



BulletiN

Your Partner in Higher Education
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The Second Meeting of Malaysian University Vice Chancellors / Rectors Committee (MVCC) and the Council of University Presidents of Thailand (CUPT)

23-24 June 2006 in Penang, Malaysia



Regional Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education in Asia

24-28 July 2006 in Vientiane, Lao PDR



A Research Project on a Survey of University Governance in Southeast Asia

October 2005-September 2006

in Southeast Asian Countries



A Research Project on Situation Analysis of Cyber University in Southeast Asian Countries

October 2005-September 2006

in Southeast Asian Countries

Message from the Centre Director



This September issue of SEAMEO RIHED Bulletin is the final one for the year 2006, which also reminds me that a year has already gone since I first joined SEAMEO RIHED as the Centre Director in July 2005. Three months after the previous issue, we are still thriving on promoting cooperation in higher education among ASEAN countries. The highlights include “The Second Meeting of Malaysian University Vice Chancellors/ Rectors Committee (MVCC) and the Council of University Presidents of Thailand (CUPT)” during 23-24 June 2006 in Penang, Malaysia. We also held “The Regional Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education in Asia” during 24-28 July 2006 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Among others, we have completed two research projects - A Research Project on a Survey of University Governance in Southeast Asia and A Research Project on Situation Analysis of Cyber University in Southeast Asian Countries. Based on the outputs of these projects, SEAMEO RIHED will organise the “Regional Seminar on University Governance in Southeast Asian Countries” and the “Regional Seminar on Cyber University in Southeast Asian Countries” in 2007. More details about these activities can be found in this issue.

The annual Centre Meeting: the 14th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting is also just around the corner. This time the Meeting will be held in September 2006 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. We will also take the opportunity to organise a back-to-back seminar on quality assurance under the title: “Regional Seminar on Quality Assurance in Southeast Asia.” As you might have guessed, the key features in this issue are revolving around the activities in Cambodia. Another upcoming, and possibly the closing event of the year 2006, is therefore the educational visit of Cambodian Higher Education Team to Thailand in December 2006.

Last but not least, as we always consider ourselves as Your Partner in Higher education, SEAMEO RIHED would also like to invite you to share with us any feedbacks, information, comments or advices related to our activities and bulletins. Please do not hesitate to let us hear your voice!

VISITS & LINKAGES



The 2006 SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting (GDM) was held during 17-18 July 2006 at the Windsor Suites Hotel, Bangkok. The Meeting was chaired by SEAMEO Secretariat Director, Dr. Edilberto de Jesus, and joined by the Centre directors and officers of SEAMEO units and networks. Representatives from the associate member countries, Australia and France, also attended the Meeting. The key issues discussed during the Meeting were about language, secondary education and education for sustainable development in the CDM. Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer, Director of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, and Dr. Kirk Person, Director for External Affairs of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) Mainland Southeast Group were among the distinguished participants in the Meeting.



SEAMEO RIHED Director welcomed Prof. Dr. Nasruddin Jaafar, the winner of the 2005 SEAMEO-Jasper Research Award from Department of Community Dentistry, University of Malaya, Malaysia during his visit to SEAMEO RIHED on 31 August 2006.



SEAMEO RIHED displayed its booth at the World University Presidents Summit, held during 19-22 July 2006 at Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. Over 1,500 educational representatives from 88 countries around the world joined this event in which SEAMEO RIHED was the co-organiser.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Visit Program for Cambodian Higher Education Team to Thailand

- Organisers** : The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) of Cambodia and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED) with the financial support from the World Bank
- Date and Venue** : 10-17 December 2006 in Thailand
- Objectives** : 1) To strengthen the working conditions and the capacities of the Department of Higher Education in order to meet with the rapid growth of higher education and to carry out its roles in developing policy and strategy, licensing Higher Education Institutions (HEI), supporting and monitoring HEI, as well as improving the quality and efficiency of higher education sub-sector; and
- 2) To develop a vision and strategic action plan for higher education in Cambodia; and improve governance and financial management in HEI

CALL FOR PARTICIPATIONS

Regional Seminar on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Southeast Asian Countries

- Objectives** : 1) to update the university administrators as well as students and scholars in higher education institutions in Cambodia on the current situation on quality assurance in higher education in the region;
- 2) to document the changes of quality assurance in higher education in the region and disseminate it to all key stakeholders in the region; and
- 3) to create an opportunity for future dialogues and exchanges of information and ideas among scholars, administrators and other parties.
- Date and Venue** : The regional seminar is scheduled to be held on 29 September 2006, as a back-to-back event following the 14th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting.
- Call for Participations** : Participants of the seminar will be policy makers from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia, and Presidents/ Vice-Presidents/ International Officers of the universities in Cambodia.

