

SEAMEO RIHED Bulletin



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Message from the Centre Director Professor Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas



This second volume of SEAMEO RIHED's 2010 bulletins highlights our many achievements from January to April 2010. During this time, SEAMEO RIHED has worked hard to be 'Your Partner in Higher Education'. Our activities have ranged across a broad range of themes, which together aim to harmonise higher education systems in Southeast Asia, while also building the region's capacity to deliver quality higher education that meets each country's diverse needs. The year's activities commenced with the kind cooperation of the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), the *Workshop on Benchmarking Exercise for the 2009 Rating System of Malaysian Higher Education Institutions*. The event was

held 22 January 2010 at Office of the Higher Education Commission, Bangkok, Thailand. January also held the 45th SEAMEO Council Conference, where SEAMEO RIHED presented reports on two activities within the framework of the Harmonisation of Higher Education in Southeast Asia project, which was initiated by SEAMEO RIHED in 2007. RIHED presented a Progress Report on the Structured Framework for Regional Integration of Higher Education in Southeast Asia: The Road towards a Common Space, and a report on the M-I-T Pilot Project on Promoting Student Mobility in Southeast Asia-Initiative. The 45th SEAMEO Council Conference was held 26 to 29 January 2010 in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, the Philippines, and further details are available below.

On the occasion of SEAMEO RIHED's 17th founding anniversary in February 2010, SEAMEO RIHED organised a roundtable meeting on *the US Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Higher Education: A Case Study of University of California, Los Angeles*. The meeting was attended by Thai University Administrators and held on 12 February 2010.

Two significant events occurred in March; the first was *the 4th Meeting of Director General/Secretary General/Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region*, held on 11-12 March 2010, in Jakarta, Indonesia, with the kind cooperation of the Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Indonesia. The Meeting promoted collaboration between high-ranking officials responsible for higher education in Southeast Asia. The second key event in March was the annual programme presented by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) and SEAMEO RIHED, *the 3rd SEAMEO-AGB Programme: A Short Course on University Governance and Development*. The Programme occurred between 19 and 28 March 2010, in Orlando, Florida, United States of America. It took Thai chairmen, vice chairmen, members of university council, presidents and senior university administrators on visits to higher education institutions in the United States of America. Participants also attended the 2010 AGB's National Conference on Trusteeship.

SEAMEO RIHED also co-organised and supported many other activities concerning higher education and development in Southeast Asia from January to April this year. Please enjoy reading this volume and I look forward to reporting to you again in September, when I report on SEAMEO RIHED activities from May to August 2010.

UPDATES

The 45th SEAMEO Council Conference 26-29 January 2010 in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, the Philippines



The Philippines hosted the 45th SEAMEO Council Conference on 26-29 January 2010 at the Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Lapu-lapu City, Cebu, the Philippines. The annual gathering of the Education Ministers from the 11 SEAMEO Member Countries 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 organisation.

Around 157 participants attended the 45th SEAMEO Council Conference, including 11 Ministers of Education and delegations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Also present were representatives from the SEAMEO Associate Member Countries, Australia, New Zealand and Spain; Affiliate Member the Tsukuba University of Japan; the ASEAN Secretariat. A number of representatives from international organisations were present including UNESCO, UNICEF, UN HABITAT, and the British Council. Directors and senior officials from the 19 Specialist SEAMEO Regional Centres were also present at the conference.

SEAMEO RIHED submitted two reports, firstly A Progress Report on A Structured Framework for Regional Integration of Higher Education in Southeast Asia: The Road towards a Common Space, and secondly, SEAMEO RIHED's M-I-T Pilot Project on Promoting Student Mobility in Southeast Asia-Initiative.

The first report illustrated SEAMEO RIHED's progress in the development of a regional credit transfer system, an essential infrastructure in integrating higher education in Southeast Asia and responding to the suggestions from the 3rd Meeting of Director General, Secretary General, Commissioner responsible for Higher Education. The development of a Southeast Asian credit transfer system is a piece of infrastructure that will allow the future comparability and recognition of academic degrees in the region. Student mobility can be developed through mutual development of a concrete system of credit transfer, and complementary grading systems and course syllabus in Southeast Asia. The proposed ASEAN Credit Transfer System is the main mechanism to promote and facilitate mobility programmes across the sub-region. Thailand and SEAMEO RIHED are developing the ASEAN Credit Transfer System, based on the existing UMAP Credit Transfer System (UCTS).

The second report presents the student mobility initiative. SEAMEO RIHED facilitated the launching of a successful pilot Southeast Asian student mobility project. The Malaysia-Indonesia-Thailand (M-I-T) student mobility programme was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia; the Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Indonesia, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand and SEAMEO RIHED.

