AN OUTSIDER’S COMMENTS

Dr Antony Stella, President, Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)
About APQN

- Capacity building in QA in the Asia-Pacific region
- Registered in 2004
- 90 members
- Board of 11 from 11 different countries
- Meets in the annual conference
- First network to get Development Grant from World Bank
- GIQAC funding has supported several projects
DIES Project Regions

- Diverse group at various stages of development
- Space for negotiations and setting common agenda
- Tradition of collaboration in higher education

Specific to ASEAN

- Manageable in size
- Political will and resource base
- Other formal structures to promote cooperation
- Economic rationale
DIES Projects in these Regions

- Built on lessons of experience and consultation
- Integration of higher education institutions and QA structures
- Involvement of people at different levels
- Capacity building for individuals as well as QA entities
- Developing a critical mass
- Blend of theory and practice
- Appropriate resourcing for the current commitments
- Has strong organisational foundations
Challenges to capacity building

- Is there a long-term framework? What is the shared understanding?
- How do we evaluate the impact? How do we measure the contribution of the receiving entities?
- Models of the past? Are relevance and coherence victims?
- Is there heavy reliance on external grants? consequent fragmentation?
- Trade off between depth and breadth?
- Change of personnel and duplication of efforts

Sustainability???
Where do DIES projects stand?

Built on consultation with the recipients
Ensures contextualisation and relevance
Develops ownership and commitment among the recipients

Sustainability will continue to be a check point
Will the cascading effect be as effective as we want it to be?
Compensating for weaklinks
Moving Forward

New questions and new opportunities
New models of QA
QA as a profession
Internationalisation of QA

Communities of Practice and Online Mentors
Online training
Register of participants and a communication strategy