



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Asia-Pacific Quality Network

And

**National Recognition Information Centre for the
United Kingdom**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between

Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN),
of No. 202, South ShanXi Road, Shanghai, 200031, P.R. CHINA

and

UK National Recognition Information Centre (UK NARIC),
of Suffolk House, Suffolk Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 2ED, United Kingdom

APQN

Founded in 2003, the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) is a non-governmental and non-profit network who has been striving for “Enhancing the Quality of Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region” and “Dissolving Boundaries for a Quality Region”. At present, with 241 members from 41 countries/ territories, APQN is the largest and the most influential international organization on quality assurance in higher education in this Region. APQN has played a crucial and unique role in improving the QA mechanism by exchanging theory and practice experiences, promoting substantive co-operations, establishing database of Consultants, reviewing Asia-Pacific Quality Register(APQR) and Asia-Pacific Quality Label(APQL) in this Region and so on.

UK NARIC

UK NARIC is the UK’s National Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) responsible for providing information and opinion on academic, vocational and professional qualifications from across the world. As the National Agency, managed on behalf of the UK Government, UK NARIC provides the only official source of information on international education and training systems and qualifications and skills attained outside the UK. The organisation offers products and services in three main areas, namely individual qualifications evaluation, information provision services to member organisations and qualifications benchmarking and accreditation internationally.

In a spirit of amicable cooperation, APQN and UK NARIC hereby agree to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”). Both parties are committed to working towards building a partnership that provides platforms and opportunities for cooperation in supporting the growth of quality transnational education in the Asia-Pacific Region, through enhanced quality assurance and facilitated recognition of TNE qualifications of demonstrated quality and standards.

To these ends, APQN and UK NARIC, in accordance with the framework of British laws and regulations, “APQN Constitution” and “Chiba Principles” will pursue cooperation in the following areas:

1. **Information Exchange:** while respecting each other's copyright and other intellectual property rights, and having regard for the confidentiality of the information and relevant Data Protection legislation the two parties might share relevant information that might assist in a collaborative approach to the quality assurance of TNE in the Asia-Pacific region. This might include information sharing with APQN member quality assurance bodies. Information might include for example expressions of interests from providers to undergo UK NARIC TNE Quality Benchmark (TNE QB) in an

APQN member country, or information about concerns regarding TNE providers operating in an APQN member country.

2. **Cooperation in quality assurance:** whenever appropriate and possible the two parties will work to develop a cooperative approach in the external monitoring of TNE between UK NARIC and APQN's member quality assurance bodies. This might include:
 - facilitating joint quality assurance activities as part of the TNE QB scheme and local quality assurance activities,
 - including local reviewers in UK NARIC TNE QB reviews,
 - including TNE QB reviewers in local quality assurance activity
 - consulting with APQN on issues related to the implementation and review of TNE QB, and the recognition of TNE qualifications reviewed through TNE QB.
3. **Capacity Building.** Utilising both parties' resources and strengths, the two parties might also explore developing training opportunities for quality assurance practitioners within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus on TNE.
4. **Dissemination:** Each party will use its respective channels to disseminate the other's relevant activities, including the outcome of quality assurance, accreditation and/or quality benchmarking exercises.
5. **Other collaboration:** For mutual benefits, the two parties might from time to time explore collaboration in other areas, including conducting joint research on issues of mutual interests.

This MOU is a voluntary statement of the intention of cooperation between the two parties, is not intended to create any legally binding obligations, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party.

This MOU will be in force for a period of three years from the signing date and can be extended depending on the mutual interests of both parties. This MOU may be varied at any time by mutual agreement of both parties in writing. It can also be discontinued by either of the parties with a minimum of 30 days' notice in writing to the other party.

Any collaborative projects that are entered into under the terms of this MOU shall be negotiated and agreed by both parties and will be described in detail in working plans that will be annexed to this MOU or, if considered necessary, a formal legally binding contract.

Each party will cover its own costs in implementing the terms of this MOU. For particular areas of cooperation, funding might be sought from other sources. Where specific projects are entered into that arise out of collaboration governed by this MOU, any financial arrangements between the two parties will be made and agreed on a case by case basis and formalized and documented separately from this MoU.

The President of APQN (at the time of signing Prof. Dr Jianxin Zhang) and the Chief Executive of UK NARIC (at the time of signing Dr. Cloud Bai-Yun) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of this MOU. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Signed in Kunming, China
on August 8, 2020

Signed in CHELTENHAM
on 17 AUGUST, 2020

ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY
NETWORK

UK NATIONAL RECOGNITION
INFORMATION CENTRE

Prof. Dr. Jianxin Zhang
President

Dr. Cloud Bai-Yun
Chief Executive

Signature

Signature:

