

The Global Performance Excellence Award Formerly the International Asia Pacific Quality Award

The Asia Pacific Quality Organization (APQO) was founded in 1985 in China and formally chartered in the Philippines where it is headquartered. Its mission is to be recognized as the universal prime mover in terms of continuously improving the quality of goods and services all over the world but also the quality of life for people.

In 1999 the Core Council (Board of Directors) as part of their strategic plan conceived the idea of creating an international quality award program. The idea was to have organizations who have already won their national quality award program compete internationally. National award programs promote winners as role models for other organizations to emulate and drive up their competitiveness and performance within their country. The APQO hoped to create International awardees that could provide international role models for cross country emulation. In 2000 the first international Asia Pacific Quality Award (IAPQA) Competition was held. Fifteen organizations applied for the award, and five won the award representing two countries. In 2010 we had fifty-one organizations apply, seventeen winners from eight countries.

Please see Figures 1, 2 and 3 for GEPA (IAPQA) Statistics.

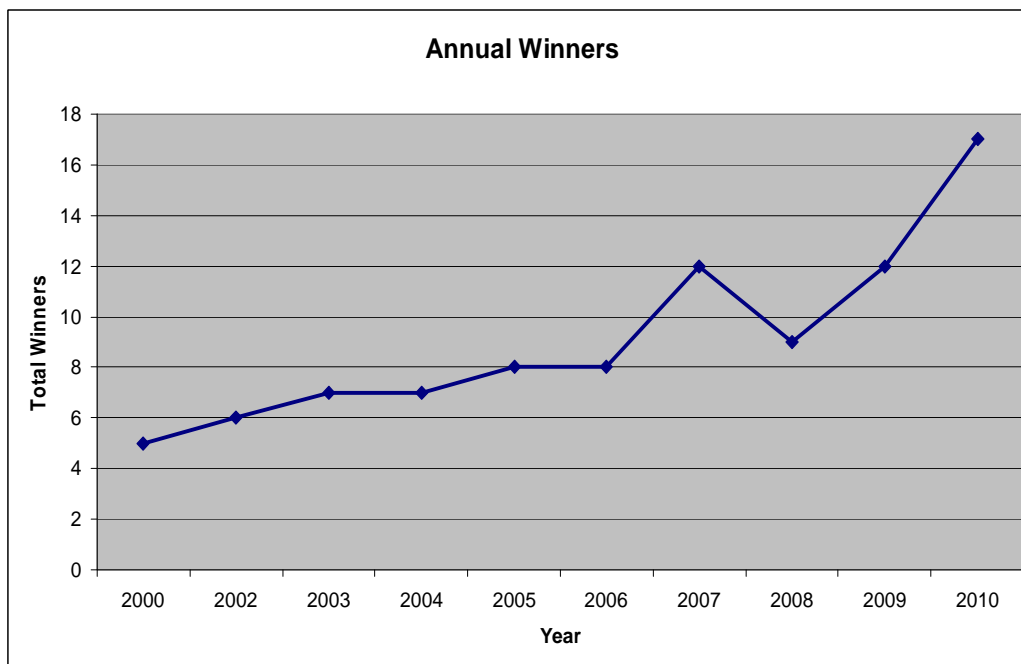


Figure 1

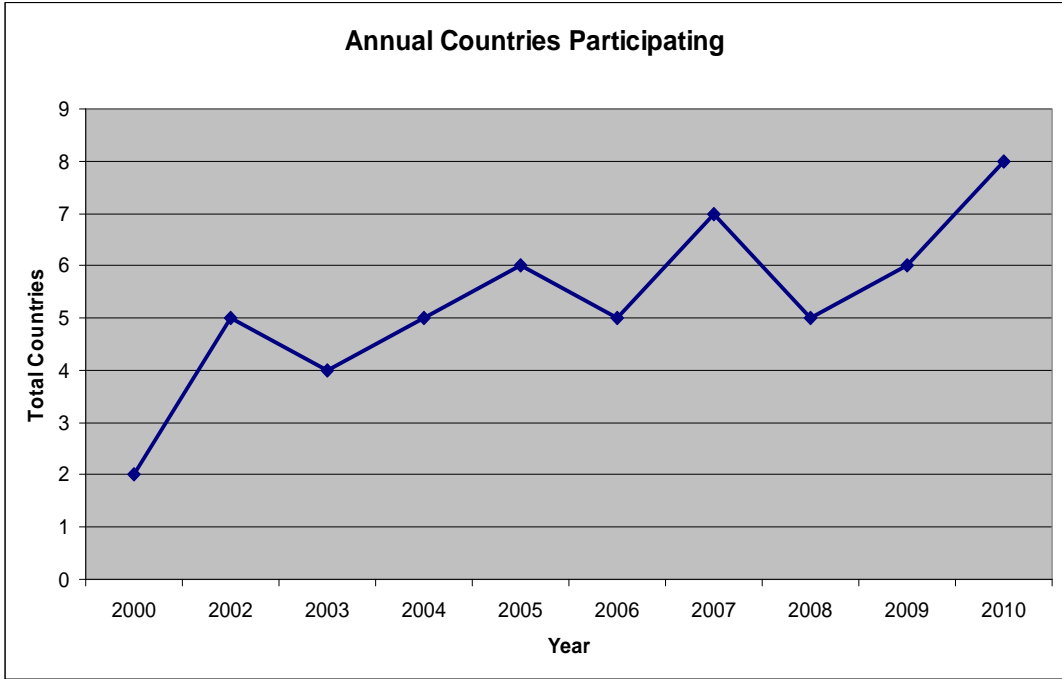


Figure 2

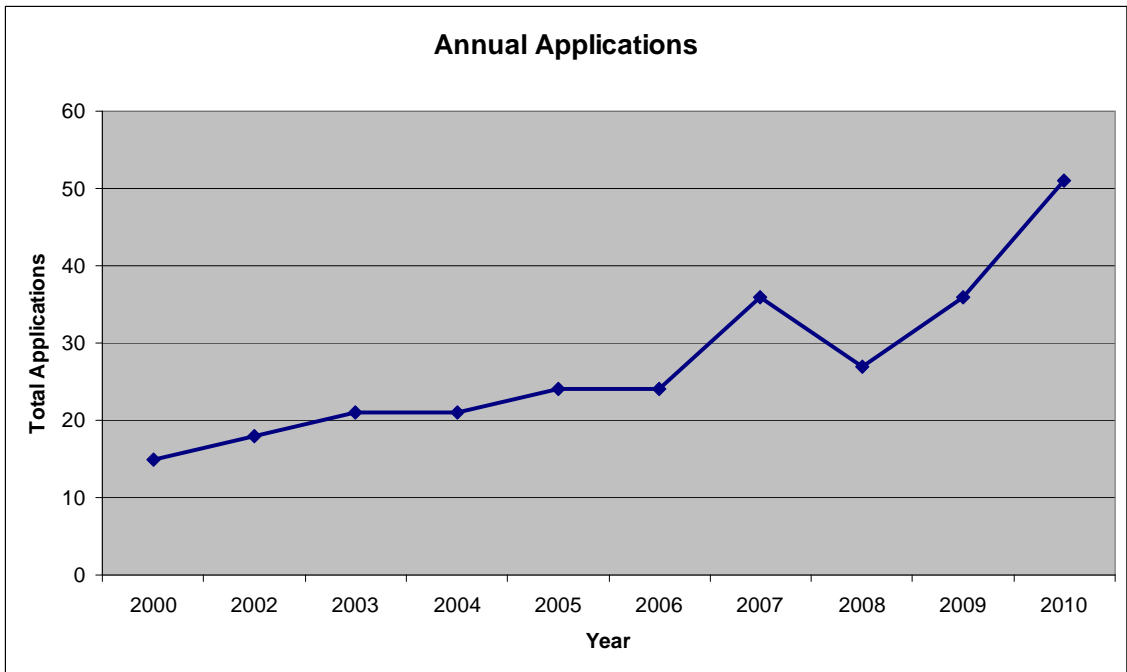


Figure 3

The award uses the Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence (MBPE) Criteria (formerly the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award) and has three classes of winners: World Class (highest), Best in Class (2nd highest) and Quest for Excellence (3rd Highest),

We skipped 2001 as we thought the annual administration burden would be overwhelming. However we realized it was manageable and it has been held every year since. 2011 will be the eleventh year for the APQO Award. Consistently throughout the years we have only used MBPE Program Trained Examiners in the award process and have always used the MBPE criteria. This is very challenging for the Examiners as not every country that uses the Baldrige criteria updates the criteria each year. Therefore Examiners need to be very knowledgeable, flexible and diligent.

The Core Council in 2010 decided to make a number of changes to the award program. First was a name change from the Asia Pacific Quality Award to the Global Performance Excellence Award (GPEA). While we were always open to accepting applications from any country our old name appeared to limit and certainly not invite organizations from outside Asia or the Pacific Rim. We wanted to change that perception. Secondly we found our Examiners had a rich “bench strength” of knowledge, experience and expertise in the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) criteria. Therefore, we are opening up the competition to welcome applications utilizing the EFQM criteria. After these changes, the program itself is basically unchanged. With these changes we are hoping for a record number of applications, winners and countries participating in 2011 and beyond.

This year the GPEA’s will be presented to the winners at the APQO Annual Quality Conference in conjunction with the Singapore Productivity Association and SPRING in Singapore in the fourth quarter of 2011. We hope to see you in Singapore.

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