

M-I-T Student Mobility Programme – Review Meeting

31 January – 1 February 2011

Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

REVIEW MEETING

MINUTES

INTRODUCTION

1. The Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand (M-I-T) Student Mobility Programme Review Meeting was held on 31 January to 1 February 2011 at the Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.
2. The Meeting was attended by approximately 50 participants, including the Director of Learning and Student Affairs, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Republic of Indonesia; the Director of Academic Development Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia; the Deputy Secretary-General, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand; Prof. Dr. Ir. H. Didik Sulistyanto, Education Attache, Embassy of Indonesia, Bangkok, Thailand; and the SEAMEO RIHED Acting Director. University staff from higher education institutions in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand also attended, along with senior officers of the Ministry of National Education, Republic of Indonesia, the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, and the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Thailand, along with staff of SEAMEO RIHED. The list of participants is shown as Annex 1.

DAY ONE

WELCOMING REMARKS

3. Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, Acting Director of SEAMEO RIHED provided introductory remarks to the meeting. Prof. Supachai detailed the successful implementation of the M-I-T Pilot Programme in 2010, and the importance of student mobility to the development of the ASEAN Community by 2015. Before ending his remarks, Prof. Supachai expressed his appreciation to all participants, giving special thanks to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand for hosting the Meeting. Introductory Remarks are shown as Annex 2.
4. Dr. Illah Sailah Director of Learning and Student Affairs, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Republic of Indonesia provided remarks to the meeting. Dr. Sailah spoke of the very fruitful programme in 2010, the continuation of the programme into 2011, and future possibilities including a common Credit Transfer System, twinning and double

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degree programmes. Dr. Sailah concluded her remarks by expressing her thanks for the ongoing cooperation within the programme.

5. Assoc. Prof. Zarida BT Hambali, Director of Academic Development Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia provided remarks to the meeting. Assoc. Prof. Hambali shared recent changes within Malaysia which will facilitate student mobility, including moving the academic calendar to allow a September intake. Before ending her remarks, Assoc. Prof. Hambali expressed her thanks to participants for working together and improving the programme, and expressed her hope for a fruitful meeting.
6. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Piniti Ratananukul, Deputy Secretary-General, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand provided welcome remarks to the meeting. Assoc. Prof. Piniti extended his warm welcome to participants and expressed his wish that the meeting's fruitful discussion would further develop the M-I-T Student Mobility Programme. Assoc. Prof. Piniti expressed his hope that through collaboration, delegates could work to overcome obstacles such as misaligned academic calendars and complicated immigration procedures. Assoc. Prof. Piniti concluded his remarks by expressing his sincere thanks to meeting participants for their active participation.

DISCUSSION

7. The Meeting took note of the overview of the M-I-T Student Mobility Programme and video presentation provided by Prof. Supachai. The presentation is shown as Annex 3.
8. Dr. Sailah presented Indonesia's M-I-T Country Report on Current Status and its Future Direction. The meeting noted that the programme is underway and supported by Indonesia as part of the internationalisation of the higher education system. The Meeting also took note of the updated number of participating students, problems and obstacles, recommendations and proposed plan for 2011. The presentation is shown as Annex 4.
9. Assoc. Prof. Hambali presented the Malaysian M-I-T Country Report, noting that inbound mobility to Malaysia is high, but with limited outbound mobility at this stage. The Meeting also took note of the updated number of participating students, problems and obstacles, recommendations and proposed plan for 2011. The presentation is shown as Annex 5.
10. Assoc. Prof. Piniti presented Thailand's M-I-T Country Report, noting Thailand's ongoing commitment to the programme. The Meeting also took note of the updated number of participating students, problems and

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obstacles, recommendations and proposed plan for 2011. The presentation is shown as Annex 6.

PRIME MINISTER COURTESY CALL

11. Participants of the meeting made a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister, at Royal Thai Government House. H.E. Mr. Abhisit stated his support of the programme, emphasising the importance of people to people connections in building the ASEAN Community, and how the programme facilitates this need. He also spoke of the benefit it provides to young people, to learn about similarities and diversities in the cultures of the ASEAN nations. H.E. Mr. Abhisit's remarks are shown as Annex 7.
12. Mr. Chaiyos Chirametakorn, Deputy Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, oversaw a certificate ceremony. Mr. Chaiyos conferred a Certificate of Appreciation to representatives from participating HEIs. He also conferred Certificates of Attendance to attending students of the M-I-T Student Mobility Programme. Mr. Chaiyos' remarks are shown as Annex 8.

GROUP DISCUSSION

13. Upon the group returning the Meeting at the Amari Watergate, Prof. Supachai led a consultation process to review recommendations gathered from programme stakeholders, for improvements to the programme. After robust discussion, the Meeting agreed on the following eight recommendations:

Recommendation 1 Student Numbers

Aim for 2,500 student exchanges under this programme by the end of 2015, and the programme to expand to include at least 10 disciplines and the 10 ASEAN countries.

