Assessors’ Interaction Meetings at NAAC

Quality is a ‘moving target’. The pursuit of quality leads to increased efforts at its enhancement because the achievement of quality leads to more and more sustained efforts at excellence. NAAC as an apex body of quality monitoring and endowed with.....

MoU between NAAC and NCTE

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NAAC strongly believes in innovation and continuous improvement. It has strives hard to continuously adapt to the changing demands and circumstances in all its efforts to fine tune the instruments of assessment, refine the process and recast the methodology from time to time. NAAC is in touch with the global counterparts and is continuously interacting with the experts in the field to maintain sync. Further NAAC is spearheading many efforts for quality assurance in Higher Education across the country and is sharing its expertise to rein in excellence in higher education.

In the previous issues of NAAC News letter, several initiatives of NAAC and the revisions made in the quality assurance processes and methodology was presented to the nation. In this particular issue I would like to dwell upon the several challenges encountered and seek the stakeholders’ cooperation in effective functioning of NAAC. As I had been mentioning, the Assessment and Accreditation (A &A) framework of NAAC is developed on the premise that Quality is the outcome of complex interaction of the various institutional activities and their effectiveness. The A&A tool of NAAC is a continuously evolving tool and we try to revise it at regular intervals considering the inputs from various stakeholders. Apart from the relevance of the tool itself we also have to respond and facilitate institutions opting for A&A. While we are moving towards automation of more and more of our processes and aligning them with the ongoing reforms at the National level we find that there are certain gaps which need to be bridged. The foremost issue creating hurdles, as we see from our experience is the lack of awareness and understanding in the field. The A&A process is cooperative and NAAC plays a catalytic role in enhancing the quality as we try to give an independent external view on the institutional provisions. The effectiveness of the process depends on the authenticity of the information provided by the institution and mutual trust.

Since January 2013 when UGC made A&A mandatory for all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the average number of applications received for A&A by NAAC has more than doubled. While we are still awaiting approvals for strengthening and expansion of NAAC both in terms of Human Resources and Finances we have been working hard to meet the expectations of the HEIs, the UGC and MHRD. To cope up with the increased workload as mentioned earlier, we have taken several measures especially to automate some of our processes like Letter of Intent (LOI) and Institutional Eligibility for Quality Assessment (IEQA). Further, to maintain uniformity in processing the LOIs and minimise the processing time, NAAC has developed guidelines and established the Central Application Processing Unit (CAPU). CAPU with dedicated function of processing LOI and IEQA also provides support to institutions through its Help Desk.

This has helped to reduce the processing time of the initial applications. Though we are putting utmost effort in clearing the applications in the shortest time possible, some delays are inevitable. In this attempt of NAAC, HEIs also could play a major role by adhering to the guidelines of NAAC and ensuring submission of all relevant documents and information in the required formats. As outlined and posted on our website, Institutions can help invigorate the process by doing/ not doing a number of things at the various stages of the A&A process. Some of the concerns and challenges of NAAC which are avoidable with the cooperation of the stakeholders are outlined below:

**On-line submission of LOI and/or IEQA format:** Institutions should ensure their eligibility and fill in the applicable format i.e. Institutions offering Liberal Arts, Science and Commerce need to fill in format prescribed for General Colleges, Universities to fill in the format for Universities while Teacher and Physical Education institutions to fill in the format for Teacher Education. It is important that institutions also enter their choice of Accreditation cycle i.e. 1st Cycle if coming for the first time and second, third etc. if they are coming for cycles of accreditation.

As the processes are automated, based on the preliminary entries, the system processes the applications and guides the institutions to appropriate questions. If the preliminary entries are not correct, institutions may not be able to proceed further as the proceeding questions will not be relevant and error message would be flashed. To facilitate hassle free submission of LOI, we have provided a sample format which can be used for initial entry and verification of the data before filling in the online LOI/IEQA. For resolving possible constraints or technical hitches, as mentioned earlier, NAAC has set up a help desk under the umbrella of CAPU. Most often we get queries on exemption of Registration fee or extension of time for submission of the accompanying documents i.e. valid affiliation letter, Statutory Regulating Authority (SRA) approvals etc. The process being automated there would be no provision for moderating the processes of individual institutions and any such request would be futile. Similarly the online submission of the IEQA would result in an instant message declaring the result/status sent to the email id provided by the institutions in their LOI. At all stages, NAAC has provided six months validity time; so that all types of institutions would be able to complete the process within the given time. Affiliated colleges coming for A&A for first time, become eligible for submission of the Self Study Report (SSR) only after qualifying/acquiring the IEQA status. As already explained any request to reconsider the IEQA status or sympathetically treat the application cannot be considered. Institutions are therefore requested to co-operate and adhere to the guidelines of NAAC.
Preparation and Submission of the SSR: The institution has to prepare the SSR in three parts, Part I is the institutional data, Part II is the evaluative report and the third component is the SWOC analysis, which is submitted as Executive summary. This will be an internal exercise by the institution that is expected to be done with honest introspection. As the assessors evaluate the strengths through triangulation which involves comparison of one source of evidence with others i.e. checking documents, observing the practice or implementation on ground and discussions with staff, students, parents and alumni, institutions should provide focused and reliable information. As the entire assessment exercise would be based on the SSR and mutual trust, it should be prepared giving all the relevant information with utmost honesty. NAAC emphasizes on the issue of integrity as many complaints received at NAAC are revolving round the SSRs submitted by Colleges. Though most of the complaints are frivolous, a few are also real. To promote transparency and address the issues of honesty and integrity, NAAC insists on posting the SSRs on institutional Website.

The External evaluation process of NAAC is meant only to provide a reality check to the HEIs. It is important for our stakeholders to understand that NAAC is not a regulatory authority or a policy making body and A&A is not a solution for all the problems in the HEIs. We often receive representations/grievances for redressal on varied issues ranging from recruitment to examinations, to admissions to composition of the Board of Management. As NAAC has no authority on such issues our stakeholders should refrain from sending such complaints to NAAC. Of late, increasing number of court cases is also a cause for concern, as NAAC is made a party in many cases without specific charges. Even where the prayers to the Court are pertaining to regulatory bodies or Universities, NAAC is being dragged into the issue putting serious constraints on already scarce human and financial resources. The attention of NAAC, instead given to Quality in higher education, is being distracted towards legal entangles in which NAAC has no role to play.

One should realise that NAAC accreditation process is grounded in multilayered development realities but is limited to its seven criteria framework. Further the operational complexity of institutions and multiple lines of accountability makes it challenging for NAAC especially at a time when there is a national mandate of A&A and minimal coordination among the regulatory bodies. To conclude, I would only say that the unique mission of quality can only be achieved collaboratively, and NAAC seeks your cooperation to provide an enabling and facilitating environment to work towards quality and excellence in higher education.

Prof. A.N. Rai

As part of its 20th Foundation Day celebrations, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) organized a lecture on Right to Information Act, 2005 on 16 September, 2014 for the benefit of all its staff members. Prof V Vijaykumar, former Vice Chancellor, Ambedkar Law University, Chennai and currently senior professor from National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru was invited to deliver the lecture as a Resource Person. As a tradition, the NAAC invites an eminent academican as a Chief Guest on the occasion of NAAC Foundation Day to interact with the NAAC staff.

