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During the 6th/2001 regular meeting of the Council of University Presidents of Thailand (CUPT) on 22 December 2001, a resolution was reached to forge closer collaboration with the Malaysian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (MVCC) with the aim of further enhancing the quality of higher education in the two countries.

As a follow-up action on the resolution, SEAMEO RIHED and CUPT co-organised the First Meeting of Thai University Presidents and Malaysian University Vice-Chancellors/Rectors on 31 October - 1 November 2002 at J.W. Marriott Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by 43 university administrators (21 from Thailand and 22 from Malaysia), the Director of SEAMEO RIHED, and the Secretary General of CUPT.

In his opening address, Prof. Dr. Voradej Chandarason, the Permanent Secretary for University Affairs and Chairperson of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board pointed out that global wealth and competitiveness depended very much on advancement of technology, with knowledge, skills, innovation, and resourcefulness as additional critical factors for social and economic development.

(Con’t P.5)
Higher education administrators who were participants in the *Revitalizing Higher Education Management Program* made a visit to SEAMEO RIHED on 20 August 2002.

The second international forum on education reform: Key factors in effective implementation

2-5 September 2002, The Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok

H.E. Mr. Pongpol Adireksarn, Minister of Education, Thailand delivering his Opening Address at the above conference, co-organised by SEAMEO RIHED.

Twelve participants from Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam attended the two and a half month course on Quality Assurance in Higher Education organised by the University of Twente in the Netherlands.

Farewell Party on 4 September 2002 at the Classic Place Hotel, Bangkok, for Ms. Jacqueline Berg, a Canadian Intern who served her internship at SEAMEO RIHED from March - September 2002.

Group photo of 10 delegates from Dali College, P. R. China and RIHED’s Director when the group visited SEAMEO RIHED on 22 July 2002.

International Programme on Higher Graduate Diploma in Higher Education Management

At Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, Director of SEAMEO RIHED lecturing as a guest speaker on the topic of “Changes and Innovations in Higher Education” to the participants in the HGDP Program on 17 September 2002.
THE 8th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBALISATION AND LOCALISATION ENMESHD: SEARCHING FOR A BALANCE IN EDUCATION

18-21 November 2002, Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, SEAMEO RIHED Director delivering his address to conference participants.

Panel discussion on Local Knowledge and Wisdom in Globalization: Past Experiences and Future Trends.

SECOND TASK FORCE WORKSHOP ON IT PROGRAMME FOR GMS VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY PILOT PROJECT

29-31 October 2002, Sukhothai Thammamathirat Open University, Nonthaburi, Thailand

Group photo of participants with (seated from left to right) Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, SEAMEO RIHED Director; Dr. Arief S. Sadiman, SEAMEO Secretariat Director; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tong-In Wongsothorn, STOU President; Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, MUA; Dr. Susanne Ornager, UNESCO; and Prof. Wang Yibing, UNESCO.

Dr. Susanne Ornager of UNESCO delivering her opening address.

THE SECOND REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TEACHER EDUCATION “IMPROVING QUALITY OF TEACHER EDUCATION”

6-8 December 2002, Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Usanee Yodyingyuda, Vice-President of Research Affairs, Chulalongkorn University delivering her opening address.

The 10th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting took place on 9-10 September 2002 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, Yangon, Myanmar. It was attended by all of the ten board members from the SEAMEO member countries; the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat; the Director of SEAMEO RIHED; and representatives of UNESCO Bangkok, ASAIHL, AUAP, the Ministry of Education, Malaysia, and the Ministry of University Affairs, Thailand.

The opening ceremony was presided over by H.E. U Than Aung, the Minister of Education, Myanmar who also delivered his opening address in which he expressed his welcome to all board members and those who attended the meeting, and wished the 10th Governing Board Meeting every success. Following his address, four distinguished persons were invited to make their remarks; Prof. Dr. Voradej Chandarasorn, the Permanent Secretary for University Affairs, Thailand and Chairperson of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board; Dr. Arief S. Sadiman, the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat; Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, the Director of SEAMEO RIHED; and Prof. Dr. Soe Yin, the Rector of the University of Yangon. The ceremony concluded with the VCD presentation of the speech by H.E. Mr. Suwit Khunkitti, the SEAMEO Council President and Minister of Education, Thailand.

Six new governing board members attended this meeting. They were: Prof. Dr. Voradej Chandarasorn, the Permanent Secretary for University Affairs, Thailand who is the new Chairperson of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board; Dr. Haji Kassim bin Haji Daud, of Brunei Darussalam; Mr. Chanh Pounsavath, of Lao PDR; Dr. Manuel Punzal, of the Philippines; and Prof. Dr. Banh Tien Long, of Vietnam.