In order to obtain commitment from all ASEAN countries, SEAMEO RIHED will prepare a proposal for the 5th Director General, Secretary General, Commissioners of Higher Education in Southeast Asia Meeting, to be held in March in Nha Trang, Vietnam.

Recommendation 2 Selection Criteria:

Minimum duration one semester (usually 15-19 weeks). Home Higher Education Institution is advised to recruit students with a minimum of TOEFL 500 / TEFL 5.0 (or equivalent and a GPA 3.0).

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It is noted that this is a guideline, in cases where these guidelines should be overlooked the home Higher Education Institution should send the explanation to the host Higher Education Institution for their consideration.

Recommendation 3 Medical:

Each student must have medical insurance as organised by the home government.

SEAMEO RIHED shall compile and share a list of required medical tests. Each country shall honour the medical test provided by the public hospital of the sending country and students must not be asked to take tests again.

Recommendation 4 Exchange manual:

The Ministry responsible for higher education in each country shall develop a student exchange manual and make it available on Ministry and Higher Education Institution websites.

Recommendation 5 Visa:

Host Higher Education Institution shall issue a Letter of Acceptance prior to departure to assist students with applying for the visa. Information regarding timelines for Application Forms will be posted on Higher Education Institution websites to inform students.

Additionally, governments shall attempt to expedite the visa process.

Recommendation 6 Credits:

All academic units obtained must be credited back to home Higher Education Institution.

The number of credit hours may vary subject to the home country requirements, but usually be between 9 and 15 hours.

Recommendation 7 Coordinator:

Ministry responsible for higher education in each country shall appoint a Country Coordinator to act as a focal point for mobility in the country.

The Ministry shall ask each Higher Education Institution to appoint a University Coordinator for each University.

Recommendation 8 Results

Scores from all courses undertaken at host university should be submitted to the home university within three weeks of student's final examination.

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Recommendation 9 Biannual Review Meeting:

A Review Meeting shall be held each 6 months, hosted on a rotating basis. University Representatives should join every meeting in order to follow up on the commitments of the meeting.

DAY TWO

14. Prof. Supachai provided a review of the first day's proceedings, highlighting the eight agreed recommendations emerging from the floor. Prof. Supachai also advised delegates that an M-I-T progress report and expansion proposal would be tabled at the upcoming 5th Director General, Secretary General, Commissioners of Higher Education in Southeast Asia Meeting to be held in Nha Trang, Vietnam. The presentation is included as Annex 9.
15. Dr. Sailah extended the offer of the Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Republic of Indonesia to host the 2nd M-I-T Review Meeting. The meeting will be held in the second week of June 2011 in Bali, Indonesia
16. Assoc. Prof. Hambali extended an offer on behalf of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, to host the 3rd M-I-T Review Meeting which will be held in December 2011 in Penang, Malaysia.

I AWARD

17. The Meeting took note of the Internationalisation Award (I Award) Video and presentation provided by Prof. Supachai. The Meeting took note that the objective of the I Award is to facilitate effective international mobility by recognising and disseminating examples of good practice by International Relations Officers. The presentation is included as Annex 10.
18. The meeting took note that the I Award would be assessed by a committee of expert practitioners from the three countries. Delegates took part in a group exercise to provide feedback and suggestions on the proposed assessment criteria for the award. Prof. Supachai thanked all participants sincerely for their active participation in the activity. He advised delegates that the feedback they provided would be used by the Assessment Committee during their first meeting, to be held 24-26 April 2011, in Jakarta, Indonesia, hosted by the Directorate General Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Indonesia. The feedback is included as Annex 11.

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CONCLUDING REMARKS

19. Prof. Supachai thanked participants of the meeting for their active participation. He also thanked staff of the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand for their hard work in preparing the meeting and to Assoc. Prof. Piniti for championing the meeting. Prof. Supachai gave special thanks to the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand for acting as host.
20. Assoc. Prof. Piniti thanked participants for their valuable inputs which are valuable and beneficial for the development of the MIT meeting in the future. He also thanked staff of both SEAMEO RIHED and the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand.
21. Tokens of appreciation were exchanged between Assoc. Prof. Zarida BT Hambali, Director of Academic Development Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia; Dr. Illah Sailah Director of Learning and Student Affairs, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Republic of Indonesia; Assoc. Prof. Piniti Ratananukul, Deputy Secretary-General, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand, and Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, Acting Director of SEAMEO RIHED.
22. Meeting delegates departed for study visits to Thai Universities including Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, Kasetsart University and Thammasat University.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

23. The meeting was held in the traditional spirit of SEAMEO friendship, solidarity and cooperation.