In his opening remarks, Prof A N Rai, Director, NAAC elaborated on the need for effective functioning of RTI mechanism in a quality watchdog institution like NAAC. In the wake of growing public interest and mounting RTI queries to NAAC, it is important that a strategy is worked by NAAC in a way that will not hamper the regular Assessment and Accreditation process of NAAC, he opined.

Addressing the gathering, Prof Vijayakumar stressed upon the significance and role of Right to Information Act in ensuring transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities in the country. He held the audience spell bound for more than 3 hours with his wit and wisdom and ensured that the audience were left asking for more. Prof. Vijayakumar was of the view that “the right to information would go a long way in serving the country if it is properly utilized”. The lecture was followed by question and answer sessions, wherein, he interacted with the NAAC staff and answered queries specific to NAAC’s day to day activities and functioning.

Knowledge for the sake of knowledge is indeed a great deal, but it needs to be supplemented by the newest ideas that all knowledge is for the service of man. - Goethe
The NAAC and NCTE have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2002 aimed to foster quality assurance and quality sustenance in Teacher Education system of the country. Following this, a National Consultative Committee on Teacher Education Institutions was constituted to advice on the mechanisms and schemes for quality pursuance and sustenance and to provide periodic feedback on issues relating to Assessment and Accreditation. The MoU has since been extended twice in three years.

A meeting with NCTE officials was held at NAAC office on 14 August, 2014 to review the advancement made in the last several years and also to renew the MoU before finalizing the same for further extension. As an outcome of this meeting, the NAAC and NCTE signed an MoU which would be valid for a period of three years. The MoU was signed by Professor A N Rai, Director, NAAC and Prof Santosh Pande, Chairperson, National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi. As per the terms of the MoU, the NAAC and NCTE have mutually agreed to work on the following broad areas:

- NAAC and NCTE shall lay down the Accreditation Norms and Standard for PG and Degree Pre-service Teacher Training Institutions which will be implemented by NAAC. Till such revisions come up, NAAC shall continue to undertake accreditation of teacher education institutions in the country as per existing methodology evolved by NAAC.
- To undertake jointly or individually national and regional meets on Accreditation and Quality Assurance in teacher education institutions.
- To formulate mechanisms and schemes for quality promotions and sustenance among teacher education institutions.
- To develop linkages between various sectors of teacher education and disseminate good practices and innovations for creation of quality culture.
- To analyse available data/information on quality assurance and accreditation and publish reports and undertake joint or separate promotional activities, in different regions of the country on quality assurance and accreditation.

The NAAC-NCTE Consultative Committee also resolved to review and advice on parameters for Assessment and Accreditation of teacher education institution/programmes and revise the processes and procedures for quality assurance, sustenance and enhancement in teacher education. The consultative committee would also facilitate formulation of appropriate strategies for the achievement of the aims and objectives of the MoU and ensure the effective implementation of the decisions taken in this regard.

Dr. K. Rama, Deputy Adviser, NAAC coordinated the meeting. Senior officers from NAAC and NCTE were present on the occasion.

In order to streamline the process of applications of Assessment and subsequent activities, NAAC has established Central Application Processing Unit (CAPU) with effect from 16 September 2014. The new initiative was web launched by Prof. A.N. Rai, Director, NAAC on the eve of 20th foundation day of NAAC.

The CAPU unit of NAAC aims to facilitate colleges and provide:

- Single point access for institution to submit LOI, IEQA and AQAR
- Dedicated Help Desk to cater to queries related to LOI/IEQA/AQAR and trouble shooting
- Specified schedule for speedy clearance of LOI/ IEQA/ AQAR applications received by NAAC.
- Increased transparency and uniformity in processing Assessment and Accreditation applications.

The Central Application Processing Unit (CAPU) of NAAC will be responsible for processing all the applications related to LOI, IEQA and AQAR. LOIs pertaining to universities will continue to be dealt with by the respective regional coordinators. All institutions are advised to contact the help desk of NAAC for any queries related to the process on the contact details given below:

NAAC Help Desk
naachelpdesk@gmail.com
080-23005192 / 080-23005193

Region-wise contacts

- Southern Region : capusouth@gmail.com
- Northern Region : capunorth@gmail.com
- West Region : capuwest@gmail.com
- East & North East Region : capueast@gmail.com
- AQAR Division : capuaqar@gmail.com

Central Application Processing Unit (CAPU) for Colleges
Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh in collaboration with National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore (under National Quality Renaissance Initiative - NQRI) organised one day Awareness / Workshop on NAAC process of assessment & accreditation on 21 August 2014. It was attended by Principals / representatives from Accredited / Non – Accredited Colleges affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University. The day long workshop was attended by Principals and their representatives from various RGU affiliated government and private colleges of the state and faculty members and officers of the university.

The Workshop Coordinator Prof. R.C. Parida while welcoming and introducing the workshop apprised the gathering that the workshop is a joint initiative of RGU and NAAC under National Quality Renaissance Initiatives. He enlightened the delegates on the intricacies of quality and quantity of higher education system in India. The Assessment & accreditation process has taken a form of movement in Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in India.

An NQRI initiative for Popularisation and promotion of Quality Assurance - Mentoring Higher Education Institutions

Two Day Workshop on NAAC Accreditation Process at Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

The two-day NAAC sponsored Workshop on ‘Assessment and Accreditation’ was organized by Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh on 28-29 March 2014.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. R.S. Kasana, Vice Chancellor (I/c), Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, Bangalore delivered the Key-note. In his keynote Dr. Hegde opined that, contemporary higher education system should be diversified and pluralized in order to create excellence for the global competence. He spoke on Quality Issues in Higher Education and Challenges of NAAC Assessment and elaborated on the entire process of A&A during the presentation.

The NAAC has been providing funding through MHRD under the National Quality Renaissance Initiative (NQRI) Project to popularize the Assessment and Accreditation activity throughout the country. This Workshop, the first of its kind was arranged under the Project aimed at making institutions aware of the process of NAAC Assessment and Accreditation and elaborating the 07 criteria of NAAC. Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Prof. Prajapati and Prof. N. K. Jain, Professor of Pharmaceutical Science, (former Coordinator, IQAC), Dr. H. S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, (MP) spoke on different criterion of NAAC for Assessment and Accreditation. The Workshop was attended by Directors, Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars of the University besides other participants in various capacities. Prof. Limaye, summed up the proceedings of the workshop and delineated the usefulness and productiveness of the workshop.

Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh Conducts One Day Workshop on NAAC Accreditation Process

Inaugurating the workshop, Prof. Tamo Mibang, Vice-Chancellor of RGU was optimistic that the workshop would set a benchmark for all the participating colleges which will be beneficial in quality enhancement and observed that it is high time to retrospect to see the good and grey areas in the education system, which need improvement and moulding. It is high time that we retrospect and introspect ourselves and strive forward and the step towards getting all the affiliated colleges under RGU assessed and accredited by NAAC, he opined. It is the prime objective of the conduct of this workshop and the university will give its all out support for the same, he said.

