

APQN to sponsor training  
 for institutional accreditation

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) has approved AACCUP's proposal to conduct the training on Institutional Accreditation using subsidy granted by the World Bank Development Facility. The proposal was presented by the AACCUP.

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# AACCUP national conference set

About 500 participants from the different state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local colleges and universities are expected to attend the Annual AACCUP National Conference on February 16 and 17, 2005 at the Century Park Hotel in Manila. This year's theme is "Go for Institutional Accreditation."

Newly designated Commission on Higher Education Chairman Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P., is this year's Guest of Honor and will deliver the keynote address. Following the opening statement and welcome remarks by the AACCUP President, Dr. Rosario P. Pimentel, Dr. Eldigario D. Gonzales, PASUC President, will also address the participants.

Dr. Cristina D. Padolina, Commissioner-in-Charge for Quality Assurance of the Higher Education Development Program, will

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MEET THE NEW CHED CHAIR. Group photo taken at the Richmonde Hotel last Jan. 20, 2005. Seated (l-r) Former FAPE president Dr. Abraham Felipe and former CHED chairman Dr. Angel Alcala; standing, from left: Dr. Nilo Colinares, Dr. Ruperto Sangalang, Dr. Catalino Rivera, Dr. John Imlan, AACCUP and BSU President Rosario Pimentel, CHED Chairman Rolando de la Rosa, O.P., Dr. Manuel T. Corpus, Dr. Nilo Rosas, Dr. Soledad Roguel, Dr. Nora Claravall, Dr. Marcela Caluscasin and Dr. Danilo Hilario.

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## Trustees meet new CHED chair

The AACCUP Board of Trustees and officials met with CHED Chairman, Dr. Rolando V. Dela Rosa, O.P., at the Richmonde Hotel on January 20, 2005. Also present were board members of the National Network of Quality Assurance Agencies (NNQAA), including the former CHED Chairman Dr. Angel C. Alcala, the former FAPE President Dr. Abraham Felipe, and Dr. Catalino P. Rivera, and board members from the private sector. Also present were members of the Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU), who had a separate special meeting with Commissioner Carlito S. Puno.

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## Editorial

### Breakthrough in higher education accreditation

**T**his year's conference is very significant for it marks the launching of a new model of accreditation -- Institutional Accreditation.

As a new scheme, Institutional Accreditation is of course more complex even as it is more comprehensive. However, it is felt that this is most suitable for a country like the Philippines where higher education institutions are mushrooming.

The idea of adopting the new model of quality assurance was not built in a day. As early as the initial stages of the new millennium, study groups had been created to conduct research on the nature of the stratagem. The present framework is in fact an offshoot of such studies and further bolstered by website visits, consultations with education officials, consultation with foreign experts and actual observations in the United Kingdom and Australia, sponsored by the British Council and the Australian government, respectively. Attendance of AACCUP officials in workshops conducted by the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies, completed the organizational orientation.

Indeed, it took AACCUP four concrete years before it finally decided to embrace the new process. A welcome move this time is the training of institutional accreditors to be facilitated by APQN experts from abroad, and to utilize for the initial survey visits, accreditors from other countries to work side by side with experienced local accreditors. Needless to say, this will make AACCUP tower over its ilk in the accreditation firmament, making the agency globally comparable in terms of enhancing quality assurance in higher education.

Let's go institutional even as we strengthen program as an entry requirement to initial accreditation.

## AACCUP membership now 105

Three more SUCs were added to AACCUP's roster of members in 2004, increasing institutional membership to 105.

The three new members are: Surigao del Sur Polytechnic State

College; Agusan del Sur State College of Agriculture and Technology; and the Bataan Polytechnic State College.

Meanwhile, as soon as its application for membership was approved by the AACCUP Board of

Trustees, the Bataan Polytechnic State College presented its programs in Teacher Education, Nursing, and Industrial Technology for the Preliminary AACCUP Survey Visit in November 2004

DMMMSU and CvSU:

## First with Level III accredited status for undergraduate programs

**T**wo SUCs earned the distinction of becoming the first SUCs with undergraduate programs awarded with Level III accredited status. *The Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University* and the *Cavite State University* earned the honors in 2004. They join the *University of Northern Philippines*, the only other state institution with a Level III accreditation, but for its graduate programs.

The DMMMSU and CvSU are considered pioneers in accreditation, since they are two of

the three SUCs that courageously submitted themselves for accreditation by the AACCUP in 1990. Pangasinan State University was the other institution.

DMMMSU's Teacher Education Program (BEEd and BSEd) passed AACCUP's meticulous scrutiny during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurvey Visit in November 2002. This paved the way for the Level III accredited status. The university takes pride in its Teacher Education Program's high standard of instruction, highly visible and

effective extension program, strong faculty development program and its graduates' creditable performance in the licensure examination conducted the last three years.

On the other hand, CvSU's Agriculture Program (BSAgr.-Animal Science and Horticulture) received the Level III accredited status after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurvey Visit in August 2003. The program was found to have generally and substantially fulfilled all the criteria for Level III status.

