

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS
- By Ch.QS. Kasun Geethangana Gunasekara



As one of the major international collaborations between national professional bodies, the Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS) has played a pivotal role in shaping the development, recognition and professional standards of quantity surveying across the Asia-Pacific region. Since its formation, PAQS has served as a collaborative platform for member associations, fostering shared learning, harmonised standards and stronger professional identity in a rapidly evolving construction landscape.

PAQS traces its origins to the early 1990s, when the need for a regional body became increasingly clear. Construction activity across the Pacific Rim was accelerating, and countries recognised that cost management practices needed greater consistency and professional alignment. PAQS was formally established in 1996 after adopting its draft constitution, bringing together founding members from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan. Its early mission was simple yet ambitious: promote the quantity surveying profession, encourage cooperation among member nations, and support the development of best-practice standards in cost engineering and construction economics.

Over the years, PAQS expanded its membership to include other economies such as Malaysia, Brunei, Fiji, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Canada (as an associate member). This growth reflected the increasing relevance of quantity surveying in globalised construction markets. PAQS congresses became key annual events, offering a forum for professionals to exchange

knowledge on cost planning, procurement, contract administration and technological innovation. The organisation also strengthened academic collaboration, supporting student exchanges, travelling scholarships, research initiatives and the PAQS Young QS Group, which nurtures the next generation of cost professionals.

Today, PAQS stands as a mature and influential regional body, representing thousands of quantity surveyors and cost engineers. Its focus has broadened beyond traditional cost management to include sustainability, digital transformation and lifecycle costing. Member associations actively collaborate on standardising competencies, accreditation pathways and ethical guidelines. PAQS also works closely with international bodies such as the International Cost Engineering Council (ICEC), ensuring that Asia-Pacific perspectives are represented in global discussions on construction economics.

The present era is defined by rapid technological change. Building Information Modelling (BIM), digital twins, artificial intelligence and data-driven cost forecasting are reshaping the QS profession. PAQS has responded by promoting digital literacy, encouraging member organisations to adopt modern tools, conducting continuing professional development (CPD) sessions and supporting research into emerging technologies. Sustainability has also become central, with PAQS advocating for carbon-conscious cost planning, whole-life cost assessment and resilient infrastructure development.

OUR STRENGTH TO PAQS 2026



Looking ahead, the future of PAQS is both promising and transformative. The organisation is expected to deepen its role in harmonising regional standards, enabling greater mobility for QS professionals across borders. As construction becomes more integrated and technology-driven, PAQS will likely champion unified digital frameworks, regional training platforms and collaborative research hubs. The association is also poised to expand its influence in sustainability, helping governments and

industry adopt cost strategies that support net-zero goals and climate-resilient development.

Ultimately, PAQS’s future lies in its ability to remain adaptive, forward-thinking and inclusive. By continuing to unite diverse member nations, embracing innovation and nurturing young professionals, PAQS will remain a cornerstone of construction cost management excellence across the Pacific region.



- **POWERING THE LIGHT**
- *By Iranga Mendis Wickramasinghe*

While the PAQS Congress and Conference 2026 is centred on enhancing industry knowledge, fostering collaboration and shaping the future of the profession, it also provides an opportunity to recognise the many organisations and individuals whose support makes this years Congress a possibility.

‘Powering the Light’ will be held on the 17th of July, 2026 at the Monarch Imperial from 6.00 pm onwards, as a felicitation of the official Sponsors and Partners who came forward to support the Congress and Conference, and will be an evening of recognition, networking and fellowship.

The Powering the Light Gala will bring together sponsors, partners, distinguished guests, members and friends of the international PAQS community to celebrate our shared vision in the spirit of enduring partnerships.

The success of an international conference of this scale extends beyond its academic line-up. It is built on the collective efforts of organisations and people that invest in professional development, knowledge exchange and the continued growth of the sector. The night is set to recognise the Main and Category Sponsors who power this years Conference, while reinforcing the importance of collaboration between academia, industry, government and professional bodies

As delegates from across the Asia Pacific region gather under one roof, the event will celebrate the values of PAQS, whilst encouraging professional excellence, mutual respect and regional collaboration. More than a celebratory event, Powering the Light will serve as a tribute to the partnerships that continue to advance the profession and create opportunities for innovation and shared progress in the region.

In recognising those who have helped make PAQS 2026 possible, the evening will stand as one of the conference's memorable highlights. Connect with our team to learn more.

EVENT SCHEDULE PAQS 2026

21 st August 2026	Young QS Forum & Night	Galle Face Hotel, Colombo
	Golf Tournament	Colombo
22 nd August 2026	Young QS Technical Visit	
	PAQS Pre-Congress Committee Meetings & Day - Night Friendship Cricket Match	Colombo
23 rd August 2026	PAQS Congress Board Meeting	Cinnamon Life at City of Dreams, Colombo
	Guided Tour for Spouses	
24 th August 2026	PAQS Conference Opening Ceremony	Cinnamon Life at City of Dreams, Colombo
	PAQS Conference Parallel Sessions	
25 th August 2026	PAQS Conference Parallel Sessions	Cinnamon Life at City of Dreams, Colombo
	PAQS Conference Closing, Certificate Award Ceremony, Gala Dinner and Cultural Event	

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