RIHED/InTREC Study Tour to UK universities Managing a University Successfully: Strategy, Innovation, Marketing, Finance

- Organisers** : SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED) and International Training, Research and Education Consortium (InTREC)
- Date and Venue** : May, 2007 at King's College London, University of London; University of Birmingham; Cambridge University, London Metropolitan University and University of Central England, United Kingdom.
- Objectives** : 1) to provide an opportunity for senior staff of Thai universities to understand the policy and practice of university management in other countries, specifically UK
- 2) to provide an opportunity to understand recent and current developments in university management and their applicability in relation to universities in Thailand.
- 3) to further develop aspects of the leaderships and management skills of the participants.
- Key Themes** : Strategic Planning, Innovation, Marketing of a University and University Financial Management
- Call for Participation** : Senior Staff and High Level University Administrators from Thailand and other Southeast Asian Countries

A Survey of University Governance in Southeast Asia

With the need to compile and compare governance system of higher education institutions in the region and to build up a database system on the university governance so as to serve as a good basis for further research and cooperation, SEAMEO RIHED with the financial support from the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand has been conducting a research study on a Survey of University Governance in Southeast Asia. This study focuses mainly on the governance system of the 1-3 major universities in each country in the region as well as its relationship with the government bodies responsible for higher education.



On 3 May 2006, the research team paid a courtesy call on and interviewed Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman, Chairman of the Board and CEO of College of Internet Distance Education, Assumption University.



On 18-19 May 2006, the research team visited Higher, Technical and Vocational Education Department, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR and National University of Laos.



On 6 July 2006, the research team paid a courtesy call on and interviewed Prof. Dr. Khunying Suchada Kiranandana, President of Chulalongkorn University.

The methodology of the study ranges from exploring information available on the websites to those published by international organisations. After the desk study, the research team made a study visit to conduct in-depth interviews of high ranking officers of the universities and the Ministry. This study was launched in October 2005 and ended in September 2006.

After the study, SEAMEO RIHED plans to organise the “Regional Seminar on University Governance in Southeast Asia”, to be held as a back-to-back event following the 15th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting, which will be held in September 2007 in Indonesia. The seminar is believed to serve as a platform from which the results of the study can be further reviewed and disseminated.



The research team paid a courtesy call on and interviewed Dr. Soe Yin, Rector of University of Yangon and Professor Kan Zaw, President of Institutes of Economics (IE) on 16 June 2006 at Diamond Jubilee Hall, Yangon, Myanmar



The research team paid a courtesy call on and interviewed Dr. Nguyen Duc Nghia, Vice-President of Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City and delegation at the Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 1 August 2006

Situation Analysis of Cyber University in Southeast Asian Countries

Recognising the important roles of ICT on higher education and given the fact that there is not yet a systematic study of the so called "Cyber-University" in this region, SEAMEO RIHED considers this as a challenging topic for the region to understand this cyber learning situation so as to prepare the region to better utilise the power of ICT on higher education. SEAMEO RIHED, with the funding support from the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand has thus conducted a research study on Situation Analysis of Cyber University in Southeast Asian Countries.

The objectives of the study are: 1) to conduct a situation analysis of higher education in each Southeast Asian country on the uses of ICT in teaching and learning; and 2) to produce a synthesised research report that will portray the whole picture of the uses of ICT in higher education in Southeast Asia based

on information obtained from each member country report.

The methodology of the study ranges from exploring information available on the websites as well as those journals concerning e-learning or using ICT in higher education, study visit to in-depth interviews of high ranking officers of the universities and the Ministry. This study is 12 months long, starting from October 2005-September 2006.

After the study, SEAMEO RIHED plans to organise the "Regional Seminar on Cyber University in Southeast Asian Countries", to be held as a back-to-back event following the 15th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting, which will be held in September 2007 in Indonesia. The seminar is believed to serve as a platform from which the results of the study can be further reviewed and disseminated.



Dr. Emerlinda Ramos Roman, President of University of Philippines and her delegation welcomed SEAMEO RIHED Director and his research team on 22 August 2006 at University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, the Philippines



Professor Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Anuwar Ali, President/Vice-Chancellor, Open University Malaysia and delegation welcomed SEAMEO RIHED Director and his research team at Open University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 12 July 2006.



Prof. Dr. Paulina Pannen, Director of SEAMEO SEAMOLEC and her team welcomed SEAMEO RIHED Director and his research team at SEAMOLEC, Jakarta, Indonesia on 7 August 2006.

Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director and his research team visited universities and higher education institutions in Southeast Asian Countries during May to August 2006. The objective of the visit is to interview the policy makers and the top executives of higher education universities/institutions in each country on the topics of university governance and the uses of ICT in higher education for the above two research projects. In addition to that, these visits also offered the opportunity for Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas to share his views and ideas about higher education, to promote the exchange and dissemination of information and research findings on higher education and to foster the linkages and collaboration with higher education universities/institutions in this region.



Thirty-one participants from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand; and partner agencies attended this workshop. The workshop was hosted by Ministry of Education, Lao PDR, International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED).