Mr. B.S. Ponmudiraj, Assistant Advisor, NAAC, Bangalore, was the resource person on the occasion. In his welcome address he opined that assessment and accreditation processes of NAAC right from submission of Letter of Intent to the issuance of a certificate of accreditation is a nation building exercise in its true sense. It is a time to give a relook and reviewing ourselves, and in the process we groom ourselves and grow, he said. During the interactive sessions the resource person clarified the queries of delegates. Director of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of RGU Prof. A. Mitra, highlighted on the NAAC accreditations and its present status and pointed out that only six colleges out of the 28 affiliated colleges were accredited so far by NAAC. Ms. Olympia Kurmi, Assistant Professor of Commerce, extended the vote of thanks, he opined.
National Seminar at Deva Matha College, Kuravilangad, Kerala

NAAC sponsored two-day National Seminar on "New Trends in Quality Education: the Road Ahead" was organized by the IQAC of Deva Matha College, Kuravilangad, Kerala on 26 and 27 June 2014. Dr. Cyriac Thomas, Member, National Commission for Minority Institutions and former Vice Chancellor of MG University, inaugurated the academic event. Speaking on the occasion he stressed upon the need and significance of quality in Higher Education.

There were five technical sessions in the seminar. The first technical session witnessed the presentation by Dr. Cyriac Thomas on the role and the leadership of the teacher. Dr. P. Anwer, Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council, led the discussion on the topic “Quality in Higher Education.” Dr. Prof. M. A. Sudhir, Head and Dean, Gandhigram Deemed University, Dindigal, highlighted the importance of Research culture for quality in higher education. Dr. Babu Sebastian, Director, State Institute of Educational Technology gave a talk on ICT and quality education. Dr. M. Usman, Secretary, Council of Principals of Colleges in Kerala, lead the discussion on the topic RUSA and the education sector in Kerala. Dr. M. Usman, was the Chief Guest for the valedictory session, which was presided over by Dr. Joy Jacobs, Principal, Deva Matha College. The two-day National Seminar was attended by more than 100 delegates and witnessed many paper presentations. The event provided a platform for fruitful deliberations and interaction. Rev. Dr. Joseph Sebastian, Coordinator, IQAC extended vote of thanks.
NAAC sponsored National Seminar on ‘Nurturing Quality in Higher Education through IQAC’ was organized by IQAC of V P & RPTP Science College, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat on 11 January 2014. Dr. C.L. Patel, President of the Trust presided over the event.

The Key-note was delivered by Dr Ganeshe Hegde, Assistant Adviser, NAAC. He elaborated on the role of IQAC in nurturing Quality in Higher Education and stressed upon the role of IQAC in an institution. ‘IQAC should play a positive role in spreading the quality culture in an institution’, Dr Hegde opined. He illustrated the significance of IQAC with case studies and elaborated the strategies to raise the bar with regard to quality standards. He advised institutions to think beyond NAAC and asked institutions not to stagnate even on quality parameters and standards. Dr. Hegde emphasized on the need to focus on right processes for the desired results.

Dr Nikunj Bhatt, Coordinator of the seminar, appraised the participants on the purpose of the seminar. He raised valid points to highlight the challenges faced by Higher Education Institutions in the region in particular and the nation in general. He opined that institutions should focus on quality and employability aspects.

Dr. Subhash Bharmbhatt, Principal H K Arts College, Ahmedabad, spoke on the crucial role of the teachers in the whole teaching learning process and the need for each teacher to have at least one best practice. Dr. R.P. Jadeja, Director, H M Patel Institute of English Training and Research, V.V. Nagar, spoke on the importance of understanding how learning actually takes place and the importance of pedagogy in teaching. Dr. Charudutt Gurjar, Organizing Secretary of the seminar, presented the Case Study of V P & R P T P Science College. In his Presidential remarks President of the Trust Dr. C.L. Patel emphasized on enhancing quality of teaching and learning to enable students to compete globally and at the same time contribute to nation building. The event witnessed the presentation of 15 papers of which a few won awards. Dr. Bhavesh Patel and Dr. Nikunj Bhatt coordinated the seminar.

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Two-day National Seminar on “Opportunities and Challenges of the Institutional Library in Rural Areas” was organised by Shree Shakti Degree College, Sankhahari, Ghatampur, Kanpur Nagar on 5- 6 October, 2014 at International Center C.S.J.M.U.

Two-day National Seminar on “Quality Enhancement in Higher Education through IQAC” was organized by Semiliguda College, Semiliguda, Dist.Koraput, Odisha on 25-26 October 2014. Academicians and Research scholars from different parts of the country participated in the seminar. Mr. Raj Kishore Mishra, Executive Director, NALCO released the souvenir comprising the proceedings of the Seminar on the occasion. Prof. Malay Kumar Mohanty, former Professor and Head, G.M. (auto) College, Sambalpur made the Key-note address. Shri Krushna Singh, Regional Director of Education, Government of India and founding member of the College attended the inaugural ceremony. A total of 37 papers were presented in the seminar during the two technical sessions. Prof. Prafulla Chandra Mohapatro, Director, COATS, Koraput, Prof.Jagabandhu Samal, Professor of Tribal Studies, COATS, Koraput and Prof. Jayanta Kumar Mohanty, former Principal, Government College, Koraput attended as Resource Persons and delineated different directions available for quality enhancement. Dr.Uma Sankar Prasad Patra, Convener of the Seminar and the Principal of the College Mr. Rabi Narayan Sutar were present on the occasion.

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We, who inhabit the earth, dwell like frogs at the bottom of a pool. Only if man could rise above the summit of air, could he behold the true earth, the world in which we live. - Socrates
National Seminar at Manomaniam Sudaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu

The two day National Seminar on the Role of ICT in improving the quality of the institution sponsored by NAAC was conducted by the Department of Education (DD&CE), Manomaniam Sudaranar University, Tirunelveli on 30-31 July 2014. The Seminar was inaugurated by Dr. A. K. Kumaraguru, Vice-Chancellor of the University. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. C. Thangamuthu, former Vice-chancellor, Bharathidasan University, Trichy and NCTE Chairman. The proceedings with ISBN numbering was released on the occasion. The technical sessions focussed on quality enhancement processes and e-governance. The sessions also dealt with Impact of ICT in teaching and education.

The Plenary Session entitled ICT in Higher Education, Learning and Teaching Attitude and Social Change, was handled by Dr. S. Lourdhnathan, Professor & Head, Dept. of Philosophy, Arul Anandar College, Karumathur, Madurai. The last session entitled Global Perspectives of Higher Education and the role of ICT was addressed by Dr. A. Balasubramanian, Professor, former Director, Educational Multimedia Research Centre, University of Mysore, Mysore.

125 delegates from a cross section of higher educational institutions participated in the academic event which witnessed fruitful deliberations. Dr. P. Tamizh Chelvam, Registrar (i/c), Manomaniam Sudaranar University, Tirunelveli chaired the Valedictory session. The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. A. Balasubramanian, Professor, former Director, Educational Multimedia Research Centre, Mysore. Dr. R. Selvaraju, organizing secretary of the National Seminar, rendered vote of thanks.

Seminar at St. Xavier's College of Education, Patna, Bihar

Two-day NAAC sponsored National Seminar on ‘Quality Enhancement in Higher Education and RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) was organized by IQAC of St. Xavier's College of Education on 12-13 September, 2014 at St. Xavier's College of Education, Patna. There were 92 papers from 113 delegates on the occasion. Rev. Fr. Thomas Perumalil, Principal of St. Xavier's welcomed the guests and delegates. In his welcome speech he emphasized on value education.

