

HKCAAVQ International Conference
From Quality Assurance to Quality
Enhancement and Excellence

Quality Enhancement from UGC Perspective

Overview

- Brief introduction on the Quality Assurance Council (QAC)
- Where We Are
- Details of Quality Audits
- Sub-degree Audit – lessons learned
- From Assurance to Enhancement
- Challenges and Evolving Trends

Quality Assurance Council (QAC)

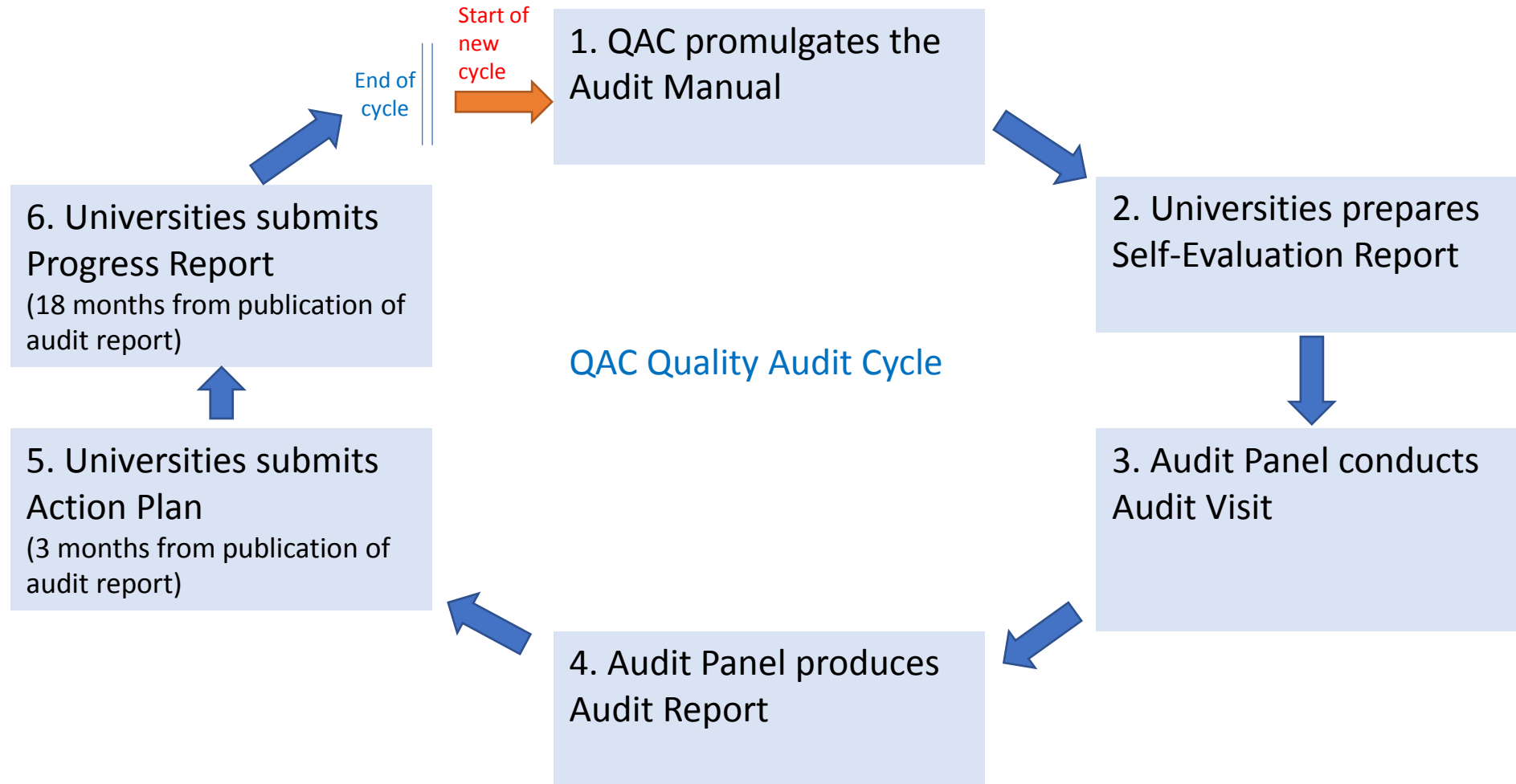
- Established under the UGC in 2007 to assist in assuring the quality of educational experience
- Covers all programmes offered by UGC-funded universities at all levels of study
- Undertakes periodic quality audits of student learning experience at the universities

Where We Are

- The QAC has completed three rounds of quality audit exercises on student learning experience
- **1st audit cycle** (First degree and above programmes)
 - Completed in 2011
 - Emphasis was put on whether and how universities achieve their stated purposes
- **2nd audit cycle** (First degree and above programmes)
 - Completed in 2016
 - Placed a stronger focus on student learning and achievement
- **Sub-degree audit cycle** (Sub-degree only)
 - Completed in 2019
 - Considered the alignment between the sub-degree providing units and the university's vision, mission, goals and strategic priorities
- **3rd audit cycle** to commence in 2022

Quality Audits

- The QAC quality audits are conducted on the basis of “fitness for purpose”.



Sub-degree Audit – Lessons Learned

- Sub-degree audit cycle concluded in 2019
- Sub-degree operations of our universities are generally in good health and fit for purpose.
- Some notable suggestions for improvement:
 - To thoroughly implement outcome-based approach to teaching and learning as well as criterion-referenced assessment among the universities
 - To ensure that all teaching staff are well-supported in pursuing innovative teaching and learning practices
 - To provide part-time students with more access to student support services, campus facilities, as well as extra-curricular activities

From Assurance to Enhancement

- To conduct third audit cycle in 2022-2023
- Covering all programmes at all levels of study offered by the UGC-funded universities
- “Fitness for purpose” approach
- “Collection, Analysis and Usage of Data” as the audit theme
- Lighter touch approach

Challenges and Evolving Trends

- COVID-19 has necessitated widespread usage of virtual classroom and e-learning platforms
- Post COVID-19 era:
 - Paradigm shift to blended learning combining physical and virtual classes as the “new normal”?
 - How can the quality of learning experience be assured, especially in courses that emphasize hands-on experience?
- A big topic worthy of exploration in quality audits to be conducted in the future

Thank you