The 46th SEAMEO Council Conference will be held in 26-29 January, 2011 in Brunei Darussalam.

ASEAN Quality Assurance Network Executive (AQAN) Committee Meeting



The ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) Executive Committee Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 6 March 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters pertaining AQAN activities, the constitution, logo competition, website and the preparation of the upcoming AQAN Roundtable Meeting 2010 which will be held in Jakarta.

The meeting was attended by the AQAN Executive Committee members, including two representatives from SEAMEO RIHED-Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Senior Advisor and Ms. Phunyanuch Pattanotai, Programme Officer. The SEAMEO RIHED Director is a member of Executive Committee of AQAN and also established the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN), along with the Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) and the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA). The event was observed by representatives from ONESQA and the MQA secretariat

The Roundtable Meeting on the US Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Higher Education: A Case Study of University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

12 February 2010, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand

To commemorate SEAMEO RIHED's 17th founding anniversary, SEAMEO RIHED organised the roundtable meeting on 12 February 2010 with a group of thirty Thai higher education administrators. The Meeting allowed participants to discuss the U.S. Economic Crisis and exchange ideas on its impact on Thai Higher Education. The session was entitled 'Encountering with Impact: U.S. Government Policies on U.S. Higher Education; Solutions to the Crisis for Universities: Role of Universities' Administrators and Students; and Lessons Learned for Universities in Thailand', and was facilitated by Dr Surachai Lorchareonsari from the University of California, Los Angeles and Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director.

Branding & Marketing Asia Higher Education Conference 22 – 23 March 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



The Branding & Marketing Asia Higher Education Conference was held on 22-23 March 2010 at the JW Marriot Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The event was hosted by The Asia Business Forum Singapore and supported by SEAMEO and five other organisers. Key speakers were sourced from Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, United Kingdom, The Philippines and Thailand. Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, Director of SEAMEO RIHED present as the representative from Thailand, on the topic of '*Harmonisation of Higher Education: An Update on Its latest Trends and Determining Its Future*'.

The Third SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Programme: A Short Course on University Governance and Development

19-28 March 2010 at Orlando, Florida, the United States of America



2010 marks the third year which SEAMEO RIHED and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) have organised a Short Course on University Governance and Development. The course allowed 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 AGB's 2010 National Conference on Trusteeship in Orlando. The key objective of the programme was to allow senior university administrators and members of university councils to participate in professional development activities, which improved their insights and knowledge of recent development in US University Governance.



During 19-28 March 2010, thirty-five (35) participants from 12 Thai universities and 1 institution joined the programme, including 1) Chulalongkorn University, 2) Mahidol University, 3) Prince of Songkla University, 4) Srinakharinwirot University, 5) Thammasat University, 6) Chandrakasem Rajabhat University, 7) Nakhon Pathom Rajabhat University, 8) Phetchaburi Rajabhat University, 9) Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna, 10) Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi, 11) Sripatum University, 12) Chalmernkarnchana College, and 13) Knowledge Network Institute of Thailand.



All participants attended AGB's 2010 National Conference on Trusteeship, the annual meeting of American board members, presidents, chancellors, board professional staff, and other institutional leaders. The event allowed participants to discuss questions around trusteeship and implications for campus leaders and board members. The conference focused on long-term strategies for colleges, addressing the immediate challenges facing institutions with an eye toward developing institutional strengths to carry institutions through difficult times. The event was a great success, with over 850 people in attendance.



Short Course participants also undertook institutional visits to a public research university, an academic/research public university, a private institution, a private co-educational research university, a private Catholic university, and a publicly-supported post-secondary institution. The six higher education institutions in Orlando and Chicago included 1) Rollins College; 2) University of Central Florida; 3) Brevard Community College; 4) University of Chicago; 5) University of Illinois, Chicago; and 6) DePaul University.



Lecture and discussion topics at the AGB National Conference on Trusteeship and institutional visits covered:

- Overview of the US governance system: what works where?
- The role of governing board members in ensuring academic and research quality, financial management and strategic planning;
- The structure and functions of the support office and governing board;
- Effective institutional governance and institutional management;
- Trustee recruitment process and involvement in capital campaign planning;
- The process of preparing new governing board members through such activities as developing governing board manual/kits (orientation);
- Government oversight and university responsibility for determining institutional direction;
- The global economic crisis and the US higher education;
- Exporting higher education.



The main output of the event is the report of the 3rd SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Programme-A Short Course on University Governance and Development which will be completed by late 2010. The report will share the valuable knowledge about the US university governance and university council with the public.





The 4th Meeting of Director General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region

11-12 March 2010 at the Directorate General of Higher Education Office, Ministry of National Education, Jakarta, Indonesia

The 4th Meeting of Director General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region was co-hosted by the Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Indonesia, held during 11-12 March 2010 at the Directorate General of Higher Education Office, Ministry of National Education, Jakarta, Indonesia.



