

SEAMEO RIHED Bulletin



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Message from the Centre Director Professor Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas

The second volume of 2009 Bulletin highlights our achievements in the last four months from January to April 2009. We started the first activity in the end of January to promote the collaboration among high-ranking officials responsible for higher education in Southeast Asia, that is, ***the 3rd Meeting of Director General/Secretary General/Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region***. The event was held during 22-23 January 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was co-hosted by the

Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand, and was attended by the Directors General and Secretaries General as well as country representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand.

In mid-February, on the occasion of SEAMEO RIHED's 16th founding anniversary, SEAMEO RIHED and the Commission on Higher Education, Thailand, again co-organised the follow-up seminar on ***'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK: Experienced from the 3rd Study Visit to the UK'*** in Bangkok, Thailand. The seminar was attended by almost 120 participants from Thai HEIs, who share the same concern on quality education and the development of quality assurance system in Thailand. Honorary speakers were distinguished academics and university administrators who came to share their lessons learned from the educational trip to the UK. In March, SEAMEO RIHED, in collaboration with the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) organised ***the Annual Roundtable Meeting of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)***, on 20-22 March 2009 in Thailand. Representatives from the quality assurance agencies from 10 countries joined the workshop and presented the paper on 'Assessors: Current Practices and the Next Steps.'

In April, SEAMEO RIHED, in close cooperation with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), organise the 2nd SEAMEO-AGB Educational Visit to the US. The programme was designed to bring chairmen, vice chairmen, members of university council, presidents and senior university administrators from Thailand to visit higher education institutions in the United States of America and also to attend the 2009 AGB's National Conference on Trusteeship in San Diego.

Amidst the swine flu mayhem, I hope you take a very good care of your health and people around you. Please enjoy reading this volume and I will see you again in September 2009 issue.



The 44th SEAMEO Council Conference

**5-8 April 2009,
at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Hotel, Phuket, Thailand**



The Ministry of Education, Thailand hosted the 44th SEAMEO Council Conference on 5-8 April 2009 at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Hotel, Phuket, Thailand. The gathering of the Education Ministers from the 11 SEAMEO Member Countries in the annual meeting, serves as a forum for discussing policy and regional initiatives, setting directions for programmes and projects of SEAMEO and its Units, and reviewing of programmes and activities of the organization.

The highlights of the 44th SEAMEO Council Conference are a Policy Forum focusing on the role of teachers and the need for their professional development in order to remain

competitive in the fast-changing world. The Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam gave presentations on the different strands of the professional development for teachers.

SEAMEO RIHED was also invited to submit the progress report on “A Structured Framework for Regional Integration of Higher Education in Southeast Asia: The Road towards a Common Space”. The report emphasises that SEAMEO RIHED has conducted several activities to raise awareness among key policy makers and stakeholders through both academic and non-academic venues. The Centre has also tried to incorporate the process of harmonisation of higher education into the existing Centre’s activities, including the establishment of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) for the future development of ASEAN QA guidelines, the Conference on Raising Awareness to gather the valuable inputs from ASEAN scholars and experts from outside the region, and also the conduct of the 3rd Director General/ Secretary General and Commissioner responsible for Higher Education Meeting to explore the possibility in identifying priority areas and setting up official follow-up group. (For more details, please see page 6)

2nd Asia-Europe (ASEM) Ministerial Meeting on Education

**14 – 15 May 2009
at Sheraton Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam**

The 2nd meeting of Education Ministers from Asia and Europe (ASEMME) took place in Hanoi, Vietnam on 14 and 15 May 2009. The conference was a follow-up to the 2008 gathering of Ministers in Berlin and aimed at establishing a permanent process of dialogue between the two regions. During the meeting, Ministers agreed to set up three Asia-Europe pilot groups of experts in the field of credits and learning outcomes, joint degrees, and quality assurance. ASEMME 3 is scheduled to take place in Denmark in 2010.



Seminar on Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the United Kingdom: Experienced from the 3rd Study Visit to the United Kingdom

13 February 2009 at the Commission on Higher Education building, Bangkok, Thailand



Following 'the 3rd SEAMEO RIHED - InTREC Educational Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities during 18 - 26 October 2008, SEAMEO RIHED, with the support from Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand, conducted a follow-up seminar on 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK: Experienced from the 3rd Study Visit to the UK' on 13 February 2009 at the Commission on higher Education Building, Bangkok, Thailand. The seminar was held to commemorate SEAMEO RIHED's 16th founding anniversary.