Shri H. R. Srinivasa, I.A.S., Special Secretary, Dept. of Education, Govt. of Bihar was the Chief Guest on the occasion. During his inaugural address, the Chief Guest emphasized on the issues of quality in higher education. Dr. R.K. Behera, Dean of Social Sciences, Patkai Christian College, Nagaland made the keynote address. Updated and well-articulated curriculum should be developed to make the academic system more vibrant, he opined. Prof. B.N. Panda, Professor & head of Education, Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar, elaborated on the milieu of higher education and the need to develop a carefully crafted and chiseled human resource which fits the job market. The speaker during the valedictory session was Prof. P.P. Ghosh, Director, Asian Development Research Institute, Patna. He compared the higher education of the present day Indian context and that of the past. Many paper presenters dealt with the intricacies of RUSA funding and the need for giving thrust to higher education sector through increased funding.

National Seminar at S.S.E.S. Amt's Science College, Nagpur, Maharashtra

Two day NAAC sponsored National Seminar on ‘Institutional Quality Improvement: Role of Governance, Leadership and Management’ was organised at S.S.E.S. Amaravati’s Science College, Nagpur on August 8-9, 2014. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Abdul Rahman, former Vice Chancellor, Kannur and Calicut University. Dr T M Karde, former Professor and Head, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur was the Guest of Honour. Prof. S. D. Deshmukh, former Vice Chancellor of S G B Amravati, chaired the inaugural session. Dr D K Burghate, the Principal of the College delineated the objective of the National Seminar. The ‘IQAC News’ Bulletin (2013 – 2014) of the College was released on the occasion.

Prof. M.R. Kurup, Secretary, Kelkar Education Trust & founder Principal of V G Vaze College, Mumbai delivered the keynote address focussing on the NAAC criteria on ‘Governance Leadership and Management’. He discussed as many as 36 Assessment Indicators for objective validation and the issue covered by each of the Key Aspects. Many eminent personalities in the field education from various universities participated in the seminar.

In the third technical session, held on August 9, 2014, Prof S B Nimase, Vice Chancellor, Lucknow University, Lucknow spoke on ‘Leadership in Higher Education’. In the fourth Technical session, Dr. K T Varkey, Principal, CMS College of Science & Commerce, Coimbatore delivered a talk on ‘Quality Management Strategies in Academic and Administrative Aspects’. In the fifth session, Dr.Anjan Naidu, Principal, D B Science College, Gondia spoke on Leadership Management in Current Scenario. Around 140 participants from different institutions participated in the seminar and more than ten participants from various colleges presented papers. Proceeding of the seminar, was released in the Valedictory Function held on August 9, 2014. Dr. G R Avachar, coordinator, IQAC rendered vote of thanks and Dr. S R Sakundarwar, Co-ordinator, IQAC was present on the occasion.
Quality Sustenance and Enhancement Initiatives (support to Workshops)

Two-day Workshop on CBCS at Dibrugarh University, Assam

A two day workshop entitled “Semesterization and Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in Higher Learning Institutions; in Quest of Quality Education” was organized by the IQAC of Dibrugarh University on 7 -8 February 2014.

Prof. A.K. Buragohain, Vice-Chancellor, D.U., inaugurated the workshop and delivered the key-note address. Prof. Buragohain stressed upon enhancing adaptability, creativity and quality in higher education in order to create efficient and effective human resources. He also emphasized that India’s demographic dividend could be possible only by imparting quality education to the huge cohort of the youth in India. The workshop was kick started with the welcome address by the Director of IQAC.

The workshop focused on themes like CBCS, Modes of Pedagogy in Tertiary Level, Measures relating to systemic corrections in CBCS etc. Prof. Utpal Sharma, Computer Science Department, Tezpur University delivered the first plenary speech on “CBCS and The Large Context” wherein he stated that the dividends and pitfalls in CBCS and provided suggestions to resolve the pitfalls, followed by the interaction and questioning sessions. A Panel discussion on Reflections on experiences of CBCS and seminar system in DU was also organized on the occasion.

Day-2 started with plenary session followed by a questioning/interaction sessions. Prof. M. Hazarika, Dept. of Education, D.U. delivered a talk on “Modes of Pedagogy in Tertiary Level”. He stated that the need of the hour is to renovate old ones and innovate new methods of teaching – learning process. Prof. Jogan Kalita, Gauhati University, delivered the plenary speech on “Measures relating to systemic correction in CBCS”, followed by an interaction session. He discussed on the corrective measures that are to be taken to address the systemic and inbuilt bottlenecks of the CBCS and semester system. The workshop ended with the roadmap session chaired by Prof. J.G. Handique and valedictory function.

The academic event ended up with the preparation of a roadmap and recommendation on the theme of the Workshop, viz, Developing and reviewing the mechanism for Continuous and Comprehensive evaluation of students, continuous development of curriculum, Innovation in Teaching-Learning, developing effective tools for evaluation of CBCS etc.

Workshop at Doomdooma College, Tinsukia, Assam

The Two-day NAAC sponsored Workshop on “Higher Educational Institution in Rural and Backward Areas: Problems and Remedies” was organized by the IQAC of Doomdooma College, Tinsukia, Assam on 5- 6 September 2014.

Prof. A.K. Buragohain, Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University inaugurated the Workshop. Dr C.K. Sharma, Rtd Principal, Tinsukia Women’s College, Dr B. Gogoi, Principal, Margherita College, Dr P.J. Borthakur, Principal, Doomdooma College and Mrs. B.D. Bordoloi, Vice Principal, Doomdooma College were present in the workshop. The Principal of the College briefed the delegates on the theme of the Workshop and extended a note of welcome.

In his inaugural address, Prof. A.K. Buragohain, opined that regions and locale do not matter in the matters of global competition. Intelligence and competence is not region specific and students across the country share similar abilities and competence. Institutions should make tremendous efforts to provide opportunities to the students to compete globally. Basically, a teacher must empathize with a student and should have tremendous and unconditional love towards students, he opined.

There were three technical sessions and one panel discussion during the academic event. Dr Sangeeta Angam of NUEPA discussed the overall scenario of higher education in India with specific reference to the North East. Dr B Gogoi of Margherita College explained the role of various stakeholders of higher education. Dr Binod Borah spoke on the intricacies involved in semester system. Dr Junu Mahanta of DDR College, Chabua focused on the success and failures of semester system. Ms. Anjoo Konwar, Coordinator, IQAC rendered vote of thanks.

Workshop at BH College, Howly, Assam

The one-day workshop on new methodology of NAAC Assessment was held in B.H. College, Howly on 22 March, 2014. The event was jointly organized by the College Development Council, Gauhati University and Internal Quality Assurance Cell, B.H. College. Dr. R.K. Das, former Principal of B.H. College and a member of NAAC Peer Team, inaugurated the Workshop. The inaugural function was presided over by the Prof. R.A. Sarda, President of the Governing Body, B.H. College.

Dr. Sultan Ali Ahamad, Co-ordinator, IQAC, B.H. College, Howly, briefly explained the objectives of the Workshop in which delegates from 52 colleges spread over the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Barpeta, Baks and Nalabari participated. Prof. Jogen ch. Kalita, Director, College Development Council, G.U. conducted the workshop in which Prof. K.G. Bhattacharya, former Director, UGC Academic Staff College, GU and Prof. Indra Kr. Bhattacharya, former Principal, Cotton College, Guwahati, were the resource persons.

