Assessors’ Interactive Session with Prof Goverdhan Mehta

On the side-lines of the Assessors’ Interaction Meeting held on 23 & 24 November, 2010, Prof. Goverdhan Mehta, Chairman, EC, NAAC had a special interactive session with the visiting delegates in the Dinning Hall of NAAC. Addressing the delegates, Prof Goverdhan Mehta called upon the assessors to uphold highest standards of professionalism, ethics and integrity in the course of their assessment and accreditation work. He reiterated the fact that in the fast changing scenario of Higher Education in the Country, the process of assessment throws up many challenges and road blocks and its is of utmost importance for an assessor to have an objective outlook of assessment process. Prof Mehta called upon the delegates to give feedback on the current methodology process of NAAC and help modify and refine it so as to make it more accurate and objective. The 50 odd delegates comprising Vice Chancellors, Professors, Deans, Principals etc., from across the country shared their concerns and apprehensions with Prof Mehta and agreed to give constructive feedback to the NAAC processes. The Interaction meeting was attended by Prof H.A. Ranganath, Director, NAAC and Senior Academic Officers of NAAC. Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC coordinated the interactive session.

APQN Project Meeting on Mutual Recognition

The APQN International Conference was recently held in Bangalore, India between March 2-4, 2011. Prior to the Conference, ie, on March 01, 2011 the Mutual Recognition Project team had a meeting in Bangalore. In the meeting modus operandi of the exercise was discussed and accordingly, Prof. Zita Mohd. Fahmi, Deputy CEO, Malaysian Qualifications Agency, Malaysia is supposed to observe an audit in Australia. Parallely Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC is supposed to observe an audit in New Zealand and thereafter Dr. Jan Cameron, Director, New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit needs to observe a peer team visit in India. To facilitate the exercise, dates have been fixed in the meeting. The main purpose of MR is to provide support to TNE HEIs through the decisions taken by the QA agencies. The other purpose of MR is that of QA of QA agencies. MR processes may give the basis for joint projects, increased understanding and knowledge of and eventually increased cooperation between the agencies.

Dr. Ganesh Hegde - APQN Internship Programme at MQA, Malaysia

Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Assistant Adviser, attended the Internship Programme at the Malaysian Qualification Agencies (MQA), from 2-10 November 2010 sponsored by Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN). The MQA counterparts shared their views on “Quality Assurance system of Malaysian Higher Education”.

Dr. Ganesh Hegde made a presentation on National Assessment and Accreditation Council and new initiatives of the Government of India. Dissemination of best practices in both the systems were shared by the delegation. Dr. Ganesh Hegde visited University of Kuala Lumpur Engineering Technology division for programme accreditation as an observer between 8-9 November 2010 for (Bachelor (Hons) Engineering Technology in Networking System). On the last day of Internship Dr. Ganesh Hegde gave a report on the visit to the MQA besides the site visit to UNIKL. A certificate from the MQA was presented to Dr. Hegde. He thanked the MQA and APQN for the enriching, enlightening experience.

Education alone can conduct us to that enjoyment which is, at once, best in quality and infinite in quantity.

- Horace Mann
Glimpses of Peer Team Visits

Imphal College, Imphal West, Manipur; 26-28 August 2010; Prof. Abdul Rahiman (Chairperson), Dr. Jayaprakash Merkundal Trivedi (Member), Dr. Usha Mukhundan (Member), Dr. Ganesh Hegde (NAAC Co-ordinator).

Bhaurao Kakatkar College, Belgaum, Karnataka; 15-16 November 2010; Prof. Sudheer S.V. (Member), Prof. J.K. Mohapatra (Chairperson), Dr. M.M. Jadhav (Principal), Dr. Prakash Patel (Member Co-ordinator).

Adarsha Science J.B. Arts and Birla Commerce Mahavidyalaya, Dhamangaon Rly, Maharashtra; 3 - 5 February 2011; Prof. B.G. Mulimani (Chairperson), Dr. (Mrs) Rita Bakshi (Member Co-ordinator), Dr. Sudipti Banerjea (Member).

St. Bede’s College, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh; 1-3 December 2010; Prof. S.S. Patil (Chairperson), Prof. Arun K. Pandey (Member Co-ordinator), Dr. Prakash Puranik (Member).