The event was attended by almost 120 participants who are interested on the issue of quality education and quality assurance development in Thailand. Most of the participants were from higher education institutions and government agencies responsible for higher education. Honorary speakers were distinguished academics and university administrators who joined the seminar to deliver their thoughts and lessons learned from the educational trip. The discussion topics included:

- a) **'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK for Thai Higher Education Development'** - presented by:
 - Prof. Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong, President of National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA)
- b) **'Roles of Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and the Quality Assurance of Universities in UK: Experienced for Thai Higher Education Institutions'**
 - led by:
 - Dr. Varaporn Seehanath, Director, Bureau of Standards and Evaluation, Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand
 - Dr. Uthai Dulyakasem, President, Silpakorn University and the Executive Committee of the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organization)
 - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somboonwan Satyarakwit, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dhurakij Pundit University and the Committee for Development of Assessment Systems for Higher Education, the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organization)
- c) **'Internal Quality Assurance of UK Universities: Experienced for Thai Higher Education Institutions': Respective from Public Universities – presented by:**
 - Asst. Prof. Prasert Akkharapraphamphong, Assistant to the President, Chulalongkorn University
 - Assoc. Prof. Tuan Tongkeo, Member of University Council and Head of Administration Development Group, Suan Dusit Rajabhat University

Respective from Private Universities was presented by

 - Dr. Benja Mangalabruks, President, Krirk University
 - Dr. Supawadee Chuangchot, Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Rattana Bundit University

In the seminar, SEAMEO RIHED disseminated the 'Report of the 3rd SEAMEO RIHED - InTREC Study Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities: University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators'. The report contains lecture notes from the visits to universities in the UK and QA-relating agencies and is distributed to all participants attending the seminar. The report can be obtained through <http://www.rihed.seameo.org/uktrip/qareport.pdf>.

The 2nd SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Educational Visit to the USA: University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators

17-25 April 2009 in San Diego and Los Angeles



With the cooperation from the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), SEAMEO RIHED had the opportunity to bring chairmen, vice chairmen, members of university council, presidents and senior university administrators from Thailand to visit higher education institutions in the US and also to attend the 2009 AGB's National Conference on Trusteeship in San Diego. The key objective of the programme is to provide the opportunity for senior university administrators and members of university councils to participate in professional development activities to improve their insights and knowledge on recent and current development of US University Governance.



During 17-25 April 2009, thirty-one (31) participants joined the programme, including three former Ministers: The former Minister of Education -- Professor Dr. Wichit Srisa-an, Chairman of Suranaree University of Technology Council, Walailak University Council and Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University Council; The former Minister of University Affairs and former Minister of Foreign Affairs -- Mr. Prachuab Chaiyasan, Chairman of Ramkhamhaeng University Council; and The former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Professor Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of Princess Naradhiwas University Council. And also two chairmen of Nakhon Pathom Rajabhat University Council and Sripatum University Council, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noranit Setabutr and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kanchit Malaivongs also participated in the programme.



All participants attended the '*National Conference on Trusteeship: The Changing Landscape of Higher Education*'-- the annual meeting of American board members, presidents, chancellors, board professional staff, and other institutional leaders. The conference focused on the changing landscape of higher education in the economic turmoil. It was agreed in the Conference that higher education sector is now experiencing

changes in various areas, including demographics, technology, market forces, expectations of governance, demands on presidents and chancellors, attention to academic quality, and fundraising. Five hundred and fifty (550) attendees joined 19 sessions and 20 roundtables. Many international participants from around the world such as Australia, Canada, Japan, Spain, and Thailand joined the event. Topics of interests included, for example, 'What Presidents Need from Boards in Uncertain Times, Re-Engaging the Faculty on Matters of Educational Quality, Accreditation/Reaccreditation and the Responsibilities of Boards, Your Institution in a Global Economy, Leadership in Public Higher Education for New Challenges and Higher Education in a Changed Marketplace.'