The Open- house session witnessed the active participation of the delegates in which the participants interacted with the resource persons. The participants were given a copy of the book “Bhurukat Mahabharat” written by Sri Gakul Pathik and published by B.H. College Prakshan Samity.
Assessors’ Interaction
An NQRI initiative for Quality Sustenance and

Quality is a ‘moving target’. The pursuit of Quality leads to increased efforts at its enhancement because the achievement of quality leads to more and more sustained efforts at excellence. NAAC as an apex body of quality monitoring and endowed with the responsibility of fixing and monitoring standards in Higher Education, keeps continuously changing because change is constant. NAAC continuously reviews its methodology and fine-tunes the instruments of quality evaluation by facilitating new learning. Assessors’ Interaction Meeting (AIM), is an effort in this direction. AIM provides an opportunity to the Assessors to interact, brainstorm, share the experiences and arrive at consensus for further improvement in the paraphernalia of quality evaluation among higher education institutions.

AIM held on 6 and 7 February 2014:

AIM, 26th in the series was held on 6-7 February 2014 at NAAC campus in Bangaluru. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Adviser, NAAC welcomed the delegates to AIM. Dr. Patil briefly explained the objectives of AIM and elaborated the process involved in AIM for the whole day. Prof. A.N. Rai, Director, NAAC made the opening remarks. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Rai, said, “One of NAAC’s focus areas is awareness building and popularising and promoting quality assurance by mentoring institutions”. He said that NAAC conducts workshops on quality assurance for university authorities, faculty, Principals and senior officials of state higher education departments. He made an announcement that NAAC intends to plan to conduct 100 workshops across the country—in regions and places populated by a large number of non-accredited institutions. He was further of the view that another focus area of NAAC was building a Collegium of Assessors.

He elaborated on the purpose of AIM, where senior academicians and heads of institutes are intensively trained in NAAC processes over two day Assessors Interaction Meetings. He said that these intense training sessions equip the academicians to be qualified Peer Team members ready to assess and accredit higher education institutions. He further sought the cooperation of the Peer Team members to provide their expertise to help their own neighbouring institutions to become quality conscious and approach NAAC for assessment process. He further said that another priority area of NAAC was to support the Internal Quality Assurance Cells for organising workshops and seminars. NAAC has set a target of 100 workshops for the current year on the theme Quality Enhancement, ICTs and Role of IQACs in Quality Improvement”, Prof. Rai said.

In the first session Dr. Latha Pillai, Adviser, NAAC delineated the process of NAAC and all the nuances involved in the quality evaluation strategies and tools. Dr. Jagannath Pail, Deputy Adviser, NAAC and convener of AIM, briefed the delegates on the issue of Peer Team’s Report Writing. “The peer team report should reflect innately the strength and weaknesses of the institution concerned”. He also sought to emphasize the need for pre-visit preparedness by the assessors to validate the self study report of the institution. In the second Technical session, Dr. M.S. Shyamsundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC spoke on the issue of ‘on-site visit and grading’. Dr. Sujata Shanbhag, Assistant Adviser, NAAC briefed the delegates on the grading system.

During the third session of AIM, Prof. B. Hanumaiah, former Vice Chancellor, BBAU, Lucknow, stressed the need for institutions across the country to take up assessment and accreditation process of NAAC and gave a vivid presentation on the proactive initiatives taken by NAAC in the quest for upholding quality consciousness amongst institutions of Higher Learning. He pointed out that quality is not a desirable element but a very essential component of higher education and assessor have a crucial role to play in upholding NAAC’s quest for quality. There was space for questions and answers and a lot of observations were made by the delegates based on their on-site experience during the Peer Team visit to various colleges. Prof. A.N. Rai chaired the session. Prof. B. Hanumaiah and Dr. Jagannath Patil interacted with the participants and shared their experiences.

As part of the routine AIM, there was a simulation exercise involving all the empanelled members on the Peer Team. A briefing was made by Dr.Patil on the group work in the post-lunch session. Session IV involved Peer Team visit simulation exercise. Various roles were given to the delegates to facilitate the experience of an actual visit to a college. Certain roles were given the delegates like that of the Head of the institution, Academic staff, Management members, students, alumni, parents and non-teaching staff. The delegates were asked to write the Peer Team Report based on the experience during the simulation and were asked to present the findings. Scores based on the grading and validation were given for a comparison to find out the inter-team differences. The simulation exercise also made room for Mock Exit Meeting followed by Open Forum and closing remarks. Dr. Patil rendered vote of thanks.
AIM held on 2 and 3 September 2014:

27th Assessors Interaction programme was held during September 02-03, 2014. Dr. M S Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC who was the Chief Convener of the programme, warmly welcomed all senior academicians representing various higher education institutions from different parts of the country. Dr. M S Shyamasundar briefly explained objectives of the programme and its modus operandi of two days. For this programme, NAAC had invited 71 participants. Out of these, 62 academics participated in the programme. There were 9 Vice-Chancellors, 24 Professors and 29 Principals representing 22 states from South, North, West, East and North East Regions. Out of these 62 participants, 17 were women which demonstrates the gender sensitivity. After Dr. Shyamasundar’s welcome, all the participants introduced themselves to break the ice.

In the opening remarks, Prof. A. N. Rai, Director, NAAC emphasised the key role of quality assessors and the nuances involved in the assessment and accreditation process. He elaborated on various challenges of different stakeholders in higher education including NAAC assessors. He had cautioned all the participants to be very careful during the on-site visit to various higher education institutions, since NAAC philosophy is totally open and transparent. Mr. B.S. Ponmudiraj, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, acted as a resource person and spoke on NAAC’s processes by giving various details like need for establishment of NAAC, Letter of Intent (LoI), Institutional Eligibility for Quality Assessment (IEQA), various manuals available for the need of various higher education institutions, quality initiatives, guidelines of NAAC, deadlines stipulated by NAAC, etc. After the comfort break, convenor of the programme Dr. M S Shyamasundar acted as a resource person for the second technical session. He spoke on on-site visit and outlined various roles to be played by the assessors before and during the visit. He shared his experiences with adequate number of anecdotes to make the participants understand the delicate and crucial roles to be played during the visit. He also gave various tips to the participant assessors to function more effectively and efficiently. He had thrown ample light on multi dimensional challenges faced by the assessors.

Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Adviser acted as a resource person for the next technical session and spoke on Peer Team Report writing. He explained the Do’s and Don’ts for good report writing. He emphasised on the need for parity between report writing and the grade. Dr. Ganesh A. Hegde, Assistant Adviser acted as a resource person in the next technical session to speak on the grading and highlighted useful tips to all assessors that had to be kept in mind at the time of finalising the grade.

After lunch, Prof. V. Vijayakumar, former Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai and Professor of Law, National Law School of India University, Bangalore acted as the external resource person. Prof. Vijayakumar interacted with the participants and shared his experiences as a peer team members of NAAC.