During the course of the meeting, the Governing Board made decisions on the following:
2. Approval of the Centre’s proposed Annual Budget and the 2002/2003 Calendar of SEAMEO RIHED Activities;
3. Approval of the Centre’s organisation and involvement in three training projects/programmes;
4. Approval of the Centre’s organisation and involvement in two workshops and three regional seminars/meetings;
5. Approval of the Centre’s organisation and involvement in three research projects.

The Board accepted with appreciation the offer from the Philippine Board Member to hold the 11th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting in the Philippines.
Higher education, in this regard, played a pivotal role in making possible the goal of bringing about the well-being and quality of life of the people. Since Thailand and Malaysia both wanted to strengthen higher education to support their social and economic development, and since higher education in Malaysia and Thailand shared many common concerns and a number of collaborative programmes and activities between universities of the two countries already existed, this was truly an auspicious occasion that the MVCC and the CUPT sought to establish their cooperation on a formal basis. This would be a good starting point for closer cooperation between the two countries that would bring mutual benefits.

Activities of the two-day meeting included presentation of a paper on “Universities in Thailand: Policies, Thrusts, and Issues” by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavich Tongroach, President of CUPT; presentation of a paper on “Universities in Malaysia: Policies, Thrusts, and Issues” by Tan Sri Prof. Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Abu Hassan Othman, Chairperson of MVCC; and a roundtable discussion on exchange programmes, joint degree programmes, credit transfer mechanisms, development programmes for junior administrative officers, and a seminar on “Thai-Malaysian Higher Education 2003”.

The culminating point of the Meeting was the signing of the Joint Declaration of the Council of Thai University Presidents and the Malaysian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee. In the Joint Declaration, CUPT and MVCC agreed to regularly consult each other to jointly work out collaborative programmes and activities which would cover, at this initial phase, the following:

1. Student exchange programme;
2. Senior university administrator exchange programme;
3. Academic or research staff exchange programme;
4. Joint degree programme;
5. Credit transfer mechanism;
6. Junior administrative officer development programme;
7. Joint seminars and conferences.

A Group Photo of Thai University Presidents and Malaysian University Vice-Chancellors/Rectors with Prof. Dr. Voradej Chandarasom, Chairperson of SEAMEO RIHED and Permanent Secretary for University Affairs.
Meeting on Restructuring Higher Education Institutions in Some Selected Asian Countries
14 - 15 November 2002, Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Since even before the start of the new millennium many higher education institutions have undergone changes in order to enable themselves to better cope with the new demands on higher education and to operate more effectively and efficiently. Changes that have occurred initially on a small scale have, in time, cumulatively modified rather dramatically the operation of higher education institutions and eventually led to restructuring, or changes in both governance and management, of the institutions. At the start of the 2002-2003 fiscal year the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) and SEAMEO RIHED launched a research project entitled, Research on Restructuring Higher Education Institutions in Southeast Asia with the aim of analysing and comprehending the restructuring processes that have taken place within higher education institutions in Southeast Asia and their effects both from macro and institutional points of view.

As an activity of the research project, the Meeting on Restructuring Higher Education Institutions in Some Selected Asian Countries was co-organised by IIEP and SEAMEO RIHED on 14-15 November 2002 at the Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand with the major objective of discussing the research proposal and the methodology for carrying out the case studies. The Meeting was attended by eight representatives (two university presidents and six senior faculty members) from the five participating Asian universities as follows: Dr. Nizam and Prof. Dr. Ir. Sahid Susanto from Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia; Y. Bhg. Datuk Prof. Dr. Anuwar bin Ali and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yahaya from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; Prof. Dr. Badarch Dendeviin from Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Mongolia; Assoc. Prof. Banterng Suwantragul from King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand; and Prof. Dr. Nguyen Vien Tho and Prof. Dr. Huynh Dinh Chien from Hue University, Vietnam. In addition, Dr. Manit Boonprasert from Rangsit University, Thailand participated as an observer.

The discussion during the two-day course of the meeting, led by Dr. N.V. Varghese of IIEP who served as the academic coordinator of the Project, resulted in agreement on the following points that would pave the way for further activities of the Project:
1. Identification of major areas of investigation during the research phase;
2. Development of a common framework for the case studies;
3. Determination of the logistics, including the funding of the case studies;
4. Determination of implementation schedules for the case studies.

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Upcoming Activities

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Workshop on ICT for GMS Virtual University

SEAMEO RIHED wishes all readers a very Happy New Year 2003

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