M.P. Arts & M.H. Commerce College for Women, Outside Raipur Gate, Ahmedabad, Gujarat; 28-30 December 2009; Prof. R. Indira (Chairperson), Dr. (Mrs) Dhusali Birandha Varadarajan (Member Co-ordinator), Dr. Mangal Mishra (Member).

Dr. Ambedkar College, Nagpur, Maharashtra; 17-19 February, 2011; Prof. S.P. Singh (Chairperson), Dr. Alexander Jesudasen, R.W. (Member Co-ordinator), Dr. Bharati P. Salimath (Member).

RIMS, Institutional Area, Gopabandhu Nagar, Chhindwara, 10-12 January 2011; Prof. B.P. Bhatnagar (Chairperson), Prof. Ashok Aima (Member Co-ordinator), Prof. M.D. Lawrence (Member).

Shanti Niketan College of Business Management & Computer Science, Agra-Gwalior Road, Tehra, Agra, Uttar Pradesh; 15-16 September 2010; Prof. A.P. Padhi (Chairperson), Prof. Jasraj Singh (Member Co-ordinator), Dr. Sheila Stephen (Member).
Participation of Prof H A Ranganath, Director, NAAC in International Activities

- Director, NAAC Participated in the 2010 HEEACT Conference on “Learning, Teaching and Research in Global Times: Quality Assurance, Development of World-Class Universities and Promotion of Excellent Higher Education System” organized by Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan at Taipei, Taiwan June 3-4, 2010.
- Visited AUQA, Australia under the NAAC-AUQA MOU staff exchange programme to update the QA system and attend the Annual Quality Conference (Forum) and Annual One-Day Auditor Meeting of AUQA June 30 to July 2 2010.
- Attended and presented paper on “Quality Issues in Higher Education” at the EDUCON 2010: A Symposium of VCs/Directors of Indian Universities / Leading Institutes organized by Sakkal Group of Media, Pune at Colombo, Sri Lanka August 20-23 2010
- Participated in UK’s largest international education conference Going Global 2011 organized by British Council at Hong Kong March 11-12, 2011.
- Prof. H. A. Ranganath Director, NAAC Joint Programmes: Quality Assurance and Recognition of degrees awarded (JOQAR) project has constituted a Steering Group consisting of 14 international partner organizations. In which NAAC is also one of the partners in the project. One of the partner organizations, the Austrian Accreditation Council, Vienna is organizing JOQAR Accreditation Group meeting on 13th April and the JOQAR Steering Group meeting on April 14, 2011 in Vienna.

Upcoming Events

- Assessors Interaction Meeting at NAAC on 3-4 August 2011.
- State Level Quality Assurance Head’s Meeting at NAAC on 25 July 2011.
- Assessors Interaction Meeting at NAAC on 8-9 September 2011.
- NAAC foundation day celebrations on 16 September 2011.

International Projects in progress

- Mutual Recognition of Accreditation – Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN).

Responses from Institutions

The NAAC continues to get heartening responses from colleges and universities during the A&A process. Here is a heartening example.

Our institution has been accredited by NAAC with ‘B’ Grade during May 2005. The NAAC News Letter is highly useful to our students as well as faculty members. It gives good information and keeps updating with regard to the accreditation process. We request you to kindly send NAAC News letter to our institution regularly.

Dr. N. Onnamaranman
Principal, Sree Ramu College of Arts and Science
N.M. Sungam, Vedasandoor (Po), Pollachi

We are thankful to receive NAAC news periodically, it is educative, innovative, and gives information on quality assurance movement in Higher education. The short reports appearing in NAAC news on the conference/seminar/ workshop held inspires other higher education institution to follow suit. The information’s from the editor’s desk, Guest column, Region wise and International level activity and other publications of NAAC are highly inspiring for all stake holders.

From,
Prof. V S Karki (Principal) and Dr. R C Hiremath (IQAC Coordinator).
K L E Society’s S Nijalingappa College Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010

UGC Expert Committee meeting

Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser was nominated by the UGC as the member of the Expert Committee appointed to consider the proposals of the Colleges of the South Eastern Region under the Development Assistance of the XI Plan. The meeting was held on July 7, 2010 at South Eastern Regional Office of UGC, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. The expert committee scrutinized the proposals received from various colleges from different parts of South Eastern Region and recommended funding to the eligible colleges based on the proposals submitted by the colleges.
Quality Map
Status of Institutional Accreditation in the States and Union Territories as on 27 March, 2011

For more information, visit our website:
www.naac.gov.in

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