The Regional Seminar on "Natural Resources and Environmental Management in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: The Role of Higher Education in Policy Design and Implementation"
15-17 January 2006
at Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand

The Brain Storming Session on Next Steps Forward: Expectations and Key Success Factors - A Case of SEAMEO RIHED
15 February 2006
at Prof. Dr. Wichit Srisa-an Conference Room, Commission on Higher Education Building, Thailand

16-18 February 2006
at Chiangrai Rajabhat University, Chiang Rai, Thailand

Study Visit to the United Kingdom for Senior Staff of Thai Universities
21-26 May 2006, the United Kingdom
**Message from the Centre Director**

First of all, I would like to warmly welcome all the readers to the May 2006 issue of SEAMEO RIHED Bulletin “SEAMEO RIHED: Your Partner in Higher Education.” In this issue, we provide our readers with the summary of our activities throughout the past 4 months. As crucial as our projects and activities was the 13th Anniversary of SEAMEO RIHED, in which we organised “The Brain Storming Session on Next Steps Forward: Expectations and Key Success Factors - A case of SEAMEO RIHED” to gather the information and to learn about expectations of those working with us. Also, one of the highlights of our activities these past months was “The Study Visit to the United Kingdom for Senior Staff of Thai Universities”, in cooperation with the International Training, Research and Education Consortium (InTREC). We also co-hosted two other activities for the development of Greater Mekong Sub-region with Mae Fah Luang University and Chiangrai Rajabhat University, under the titles “The Regional Seminar on Natural Resources and Environmental Management in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: The Role of Higher Education in Policy Design and Implementation” and “International Conference on Strengthening Partnership among Academic and Development Institutions: New Dimensions of Social Cultural and Economic Cooperation in Upper Greater Mekong Sub-region”, respectively.

The upcoming events are no less important. The 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 and the Regional Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education in Asia during 24-28 July 2006 in Vientiane, Lao PDR are lined up. In September 2006, we plan to complete two research projects, namely “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.” These two research projects will provide the core basis for further discussion in the “Regional seminar on University Governance and Cyber University”, which will be held in 2007.

Finally, should our readers require further information about our activities or wish to comment on our bulletin, please feel free to contact us. We would be very happy to receive comments or enquiries from you and shall join you in your endeavor to make this region better and stronger.

**VISITS & LINKAGES**

With the close relationship between SEAMEO RIHED and Dali University, Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabha, SEAMEO RIHED Director and Centre staff extended a warm welcome to Dr. Wang Yi, Chairman of Dali University Commission, Mr. Li Xiang, Vice President of Dali University for International Relations and delegation at SEAMEO RIHED Office on 8 February 2006. The distinguished guests were updated on the Higher Education System in Thailand and the progress of SEAMEO RIHED projects. Coordinated by SEAMEO RIHED, the delegations also visited Assumption University on 9 February 2006.
The Brain Storming Session on Next Steps Forward: Expectations and Key Success Factors - A Case of SEAMEO RIHED

Participants, consisted of both previous and current supporters and benefactors of SEAMEO RIHED, were the Director and Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, Executive Director of FULBRIGHT (Thailand), Secretary-General of ASAIHL, APEID Coordinator of UNESCO Bangkok Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Former Director and Former staff of SEAMEO RIHED, Representative of Lao PDR Embassy in Thailand, Representative of Bureau of International Cooperation Strategy, Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand, and other distinguished guests.

The 13th Anniversary of SEAMEO RIHED
The Brain Storming Session on Next Steps Forward: Expectations and Key Success Factors - A Case of SEAMEO RIHED

The Brain Storming on Next Steps Forward: Expectations and Key Success Factors - A Case of SEAMEO RIHED was held on 15 February 2006 at Prof. Wichit Srisa-an Conference Room, Commission on Higher Education Building in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was organised to mark the 13th Anniversary of SEAMEO RIHED and to invite those who has been in close contact with the Centre from the very beginning to share their concerns and expectations.
During 21-26 May 2006, SEAMEO RIHED and the International Training, Research and Education Consortium (InTREC) organised the educational visit to the United Kingdom. The aims were to provide an opportunity for senior university administrators in Thailand:

1) to understand the policies and practices of university management;
2) to understand recent and current developments in university management and their applicability in relation to universities in Thailand and
3) to further develop aspects of the leadership and management skills of the participants.