Dr. M S Shyamasundar, explained the nitty-gritties of the team work. He explained that the participants were divided in to seven teams, viz., 1. Royal Challenging Stars, 2. Charging Kings, 3. Indian Heroes, 4, Academic Bulls, 5. Thinking Tigers, 6. Warrior Leaders and 7. Dynamic Lions. He informed the participants to actively participate in the simulation exercise and role play based on the imaginary self-study report i.e. IPL College, No. T - 20, Verender Sehwag Street, LBW Nagar, Stump City - 444 666, Cricket Loka. He drew the attention of the participants on the special characters introduced in the self-study report i.e. Prof. M.S. Dhoni as Principal, Dr. Virat Kohli as Vice Principal and Dr. David Miller as Steering Committee Coordinator and the college is affiliated to the Tendulkar University to make the participants to understand in an interesting and enjoyable way. Even though there would be many interactions with various categories of the stakeholders during the actual peer team visit, he requested all the participants to go for atleast three role plays, because of the paucity of time and to get a good deal of feel about the actual process of interaction. After this all the teams were asked to prepare a group-wise peer team report and grade sheet. This helped to compare the contrast between and among seven teams to understand the inter team variance in a better way.

After the lunch, all the seven teams made individual group presentations. During the mock exit meeting, the imaginary characters were introduced on the stage to get the feel of the actual peer team visit.

Finally, in the open forum, Prof. A. N. Rai, Director chaired the session and clarified many of the issues raised by the participants. Thereafter, Dr. M S Shyamasundar gave vote of thanks.
# List of Institutions for which NAAC has sanctioned financial assistance for organizing workshops/seminars/conferences (January 2014- August 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Institution Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>State/Region</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Moga College of Education</td>
<td>Near P. S. Sadar, Moga FZR Road, Ghalkalan, Moga-142001, Punjab</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Shyamal Saraswati Mahavidyalaya</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Doomsdooma College</td>
<td>Rupai Siding, Doomsdooma-786153, Assam</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>St. Xavier's College of Education</td>
<td>Digha Ghat PO., Patna-800 011, Bihar</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Balurghat B. Ed. College</td>
<td>P.O. Balurghat, Dist. Dakshin Dinajpur, Mongalpur-733101, West Bengal</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Marathwada Shikshan Prasarak Mandal's R. B. Attal Arts, Science and Commerce College</td>
<td>Dist. Beed, Georai-431127, Maharashtra</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal's Art's, Science and Commerce College</td>
<td>Rahuri, Dist. Ahmednagar-413705, Maharashtra</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Smt. P.N. Doshi Women's College of Arts Kum. U.R. Shah Women's College of Commerce Dr. (Smt.) Nanavati B. M. Women's College of Home Science (Ghatkopar) Cama Lane, Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai-400086, Maharashtra</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati's Science College</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>The Bhopal School of Social Sciences</td>
<td>Habibganj, Bhopal-462024, Madhya Pradesh</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Pioneer Institute of Professional Studies</td>
<td>Malahaxmi Nagar, Ring Road, Opp. Bombay Hospital, Indore-452010, Madhya Pradesh</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>S.R.R. Government Degree college</td>
<td>Karimnagar-505001, Andhra Pradesh</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa College</td>
<td>Kodagu Dist., Madikere-571201, Karnataka</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Deva Matha College</td>
<td>Kuraviangad Po. Kottayam- 686633 Kerala</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Vysya College</td>
<td>Ramakrishnapuram, Masinaickenpatty, Ayodhiyapattinam (P.O.), Salem-636103, Tamil Nadu</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Coimbatore Institute of Management and Technology (Autonomous)</td>
<td>Vellimalapattinam, Narasipuram Road, Thondamuthur (Via), Coimbatore-641109, Tamil Nadu</td>
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<td>Manonmaniam Sundaranar University</td>
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<td>Kalasalingam University</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Semiliguda College</td>
<td>Semiliguda, Koraput-764036, Odisha</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>Dahiwadi College</td>
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<td>24.</td>
<td>Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>South Ratnagiri District Shikshan Prasarak Mandal's Shri Pancham Khemraj Mahavidyalaya</td>
<td>Dist. Sindhudurg, Sawantwadi-416510, Maharashtra</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>Bhilai Maith College</td>
<td>Risali Sector, Bhilai, Durg-491001, Chhattisgarh</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>The Nadiad Education Society, I.V. Patel College of Commerce</td>
<td>P.O. Box:17, College Road, Nadiad, Dist. Kheda- 387001, Gujarat</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td>Gondia Education Society's Dhote Bandhu Science College</td>
<td>Gondia-441614, Maharashtra</td>
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<td>29.</td>
<td>Shaheed Bheema Nayak Government P.G. College</td>
<td>Khandwa Baroda Road, Barwani- 451551, Madhya Pradesh</td>
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<td>30.</td>
<td>St. Bede's College, Navbhar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh</td>
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<td>31.</td>
<td>Sophia Girls' College</td>
<td>Meershah Ali, Jaipur Road, Ajmer-305001, Rajasthan</td>
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<td>32.</td>
<td>MIER College of Education</td>
<td>B.C. Road, Jammu-180001, Jammu and Kashmir</td>
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<td>33.</td>
<td>Shanti Devi Arya Mahila College</td>
<td>Dinanagar, Gurdaspur-143531, Punjab</td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>Advanced Institute of Education</td>
<td>70 km, Delhi - Mathura Road, Village Aurangabad, Palwal, Faridabad-121105, Haryana</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>Government College of Education</td>
<td>Lal Chowk, M A Road, Srinagar-190001, Jammu and Kashmir</td>
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<td>37.</td>
<td>Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of Business Management</td>
<td>Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore-575003, Karnataka</td>
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<td>38.</td>
<td>St. Mary's College</td>
<td>Trichur- 680020, Kerala</td>
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<td>39.</td>
<td>P.K.R. Arts College for Women</td>
<td>Post Box No. 21, Gobichettipalayam, Erode Dist- 638476, Tamil Nadu</td>
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<td>40.</td>
<td>Loyola College (Autonomous)</td>
<td>Sterling Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034, Tamil Nadu</td>
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Orientation Programme at Cauvery College for Women, Tiruchirappalli, Tamilnadu

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Cauvery College for Women, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu conducted a One-day Orientation Programme on “Nurturing Quality in Higher Education through IQAC” on 20 September, 2014. The programme highlighted on the enhancement of quality in Higher Education institutions thereby suggesting quality measures with a view to create quality ambience and quality embedded human resource. Dr. V. Sujatha, Principal of the College presided over the programme.

Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Assistant Adviser, NAAC shared his expertise on the role of IQAC in enhancement of quality and the institutional involvement in enhancing quality for institutions going for Cycle-III of Assessment and Accreditation. The programme ended with interaction among the senior academicians from the vicinity. There were fruitful deliberations on the occasion in which many colleges participated.

National Conference at Shri Shivaji Sikshan Prasarak Mandal’s Arts, Science and Commerce College, Rahuri, Maharashtra

The National Conference on “Effective Integration of ICT in Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities” sponsored by NAAC, Bangalore was organized by Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal’s Arts, Science and Commerce College, Rahuri, Maharashtra on 14 July 2014. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. V.B. Gaikwad, the Director of Board of College and University Development (BCUD), University of Pune. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Gaikwad, stressed on the need for initiating speedy reforms in the education system to meet the future challenges. He opined that modern educational technologies must be incorporated in the process of dissemination of knowledge. He elaborated on the development of education system in the country during last six decades and the current educational policies as laid down by the Government of India. He carefully evaluated and compared the education systems in India and other developed nations.

Dr MS Bagwan, the Director of Statistic Cell of Bhartiya Vidhyapeeth Deemed University, Mr. Patil, IT Manager of University of Pune, Principal Dr Smabhaji Pathare and Convener of the Conference Dr Asrar Shaikh were present on the occasion.