### Trustees meet...

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Taken up with the Chairman were the following: (1) request for the release of the subsidy and start-up money for the AACCUP, NNQAA, and ALCU-Commission on Accreditation (COA) which had been committed by former CHED Chairman Rolando Dizon.; and (2) release of the revised CMO 31 affecting policies on accreditation.

AACCUP trustees and officials who attended the meeting were: President Rosario P. Pimentel; Vice President Ruperto S. Sangalang; Trustees Dr. Nilo L. Rosas, Dr. Danilo S. Hilario, Dr. John S. Imlan, Dr. Nora J. Claraval, and Dr. Marcela T. Caluscasin; Executive Director Manuel T. Corpus; and Consultant Mariano J. Guillermo.

### CHED to subsidize 12 SUCs

Twelve State Universities and Colleges will receive financial subsidy from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the pre-survey and preliminary survey of their programs. They were recommended to the CHED based on the following criteria: funds will be used for preliminary surveys; a demonstrated interest of the SUC; and financial need of the institution.

The 12 SUCs include Siquijor State College; Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry; Technological University of the Philippines-Talisay City; Camarines Sur Polytechnic

Colleges; Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College; Partido State University; Bataan State College; Western Philippines University; Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology; Eastern Visayas State University; Laguna State Polytechnic College; and Cebu State College of Science and Technology. The contracts for the subsidy are ready for signing.

Meanwhile, the Commission will also give the AACCUP a grant to subsidize the preparation of a new Handbook on Accreditation and a new Accreditation Framework and Accreditation Instrument.

## AACCUP joins APQN Board

The Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities of the Philippines (AACCUP), Inc., represented by its Executive Director, Dr. Manuel T. Corpus, has been elevated to membership in the Extended Board of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN).

The Board is composed of only seven member agencies and the AACCUP is the only member from the Philippines.

The AACCUP earned this honor for its commendable performance in quality assurance (QA), particularly in providing the leadership in the study of qualifications framework (QF), a very vital reference for QA among the members of the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), specially the APQN members.

## APQN 3-day conference in Hong Kong

The Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) held a three-day conference from January 30–February 2, 2005, in Hong Kong. The AACCUP Executive Director, who is a member of the APQN Board of Directors, attended the conference.

The Hongkong conference tackled the following: (1) approval of the APQN Constitution and By-laws to be finally approved by the General Council in Wellington, New Zealand; (2) approval of the allocation of funds from the World Bank's Development Grant Facility; and (3) consideration of progress reports on five major studies.



Listening intently during the APQN conference. (inset) Dr. Judith Forsyth.

## APQN to sponsor...

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The training, to be held in Manila, is primarily for AACCUP accreditors as well as participants from Malaysia and other APQN member countries.

Originally set immediately after the AACCUP Annual Conference this February, the training has been re-scheduled to a later date because invited trainers and other experts were not immediately available.

The AACCUP expects two or three foreign experts to conduct the training. They will be complemented by the AACCUP Training Staff.

Also approved was the allocation of funds from the Development Grant Facility (DGF) of the World Bank for the following: (1) payment for the 2005 membership fees of the APQN members; (2) subsidy for attendance in the INQAAHE Biennial Conference in Wellington, New Zealand, on April 2, 2005, including conference fees, plane fare and hotel accommodation; and (3) subsidy for three major projects— training on Institutional Accreditation, proposed by the AACCUP, to be held in Manila, workshop on Quality Assurance in Cambodia, and workshop on Accreditation of Quality Agencies in India.

In this conference, Dr. Corpus, presented two papers, "Qualification Framework Among APQN and INQAAHE Ranks" and "Qualification Framework in the Philippines." The one-day workshop on Qualifications Frameworks was conducted by Dr. Judith Forsyth of the Australian Qualifications Advisory Board.

The APQN, of which the AACCUP is a member, is composed of 27 accreditation agencies in Asia-Pacific.

## AACCUP anchors hope on CMO 31

Accreditation-related group and stakeholders from the public and private sectors held a series of consultations to tackle AACCUP's position with regards the proposal to revise CHED Memorandum Order 31. Thirteen important issues were reviewed, studied and discussed during the consultations.

As a result, majority of the issues raised by AACCUP have been included in the final draft of the CMO 31 revision. This positive development will help alleviate fears and doubts raised when a related report was published in the August 2004 issue of the AACCUP Newsletter.

The AACCUP, moreover, appreciates CHED's recognition of its role in the accreditation of academic programs in the SUCs. In this connection, the AACCUP recently submitted to the CHED a list of 12 SUCs that need the Commission's financial assistance in their initial accreditation stage. These SUCs hope to get a share of s P 14 -M budget for quality assurance.

## National conference...

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open the program proper with a paper presentation on "CHED Policies on Accreditation."

Among the issues to be tackled during the two-day meet are CHED Policies on Accreditation, the Proposed Scheme of Institutional Accreditation for SUCs and the Proposed Handbook on Accreditation.