The participants also visited 5 higher education institutions in San Diego and Los Angeles. The list of institutional visits was: 1) University of San Diego, 2) University of California, San Diego, 3) California State University, Los Angeles, 4) University of Southern California, and 5) Claremont Colleges.

At the University of San Diego, Mary E. Lyons, President; Julie Sullivan, Vice President and Provost & Acting Vice President for Finance & Administration; and the group of Board of Trustees of University of San Diego welcomed the group and led the discussion on the topic of *'Overview of Master's Programs at Private Higher Education Institution; the role of the governing board in quality management and academic/research development'*.



The second visit was at the University of California, San Diego. The discussion topics were *'Comprehensive of research based programs and initiatives at Public Higher Education Institution; the role of the governing board in quality management and academic/research development'*. The speakers were Julianne Larsen, Associate Vice Chancellor for University Development; Peter Gourevitch, UCSD Distinguished Professor of Political Science; Barbra Blake, Assistant Dean of Academic Programs, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies; and Dr. Darla J Wilson, Director, Global Leadership Institute.



At the University of Southern California, Adam Clayton Powell III, Vice Provost, Globalisation, Office of the Provost and Carolyn M. Domen, Assistant Secretary of the University welcomed the group and gave a short brief on University of Southern California. The discussion was focused on *Overview of research programs and initiatives at Private Higher Education Institution; the role of the governing board in quality management and academic/research development*.



Claremont University Consortium was the fourth visit. The met with Robert Walton, Chief Executive Officer, Claremont University Consortium; Robert Cave, Dean of Faculty, Harvey Mudd College; Jerome Garriss, Vice President for Special Projects, Claremont McKenna College; Joseph Hough, Interim President, Claremont Graduate University; and Sheldon Schuster, President, Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences. The main topics discussed during the visit was on *Overview of Private Consortium of Liberal Arts Colleges; the role of the governing board in quality management and academic/research development*.



At the California State University, Los Angeles, the discussion topic was *Overview of Master's Programs at Public Higher Education Institution; the role of the governing board in quality management and academic/research development* and was led by Alan Muchlinski, Acting Associate Dean, Graduate, Studies & Research; Kevin T Baaske, Professor of Department of Communication Studies Rhetoric and Argument Theory, Criticism and Pedagogy; and Jennifer Faust, Assistant Vice - President for Academic Affairs.



The Report of the 2nd SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Educational Visit to the USA: University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators will be completed in August 2009. SEAMEO RIHED will conduct ***an open seminar on University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators in Thailand: Experience from the 2nd Educational Visit to the USA*** which will be held in October 2009. The aims of the open seminar is to disseminate the information and share the knowledge about the US university governance and university council with the public. Distinguished participants from the educational trip will also join the panel of speakers.

The 3rd Meeting of Director General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region

22-23 January 2009 at Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

The 3rd Meeting of Director General/Secretary General/Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region was held during 22-23 January 2009, at the Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by the Directors General and Secretaries General as well as country representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand. The Meeting was also attended by the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, senior staff from the Bureau of International Cooperation Strategy, the Commission on Higher Education (Thailand), the Director of SEAMEO RIHED and SEAMEO RIHED staff.

The Meeting was co-hosted by the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand and Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, Secretary General of the Commission on Higher Education (Thailand) and Chairman of SEAMEO RIHED, delivered his welcome remarks to all delegates and distinguished observers. He reiterated the outcomes of the previous Meeting and stressed the importance of higher education and the harmonisation process in being the key instrument for building social and economic growth as well as the unification of ASEAN community. Dr. Sumate totally agreed with SEAMEO RIHED that it is timely for Southeast Asia to take necessary actions to create our own higher education area.



After the briefing from Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director, on the progress of SEAMEO RIHED's harmonisation of higher education project and the outcomes of the previous two meetings, delegates presented their country reports on the future areas of collaboration, starting from the Area I: Student Mobility Enhancement, Area II: Leadership Development Programme, Area III: E-Learning and Mobile Learning and Areas IV: ASEAN Research Clusters. These reports were presented by the delegates from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand.