The first plenary session was addressed by Engineer Patil who delivered an interactive lecture on how to use ICT in higher education. The second plenary session was addressed by Dr Bagwan who elaborated on use of ICT in evaluation of students, feedback collection and creating management information system. Software engineer and the director Jaydeep Pathare of the Systele Solutions Pvt Ltd was the resource person for the third post lunch session. Dr MR Khan, Department of Commerce and Management, Maulana Azad College, Aurangabad, spoke on content development and e-learning.

The Valedictory function was presided over by Dr Sambhaji Pathare. He spoke on the use of ICT in management of affairs of educational institutions. The convener Dr Shaikh Asrar summed up the events of the conference while Prof. Suryakant Gadkari, Vice-Principal proposed vote of thanks. The Conference witnessed the participation of more than 60 delegates.

NAAC as a Green Ambassador

As a matter of tradition, the NAAC Garden has been consistently winning Prizes and Accolades from the Horticultural Society, Lalbagh, Bangalore for several years now. In keeping with this tradition, the NAAC Garden, was awarded the first Prize in Institutional Garden Category by the Horticultural Society for the year 2014. The Prizes were awarded on the eve of Independence Day Celebrations. Mr. Arun Administrative Officer i/c and Mr. Sridhar. Garden i/c received the prizes on behalf the Director, NAAC.
Delegation from Council for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (CAQAY), Republic of Yemen visited NAAC Campus from 8 to 12 September 2014. The Delegation consisted of eight senior academicians and Quality Assurance experts from Yemen viz. Prof Abdulateef Haidar Al Hakimi, Prof. Abdulkarim Nasher, Prof. Ahmed Alwan Almadhaji, Prof Saeed Baonkood, Prof. Anisa Abood, Dr. Aref Al Hammadi, Dr. Adnan Alsenawy and Dr Ali Al Hamdi.

The CAQAY Delegation met Prof. Amarnath Rai, Director, NAAC and Senior Academic Officers and exchanged their views on the advancement of Quality Assurance in Higher Education. Since NAAC and CAQAY are have similar Missions and institutional Objectives in the field of Higher Education, both the parties agreed and entered in to Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) on 12 September 2014. The idea is to establish closer relations as equal partners for the purpose of creating cooperative and collaborative mechanisms of mutual benefit.

The MoU will benefit both NAAC and CAQAY to work towards establishing a strategic alliance to enhance the operation of external quality assurance for improving the Quality of Higher Education in both the jurisdictions.

Apart from the above, the delegation went to observe the onsite Peer Team Visit at JSS College of Arts, Commerce & Science, Nanjangudu and learnt the A&A experiences of the institution.

To know about Post Accreditation Quality initiatives established at accredited institutions, the Delegation visited JSS College for Arts, Commerce & Science at Mysore and Al Ameen Group of Institutions, Bangalore and interacted with Management and Principals of the institutions. Later the team had interactions with Bangalore University authorities on Internal Quality Assurance mechanisms and shared experiences and organizational arrangements for Quality assessment in their country with the Vice Chancellor, Registrar and senior faculty at Jnanabharathi Campus. The programme was coordinated by Dr. K. Rama, Deputy Adviser, NAAC.

Participation in International Quality Events

**APQN 2014 Conference and AGM held in Hanoi, Vietnam**
APQN 2014 Conference was held in Hanoi, Vietnam during 6 – 8 March 2014 on the theme “Higher Education Quality Assurance in a Changing World: Envisioning the future of Asia Pacific”. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Advisor, NAAC as APQN President delivered Presidential address, Chaired Board meetings, AGM and conducted a Workshop on “Asia Pacific Quality Register”.

**Bilateral Meeting with MQA Malaysia**
As part of the EAS project on “Regional Inter-operability of National Qualification Frameworks (NQF)”, a bilateral meeting of NAAC, India and MQA, Malaysia was convened on 6 March at Hanoi, Vietenam. Dr. Jagannath Patil participated in the meeting.

**INQAAHE forum at Tallinn**
Dr. Jagannath Patil was invited as a speaker at INQAAHE forum at Tallinn, Estonia along with EASPAC conference during 26- 29 May 2014. In EASPACconference, Dr. JP represented Asia Pacific countries and presented status of program accreditation in Asia Pacific. As a plenary speaker in INQAAHE forum, Dr. JP reflected on INQAAHE members’ survey and highlighted issues relating to internationalisation of Quality Assurance Agencies.
Lt. Gen. M.M. Lakhera, former Governor of Mizoram and Pondicherry visited NAAC campus on 5 February, 2014 in Bangalore. Prof. A.N. Rai, Director, NAAC, welcomed the former Governor along with his staff. Prof. Rai shared the details on the strides made by NAAC and the recent developments in the process of Assessment and Accreditation. Lt. Gen. M.M. Lakhera shared his concerns regarding higher education and the challenges in the way while the nation addresses issues of quality in higher education. He interacted with the staff of NAAC in a face-to-face session. He appealed to NAAC to identify the maladies that haunt the system of higher education and address those issues with utmost care. He further advised the staff of NAAC to have a proactive vision with long term perspective. Emphasising on the importance of training, he said that training in emerging areas in the knowledge economy is of paramount importance. He opined that the accreditation process initiated by NAAC would undoubtedly help the nation in achieving quality in higher education. Prof. Rai profusely thanked the visiting dignitary for his enthusiasm and the vision with which he appreciated the efforts made by NAAC.

Maharashtra State Commerce Association conferred Life Time Achievement Award to Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Adviser, NAAC for long and valuable services rendered in the field of higher education and quality management. The award was received at Mumbai on 11 February 2014 and Dr. Patil delivered a special lecture on the occasion.

The Public Relations Council of India (PRCI), a pan India organization of PR professionals and communicators, has conferred ‘Chanakya’ Award, 2014 for Most Promising PR Person – Internal Communication to Mr. Lakshman V, Liaison Officer of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) for valuable contributions in the field of Public Relations. The award is in recognition of his stints as a journalist and Public Relations Officer in Government Sector. The Chanakya awards are presented every year to PR professionals with exceptional records and those who have contributed to the development of the profession. The Awards were given away during the Global Communication Conclave organized by PRCI in association with Press Club, Mumbai on 14-15th February, 2014. Among the notable awardees, eminent journalist Rajdeep Sardesai was awarded Media Person of the year by PRCI.

NAAC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education & Training (QQA), Bahrain, for collaboration and exchange in the field of quality assurance in higher education. Prof. A. N. Rai, Director, NAAC and Dr Jawaher Al Mudhahki, Chief Executive, QQA, signed the MoU at New Delhi on 19 February 2014. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Adviser, NAAC and Dr. Tariq M. Al-Sindi, General Director of the National Qualifications Framework, QQA, facilitated the signing of the co-operation agreement. The signing ceremony coincided with the visit of King Hamad Bin Eisa Al Khalifa of Bahrain to India.