The workshop was a follow-up event of the research project aimed to study the restructuring processes and their effects both from a macro and an institutional point of view, initiated by IIEP and SEAMEO RIHED. The workshop focused on the recent changes in university management and its relevance to the development of higher education in Asia as well as on the efforts to improve efficiency in operation, and diversify sources of funding. More specifically, the workshop was convened under the following objectives:

1. to discuss changes and trends in higher education in the context of globalisation, GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) and cross-border education;
2. to highlight the institutional restructuring process initiated by universities in this region;
3. to discuss changes in resource mobilization strategies and staff management policies adopted by various institutions;
4. to acquaint the participants with approaches and methods of financial and staff management in higher education;
5. to discuss issues related to growth and expansion of private universities.



Regional Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education in Asia 24-28 July 2006 in Vientiane, Lao PDR

The themes of the weeklong workshop were current trends in university management; institutional restructuring in higher education; strategic planning; resource mobilisation strategies and financial and staff management practices; financial management of universities focusing on issues related to allocation and utilization of resources; and management of private universities.

The workshop was chaired by Dr. N.V. Varghese, Head of Training and Education Programme Unit of IIEP and Prof. Dr. Molly Lee, resource persons from UNESCO Bangkok. The workshop was also attended by SEAMEO RIHED Director, Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas. Other distinguished participants also included Prof. Dr. Morshidi Sirat from Universiti Sains Malaysia and Dr. Boonserm Weesakul from Dhurakij Pundit University and National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA). Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kongsy Sengmany from Department of Vocational and Higher education, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR was also present.

This workshop discussed the recent changes in university management, especially on their efforts to increase relevancy, improve efficiency in operation, and diversify sources of funding. Trends in university management, changes in governance as a result of strategic planning, changes in resource allocation policies and resource mobilization strategies adopted by various institutions were also discussed.



The Second Meeting of Malaysian University Vice Chancellors / Rectors Committee (MVCC) and the Council of University Presidents of Thailand (CUPT)

23-24 June 2006 in Penang, Malaysia



The Malaysian University Vice Chancellors/Rectors Committee (MVCC), the Council of University Presidents of Thailand (CUPT) and SEAMEO RIHED held the Second Meeting of the MVCC and the CUPT at the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) during 23-24 June 2006. The first successful Meeting held in Bangkok in the 2002 resulted in the first joint declaration between the two signatories. Both MVCC and CUPT agreed to continue to meet up on regular basis to consult and work out joint programmes and activities.

The second meeting was attended by the chair of the MVCC, the chair of the CUPT, the Vice Chancellors, the Deputy Vice Chancellors, the representatives of Malaysian Universities, the President, the Vice President, the representatives of the Thai Universities, the Executive Director of ASEAN University Network (AUN), and Director of SEAMEO RIHED. The objective of this co-operation was to enhance the quality of higher education in the region.

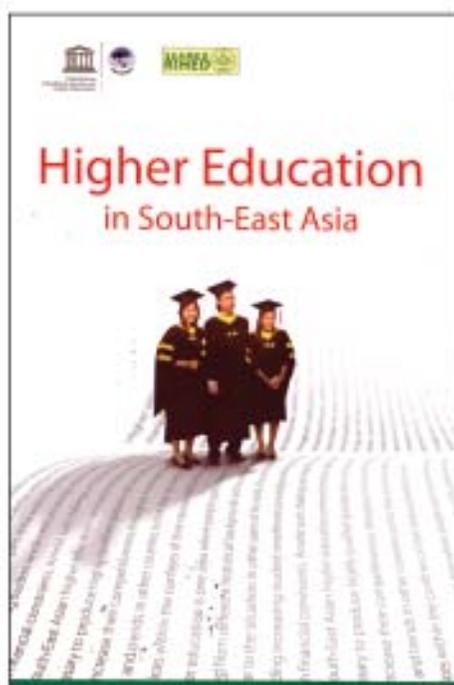
After the session, both parties signed the 2nd Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties, MVCC and CUPT. Both agreed with the proposed future areas of co-operation including joint development courses, credit transfer, joint degree programme, collaborative research, joint publications, seminars and conferences, cooperation in human resource development, exchange programmes among senior university administrators, faculty members and research staff.



The Signing of the Joint Declaration of Malaysian Vice Chancellors/ Rectors' Committee and Council of University Presidents of Thailand. (From left) Prof. Dr. Pratya Vesarach, President of Council of University Presidents of Thailand; Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director; and Y. Bhg. Prof. Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, Chairperson of Malaysian Vice Chancellors/ Rectors' Committee.

NEW PUBLICATION

Higher Education in South-East Asia



In cooperation with UNESCO Bangkok, SEAMEO RIHED conducted a situational analysis of higher education development in eight Southeast Asian countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The research provides an in-depth analysis of the higher education system in the respective countries. The contents include higher education reform, access and diversification; governance and management of higher education institutions; faculty and academic programmes; research capacities; private higher education; the internationalisation of higher education; accreditation and quality assurance; and future challenges in higher education.

Both organisations hope that these analyses will provide the basis for future higher education dialogue and exchange among the countries involved and beyond the region. For more information, please visit <http://www2.unescobkk.org/elib/publications/084/index.htm>.

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