The contents of the study visit were divided into 2 parts. The first part dealt with the issues in managing and leading a university, including such issues as UK higher education, IT and E-learning in higher education, commercial and income-generating activities, strategy and leadership in higher education, university financial management, approaches to student acceptance, university autonomy and its implications to university management, strategic planning, university marketing and innovation management and so on. The second part was basically structured visits to universities in the UK.
The structured visits to universities included the visits to King’s College London, University of London; The University of Birmingham; Higher Education Policy Institute, Oxford; Oxford University; University of Central England, Technology Innovation Centre of the University of Central England and lastly, Schiller University, as an example of a private university in the UK.

The senior administrators from both public and private universities and institutions in Thailand had the opportunity to learn more about university governance, management styles, and new issues and concerns in higher education in the UK from different types of universities and higher education institutions.

More information about the study visit can be accessed on the presentation at http://www.rihed.seameo.org/NewsandEvents/UKstudy.pdf. The next educational visit programmes, SEAMEO RIHED is in the process to provide two Educational Visit trips: “Study Visit to United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Administrator of Thai and other Southeast Asian Universities” on May 2007, and Study Visit to United States of America for Senior Administrator of Thai and other Southeast Asia Universities in 2008 for more information you can look up Page 8 or can be accessed at http://www.rihed.seameo.org.
The Regional Seminar on “Natural Resources and Environmental Management in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: The Role of Higher Education in Policy Design and Implementation” was held at Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand during 15-17 January 2006. There were 131 participants from 12 countries, with 21 international participants, including 15 representatives from GMS countries.

The event was organised by Mae Fah Luang University and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand with the support of Asia Research Center, Asia Science and Education for Economics Development Institute (AsiaSEED), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Thailand-U.S. Educational Foundation (Fulbright) and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED).

The key objectives of the seminar were to discuss the requirements for effective policy design and implementation of NREM in the GMS, and to identify the research and urgent training needs and activities required for capacity building. These trainings and activities are to be carried out by a new university network - the GMS University Network on Natural Resources and Environmental Management (GMS/UniNet on NREM) - which is to be established after the seminar with the support from national, regional, and international organisations and sponsors.
The International Conference on “Strengthening Partnership among Academic and Development Institutions: New Dimensions of Social Cultural and Economic Cooperation in Upper Greater Mekong Sub-region” was held during 16-18 February 2006 at the Rim Kok Resort Hotel, Chiang Rai, Thailand. The conference was hosted by the Center for Study of Economic, Social and Cultural Development in Upper Greater Mekong Sub-region, Chiangrai Rajabhat University, and supported by Institute of Social Science in Ho Chi Minh City, Yunnan Nationalities University, Yuxi Teachers College, Australian Special Research Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, National Research Council of Thailand, Economic branch, Office of the National Research Council of Thailand and SEAMEO RIHED.

The main objectives of the conference were to bring together scholars, experts and practitioners, NGOs, members of the academic community, government and intergovernmental organisations to exchange their ideas, viewpoints and understanding with regard to the issues facing the Greater Mekong Sub-region Countries.

The event was very successful with lessons learned from the conference which will make a positive impact for future cooperation among academia, researchers and grass-root organisations within the GMS countries.
CALL FOR PARTICIPATIONS

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

Organisers : SEAMEO RIHED, together with the kind cooperation from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia

Objectives : 1) to update the university administrators as well as those 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 interested parties.

Date and Venue : This 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 this regional 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 and 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 in a University, Innovation, Marketing of a University and University Financial Management

Call for Participation : Senior Staff and High Level University Administrators from Thailand and the other Southeast Asian Countries

For more information, please contact:
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