Mr. V. Lakshman, FLO, NAAC gets PRCI-Chanakya Award

Lt. Gen. M.M. Lakhera visits NAAC

The NAAC celebrated 68th Independence Day of India on 15 August 2014 with pomp and gaiety at the NAAC campus. Prof A N Rai, Director, NAAC unfurled the National Flag at the NAAC campus in the presence of NAAC officers and staff members. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Prof Rai called upon the members of NAAC family to imbibe quality culture at all levels of operations in their day-to-day work.
Manual for Self-Study Report Health Science Institutions

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has been continuously fine-tuning its assessment and accreditation methodologies in tune with local, regional and global changes in higher education scenario. This helps in reaching out to HEIs and a wider acceptance of the methodology. The methodology of NAAC has stood the test of time for last 19 years, mainly because it has remained dynamic and responsive to the stakeholder feedback.

The Revised Manual, which comes into effect from 1 November 2013, is an outcome of the efforts of the National Consultative Committee (NCC) on Health Sciences represented by eminent practitioners and academics from the fields of Allopathy, Ayurveda, Dentistry, Homoeopathy, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Yoga. Revision of the Manual commenced in 2012 under the initiative of Prof. H. A. Ranganath, former Director, NAAC. The deliberations of the NCC and its various sub groups were conducted under the chairmanship of Prof. Chandrashekhar Shetty, former VC, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, who was ably supported by Prof. S. Rangaswami, former VC, Sri Ramachandra University.

In addition, NAAC had also solicited feedback from the general public by making the draft documents available in the public domain. The final drafts were pilot tested with two Health Sciences Universities, to whom NAAC is grateful for the inputs. The entire exercise was done in a spirit of openness realizing that the NAAC needs to set higher benchmarks in consonance with the changes taking place in higher education. The approach adopted is integrative of inputs, process, outputs, outcome and impact in an appropriately balanced manner suited to the health education sector. In an effort to enhance the accountability of the accrediting agency as well as the institutions applying for accreditation, the NAAC has articulated “Duties and Responsibilities of NAAC and HEIs”, which is available on the NAAC website. This Manual is organized into three sections: Section – (a) Guidelines for Assessment and Accreditation (b) Preparation of Self-study Report (c) Appendices.

State-wise Analysis of Accreditation Reports-Gujarat

As a means of self introspection and in order to achieve the core objectives of NAAC i.e. facilitating quality and excellence in higher education, NAAC has been analyzing the ‘Assessment And Accreditation Reports’ (qualitative and quantitative) of those states in which at-least 35% of the Higher Education Institutions(HEIs) are accredited by NAAC. So far we could publish the following 11 such state-wise analysis of ‘Assessment And Accreditation Reports’ V12, – Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, North East, Punjab, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan. The state-wise analysis of ‘Assessment And Accreditation Reports’ of Gujarat is the 12th in this series. The preparation of the report was undertaken by NAAC in collaboration with higher Education Department, Government of Gujarat by constituting an expert committee for carrying out the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the NAAC accredited nine Universities and 397 colleges results in the State of Gujarat. The entire project, preparation of this report, was co-ordinated by Dr. B. S. Madhukar and Dr. Sujata P. Shanbhag of NAAC.

This report has been authored by Dr. Jayanti Ravi, IAS, Commissioner, Technical Education, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar (earlier Commissioner, Higher Education) and Prof. H. J. Jani, former Professor and Director, MBA Programme, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat. This publication will help governments, institutions and the stakeholders of higher education in enhancing the quality of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) individually and collectively. The publication will further help one and all involved in the system to understand the challenges and needs of the present era and contribute to creating a culture of Quality and Academic Excellence.
As an outcome of the ideas contained in the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and Programme of Action (POA), 1992, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was established in 16 September 1994 as a creative idea to give positive thrust in the direction of quality enhancement of the Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). It is highly motivating to know that NAAC has almost become synonymous with quality in higher education in India. NAAC has touched every stakeholder of higher education in one way or the other, either directly or indirectly. ‘Quality’ has become the buzzword on the academic campuses today and it is a matter of great satisfaction for those visionaries who made space for NAAC, worked day-in and day-out to realize the vision with which NAAC was brought into existence. It is not only the time for euphoria for all the people connected with NAAC in one way or the other but also time for introspection, innovation and improvement.

It is irrefutable that the pace of growth in the higher education sector in India is inimitable in terms of the number of Universities, Colleges, students, teachers, courses, aspirations of the stakeholders and the sheer volume of the ‘unreached’. Further it is unassailable that the mere improvement in the numbers does not ensure the creation of the necessary ‘resource pool’ that is expected of the higher education system in India. It is a welcome feature that the system is evolving, expanding, fine-tuning, and attempts to ‘perne in a gyre’ to match the satisfaction of the stakeholders. The success of NAAC is measured by the number of Colleges 5119 and Universities 175 assessed and accredited as on 31 March, 2013. The process of accreditation has created a tremendous momentum among the academia on issues pertaining to quality and this has largely been due to the partnership between NAAC and the State governments. As per the guidelines and suggestions of NAAC, all the 28 States, have established State Level Quality Assurance Cells (QACs) and State Level Quality Assurance Coordination Committees (SLQACCs) at the State Level. NAAC is the member of the International Network Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and a founder-member of Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN).
The NAAC continues to be featured prominently in the fourth estate in all its hues. Whilst the media coverage vividly portrays the rapid strides made in the assessment and accreditation arena in the last eighteen years, it also sets the tone for NAAC’s future initiatives. A few of the many media clippings are reproduced here for the readers.
Glimpses of Peer Team visits

Kanya Maha Vidyalaya, Jalandhar, Punjab. 7-9 April 2014. Prof. G.N. Qazi (Chairperson) B.S. Ponmudiraj (Co-ordinator) Dr. Anjali Gupta (Member) Prof. Uma Girishchandra Joshi (Member).

JSS College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Mysore, Karnataka 17-19 Feb 2014 Prof. Sunil Gupta (Chairperson) Prof. P. Geetha (Member co-ordinator) Dr. R.W. Alexander Jesudasan (Member).

Garhbeta College, Medinipur, West Bengal. 26-28 March 2014 Prof. A.K. Pattanaik (Chairperson) Dr. Chandrakumar (Member Co-ordinator) Dr. Mythili (Member).

SNS College of Education, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. 27-28 Jan 2014 Prof. Gangadhara Rao (Chairperson) Prof. Noorjehan N. Ganig (Member Co-ordinator) Prof. Smt. Geetha Gopinath (Member).

SVT College of Home Science Mumbai Maharashtra 30 Jan 2014 1 Feb 2014 Dr. Sudhamahi Ragnathan (Chairperson) Dr. (Mrs) Bharati Singh (Member) Dr. Sr. P. Mercy (member) Dr. Ganesh Hegde (NAAC Co-ordinator).

Fakir Mohan Autonomous College, Balasore, Odisha. 10-12 March 2014. Dr. Harikrishna Chandulal Trivedi (Chairperson) Prof. Anand Vardhan Sharma (Member co-ordinator) Dr. Fr. G. Vazhan Arasu (Member).

Sadhu Vaswani College, Bairagarh, Bhopal. 17-19 Feb 2014 Prof. R.P. Koushik (Chairperson) Dr. Uma Girishchandra Joshi (Member – Co-ordinator) prof. Vishwanath B. Hiremath (Member).

G.V.M. Girls College, Sonepat, Haryana. 1-3 April 2014. Prof. Kunhikrishnan (Chairperson) Dr. Usha Mukundan (Member co-ordinator) Dr. R. Somshekar (Member).
*The segregation of Institutions of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh is under process. The same will be updated once the information is received from the commissioner of Higher Education from the respective states.