National Assessment and Accreditation Council is an autonomous institution established by the UGC in 1994. The prime agenda of NAAC is to assess and accredit institutions of higher learning with the objective to work continuously to improve the quality of higher education. NAAC assesses institutions through the Self-Study Reports prepared by the institutions themselves and with the help of the Peers appointed by NAAC, validation of the report is done in a manner that is mandated by NAAC. As the process of NAAC is dynamic, it is imperative that the Peers get orientation on the methodology from time to time. In the process, NAAC organizes Assessors' Orientation Programmes (AOP) which makes space for not only orienting the Peers, but conduct simulation exercises, draw strategies to cut down inter team differences in the assessment and collect the feedback from the Peers based on their field visits.

Keeping this inview, the NAAC had organized Assessors’ Orientation Programme for Engineering Experts from all over India, on 21st August 2019 at NAAC, Bengaluru. It was a one day programme and a total number of 46 participants from 17 States attended the programme, which included Vice-Chancellors, Directors, Professors and Principals belonging to various
disciplines in Engineering. Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC welcomed the distinguished guests and briefed the delegates on the purpose of the Assessors' Orientation Programme (AOP).

The guest of honor for the programme was Hon’ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri Banwarilal Purohitji, who also delivered the keynote.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Banwarilal Purohit ji delved on the fact that Topography of Higher Education in India has undergone rapid changes in the last few years. He brought to the fore the importance of technological advancement on educational transaction-both academic and administrative- indicates that our system of education is still uncomfortable with new technology. “At a time when our educational institutions are expected to do more with less inputs, one should make use of the technological innovations that are readily available”, he said.
While pointing to the fact that Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for the Nation will go up from current level of around 25 percent to 50 percent by the year 2035. This raise the enrolment in HEIs from 35 million to at least 70 million by 2035. One can imagine the level of human and digital power that will be
required to encourage and accommodate more and more institutions in the accreditation and ranking process, he said.

While congratulating the NAAC authorities for taking painstaking efforts to implement the processes involved in quality assurance for the benefit of HEIs, he pointed out that large number of students are taking up Higher Education and hence the onus lies on the HEIs concerned to inculcate value based education to the Student community.

Prof S C Sharma, Director, NAAC spoke on the nuances involved in the “Revised Accreditation Framework” (RAF) and lamented out the fact that the country is facing challenges in preparing and grooming student community to be self-sufficient so as to face global competencies. There is a dire need to enhance the quality of higher education in the country, he said.
In the first technical session, Dr. Devendar S. Kawday, Deputy Adviser, NAAC explained in detail the RAF's finer points like workflow, challenges, and execution of peer team visit. He brought out a comparison between the earlier and existing assessment methodologies. In the next session, Mr. B. S. Ponmudiraj, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, spoke on “Report writing and Accreditation outcome”. He lucidly explained the do’s and don’ts involved in writing a good report.

In the second session, Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar, Adviser, NAAC, dealt with On-site Visit and Logistics. He explained various aspects regarding the Time Management, personnel management and Materials Management during the on-site visit and also different roles to be undertaken by team during the visit.
Dr. Ruchi Tripathi, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, elucidated in detail on “Data Validation and Verification (DVV)”.

Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC has explained the Introduction to Group Activity and activity to be undertaken after the lunch. He explained that after the lunch the participants will be sub-divided into seven groups. Each group has made the role plays (simulation), Pre-visit Meeting, Interactions with Principal/ Management, Faculty/Students etc. Each group has been requested to prepare the report and score card for the SSR and presented.

In the session four, Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, highlighted the technical aspects of the grading and report which need to be matched so that the parity of the grading will be maintained. He stressed on the fact that the calculation part need to be error free and should be signed by all the concerned Peer Team Members.

The participants were divided in to seven groups and were asked to work in simulation mode on Pre-Visit Meetings, Interactions with Principals, Report Writing etc. The respective chairpersons of the groups were asked to make presentations for understanding the inter team variations and nuances of conducting the visit. The group work was followed by the open forum. The open forum was chaired Dr. Latha Pillai, Adviser, NAAC and Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC. Various doubts and and question raised by the participants were clarified in the forum. doubts.
Dr. Shyam Singh Inda, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, proposed vote of thanks. The programme was organized and convened by Dr. Ganesh Hegde, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, and coordinated by Dr A.V Prasad, Assistant Adviser, NAAC and Dr Ruchi Tripathi, Assistant Adviser, NAAC.