ASEAN ACADEMICS GATHERED FOR THE SAR ZOOM CLINIC
A community service project by EQI & AUN-QA

The first SAR ZOOM Clinic for “Writing a good SAR” was successfully organised by Education Quality International (EQI) and ASEAN University Network - Quality Assurance (AUN-QA). The clinic was facilitated by Mr. Johnson Ong Chee Bin, founder and principal consultant of EQI and a member of AUN-QA Technical Team.

The SAR ZOOM Clinic was a community service project collaborated between EQI and AUN-QA and held over 2 batches from 20th April - 1st May 2020. It is a supplementary training to the AUN-QA Tier 1 workshop. The contents of the clinic include requirements of a good SAR, techniques of writing SAR, and AUN-QA criteria. The first batch consisted of 35 participants from universities in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam that have been allocated a slot for AUN-QA Programme Assessment in 2020. The second batch consisted of 38 participants from universities which have applied or planning to apply for AUN-QA assessments, as well as others from universities and institutions in ASEAN including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.
With the postponement of AUN-QA Assessment site visits due to Covid-19, EQI and AUN-QA saw the opportunity for universities to utilise this time to review and improve the quality of their SARs via ZOOM online meeting platform. The main purpose for this project is to assist these universities in enhancing their skills of writing SAR and ultimately improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the AUN-QA Programme Assessments.

Despite the limitation arises from Covid-19, where travelling overseas is restricted and social distancing is cautiously put into practice, online meeting platform has been a great tool in facilitating the clinic. “Zoom allows me to mimic face-to-face facilitation such as breakout discussions, polls and Q&As which give a hyper real environment as if I am with them in the classroom. The sense of distance between the facilitator and participants never happens,” said Mr. Johnson, SAR ZOOM clinic facilitator. He also mentioned another great advantage of using an online platform as a teaching tool. “Participants can engage in group discussion with different members each time unlike in a table or cluster setting.”

The responses received from participants were positive. “After attending the course, I understand deeply the requirements of writing criteria... I will share this knowledge to my QA staff and the faculties of our university so that they have a good preparation for the coming AUN-QA assessments and effective quality improvement plans as well” said in the feedback of a participant. Another participant mentioned “I will share my knowledge to my colleagues and try to improve the quality of SAR to prepare for the AUN-QA assessment.”

Feedback gathered from participants shows strong agreement that the Clinic was easy to understand and they have deepened their understanding of the SAR writing.

For more updated information of upcoming AUN-QA workshops will be announced on our official website at www.aun-qa.org, and our official Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/aunqa