The Meeting had an extensive discussion outlining the detailed roadmap for future collaboration and the development of mechanism leading to the establishment of the process of harmonisation of higher education in Southeast Asia. In accordance with SEAMEO RIHED's proposal on 5-related steps towards the establishment of the harmonisation process and the proposed 4 areas of collaboration, the Meeting agreed that the following activities should be undertaken and the involvement of various organisations should be encouraged:

1) **Credit Transfer System:** Thailand offered to develop the template based on the existing UMAP Credit Transfer System (UCTS), to be promoted across the region. An introductory workshop to introduce the system to SEAMEO member countries will be conducted and hosted by the Commission on Higher Education, Thailand, in September 2009.

2) **Quality Assurance Framework and Qualification Framework:** Malaysia agreed to further coordinate with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) in developing the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework and the Regional Qualification Framework, under the umbrella of the newly established ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN).



3) **Diploma Supplement:** Indonesia agreed to develop the future template of Southeast Asian Diploma Supplement (Southeast Asian Passport).

4) **Research Clusters:** the first stage in promoting Southeast Asian Research Clusters is to encourage the sharing of information on national research management system and the working towards building up research culture among SEAMEO member countries. SEAMEO RIHED is to further coordinate with PERDO (Thailand) on the methods of information sharing and identifying research interests in member countries. Indonesia proposed that an 'expert meeting' in the areas of common interest among member countries should be later convened to promote the sharing of resources and to discuss the future collaboration of ASEAN Research Clusters.

5) **Leadership Development Programme:** Malaysia offered to follow up with the AKEPT director on the possibility in providing a parallel session on leadership development for staff in SEAMEO member countries. The Meeting also requested Malaysia to share the information on the existing leadership programmes scheduled throughout the year for possible joint attendance.

6) **E-learning and Mobile Learning Programme:** SEAMEO RIHED agreed to coordinate with SEAMEO SEAMOLEC to prepare an information paper introducing the existing and current model of e-learning and mobile learning programmes available at the Centre for the upcoming 4th Directors General/Secretaries General/Commissioner responsible for Higher Education in late 2009.



The 4th Meeting of Director General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region will be hosted by the Ministry of National Education, Indonesia.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The 5th IIEP-SEAMEO RIHED Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education and Educational Trip to Malaysia

26 July – 2 August 2009

Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

More information can be found in www.rihed.seameo.org

Annual Roundtable Meeting of The ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) 2009

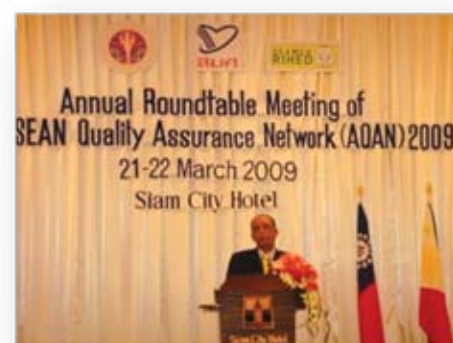
20-22 March 2009 at the Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



Following the 1st AQAN Roundtable Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 2008, the Meeting agreed that the AQAN Roundtable will be held annually with specific theme related to quality assurance of higher education. The aims of the 1st gathering were to allow mutual learning, exchanges and sharing of good practices among key resource person in the area of quality assurance. In the year 2009, with the kind cooperation of the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand and the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), SEAMEO RIHED and the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) organised the 2009 Annual Roundtable Meeting of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) on 20-22 March 2009 at the Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the 2nd Meeting was revolved around the issue of Assessors: Current Practices and the Next Steps. During the event, each country presented their country's experiences with regards to quality assurance assessors and auditors. The Roundtable agreed that assessors are crucial to quality assurance work and more attention must be given to assessment and the role of assessors. The Country Reports also showed much similar practice with regards to

assessor, such as in terms of methods of and sources for recruitment, criteria for selection, training and training needs and assessment processes, as well as code of ethics for assessors. (The report can be obtained through <http://www.mqa.gov.my/events/AQAN/>).

The Bangkok Roundtable also elected Dato' Dr. Syed Ahmad Hussein, Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) as the AQAN first President. It was also agreed that the MQA acts as the Secretariat for the AQAN. The next Roundtable in 2010 will be held in Indonesia with a theme related to internal and external quality assurance (IQA and EQA) and the interface between them.



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