The meeting was attended by the Director General, Secretary General or Commissioner of Higher Education as well as country representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The Meeting was also attended by the Director of SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, senior officers of the Directorate General of Higher Education Office, Indonesian Ministry of National Education, and the Director of SEAMEO RIHED and SEAMEO RIHED staff.



H.E. Professor Dr. Fasli Jalal, Vice Minister of National Education and Director General of Higher Education, Directorate General of Higher Education, Indonesia, warmly welcomed all the delegates. In his welcome remarks, he expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, Secretary- General of the Commission on Higher Education, Thailand and Chair of SEAMEO RIHED as well as to Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas for progressing higher education development in the Southeast Asian Region. He expounded his ideas on ASEAN Community in higher education and recognised SEAMEO RIHED and Thailand as the key stakeholders promoting higher

education in the region. He recognised the importance of improving the higher education curriculum, promoting quality assurance and increasing student mobility in the region. He pointed out that it is essential to carry out an implementation meeting and thematic meeting to drive the process of regional integration on higher education.



The meeting had an intensive discussion on the regional future collaboration in 4 main areas are:

- 1) **Student Mobility:** The area of student mobility is an important issue which SEAMEO RIHED (in collaboration with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand) agree to push forward, through the implementation of the M-I-T Project. SEAMEO RIHED plans to review the progress and outcome of this project at the beginning of 2011 with a view to expanding its scope. SEAMEO RIHED drafted a proposal to explore the feasibility of inviting the ASEAN +3 countries, namely Japan, Korea and China to join M-I-T Project.
- 2) **Executive Development:** Malaysia agrees to be a lead country in implementing an Executive Leadership Programme by launching one or two pilot Executive Development courses in 2010. The Meeting also agreed that the pilot courses should be targeted at members of the university boards. Participants will be recruited from interesting countries. AKEPT (Higher Education Leadership Academy of Malaysia) will act as the focal point in putting this plan into action.
- 3) **E-Learning and Mobile Learning Programme:** Indonesia and SEAMOLEC are the leaders in implementing e-learning and mobile learning programme. The project is designed to focus on collecting digital content of the 5 study areas which are the focus of the M-I-T Student Mobility Project, namely, agriculture, language and culture, hospitality and tourism, international business and food science and technology. Developing the e-learning capacity in these disciplines aims to enhance the interaction of quality assurance, student mobility and e-learning .
- 4) **Research Clusters:** Thailand proposed to establish 3-year roadmap for promoting research clusters in the Southeast Asian region. The roadmap will focus on building up the key platforms, namely research assessments, research publications, establishing an 'ASEAN Citation Index', as well as academic research clusters. Thailand will take the lead to promote ASEAN Research Clusters commencing with organising the Research Cluster Exploration Conference in Bangkok in November 2010. The Conference aims to share and exchange information on national research management systems, work towards building up the research culture among ASEAN member countries and encourage increased collaboration between researchers at Thai universities and ASEAN member countries. In addition to the Conference, a roundtable meeting will be held to formalise outcomes of the meeting and ensure the development of research in the region.

The 4th Meeting of Director General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region concluded with acknowledgement that the 5th Meeting would be held in early 2011, in Nha Trang, Vietnam. SEAMEO RIHED tabled the possibility of inviting ASEAN plus 3 countries to join the 5th Meeting, to drive forward the above four initiatives.



Workshop on Benchmarking Exercise for the 2009 Rating System of Malaysian Higher Education Institutions

22 January 2010, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Bangkok, Thailand

On 22 January 2010, SEAMEO RIHED introduced SETARA'09 (or the MQA Rating System for Higher Education Institutions in Malaysia for 2009) to Thai scholars and educators at the Office of Higher Education Commission, Thailand, with the cooperation of The Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).



The workshop allowed the Thai Scholars and Educators to learn about the rating system of Malaysian Higher Educational Institutions. SETARA'09 has been developed as an instrument to rate the quality of teaching and learning at the undergraduate level in higher educational institutions, both public and private. This is a tool in meeting the Malaysian Government's excellence. 55 Thai participants had an open discussion session in order to exchange ideas and make recommendations with Prof. Dr. Muhamad, Jantan, Director of Corporate and Sustainable Development Division, University of Science Malaysia, SETARA'09 Committee and the Committee members.

Upcoming Activities

**The 6th IIEP-SEAMEO RIHED
Regional Workshop on Institutional
Restructuring in Higher Education**
Nusa Dua Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

**The 4th SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC
An Intensive Course on University
Management for the 21st Century at
University of Cambridge**
24-31 October 2010

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