A highlight of the conference will be the launching of the adoption of Institutional Accreditation, a first in the history of accreditation in the country. Election for the AACCUP Board of Trustees for 2005 - 2007 will be held on the second day

Four hundred participants have already confirmed their attendance to this annual conference, according to AACCUP President Rosario Pimentel, with several more requesting for additional slots.

- Reaccredited Level III
- Reaccredited Level II
- Accredited Level II (Formal)
- Candidate Status
- Deferred

## 5 programs assessed

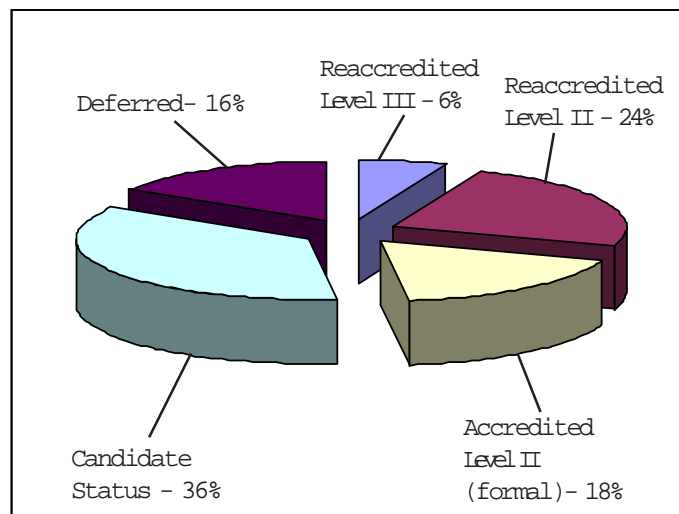
programs in 25 state and colleges and one were assessed last year. e way to the upgrading criteria, standards, accreditation intent,

Level II accredited and 38 preliminary survey for candidate status. The award for 17 other programs was deferred due to some deficiencies and pending compliance of a few requirements.

handbook on accreditation through a series of workshops and consultations later this year.

Although the AACCUP office was flooded with requests for visits, some surveys had to be reset for February to give way to the annual conference.

Of the 105 programs, six were awarded Reaccredited Level III after undergoing the Second Resurvey visit; 25 Level II Reaccredited, after the First Resurvey; 19 Formal Survey or



## "New" Program Accreditation Scheme features out

After eight months of revising, updating and improving the AACCUP's Accreditation Scheme, the new features of the program have been finalized. These include:

1. Accreditation focus has been reoriented and is not outcome-based. This does not necessarily mean veering away from inputs and processes, but it is merely a shift in emphasis.

Benchmarks are still evaluated as to their "adequacy" and "effectiveness."

2. Criteria and standards are well-defined and sharpened. Since accreditation involves using standards higher than those of CHED, its policies in the form of minimum requirements are made references in the master survey instrument.

3. There is only one master survey instrument applicable to all programs.

*Special "minimum standards" are used as references for specific programs to complement the master survey instrument.*

4. A new "rating system" has been devised to help accreditors make a clearer, more objective and fairer assessment.

5. A Program Performance Profile should be submitted for AACCUP evaluation at least two months before the date applied for a survey visit. The profile contains the basic data and information needed in the on-site visit, the result of the self-survey and a report on the compliance with the recommendations of the immediate, previous survey visit.

6. Accreditation procedures have been revised to include the following:

a. a strictly team approach in the

evaluation and preparation of reports;  
b. accreditation by cluster of related programs;

c. prior orientation on the institution and the program under survey based on the program performance profile and a general orientation on the whole institution on the first day of the visit and

d. the exit conference to be conducted to review and validate the findings with the host institution at the end of the visit;

e. a very clear definition of roles of the team leader, accreditors, consultant, the overall or cluster coordinator, etc.

7. Retraining of accreditors on the "new" Accreditation Scheme. Starting this year, only qualified accreditors who successfully pass this training will be invited to accreditation survey visits.

## Training and reorientation for accreditors

In preparation for the implementation of the Institutional Accreditation scheme, the AACCUP has been conducting a series of four-day trainings in 2004 where new accreditors are trained while simultaneously, veteran accreditors assist in the training of the new group are also undergoing re-orientation. The training include lectures, discussions and practicum.

The training focuses on the following: criteria, standards, procedures, report format, rating system, roles of the accreditors, and utilization of the new instrument.

Five trainings were conducted last year: four in Luzon and one in the Visayas.

The Luzon training were conducted in Tarlac State University on September 25 - 29 with 21 participants; Bataan Polytechnic State College on Nov. 21 - 25, with

16 participants; Tarlac College of Agriculture, Nov. 29 - Dec. 4 with 38 participants; and Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Dec. 13 - 17 with 23 participants.

Nineteen participants attended the Visayas training held at the Negros State College of Agriculture from Nov. 15 - 18.

For this year, two trainings have been conducted. One, at the Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College on January 31 - February 4 with 23 participants, and another at the Eastern Samar State University on January 30 - February 3 with 19 participants.

More trainings are slated for 2005 in various parts of the country. Beginning this year, accreditors will be drawn only from those who have successfully passed the training of accreditors.