Message from the Centre Director
Professor Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas

Greetings from SEAMEO RIHED and Happy New Year 2011!

Over the past four months from September to December 2010, SEAMEO RIHED organised The 18th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting and The Back to Back Regional Seminar on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Southeast Asian Countries during 21-22 September 2010, Bangkok, Thailand. In close collaboration with Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, SEAMEO RIHED held The M-I-T Student Mobility Programme Review Meeting during 27-28 September 2010 at Putrajaya Internation Convention Centre (PICC), Putrajaya, Malaysia.

With the kind cooperation of the International Training Research and Education Consortium (InTREC), the 4th SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Programme: An Intensive Course on Managing Universities at University of Cambridge was organized during 24-31 October 2010. The intensive course was designed for senior administrators to learn more on university management of Cambridge University.

In November 2010, SEAMEO RIHED presented three important working papers: 1) Harmonisation of Higher Education in Southeast Asia, 2) the M-I-T Pilot Project on Promoting Student Mobility in Southeast Asia, and 3) Internationalisation Award at the 33rd SEAMEO High Official Meeting, held 22-24 November 2010 at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok.

On 26-27 November 2010, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand, ASEAN University Network (AUN), and SEAMEO RIHED co-hosted The First Conference on Pioneering ASEAN Higher Education Research Clusters at the Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The Conference was attended by approximately 180 participants from Southeast Asian Countries.

For 2011 programmes, SEAMEO RIHED and Office of the Higher Education Commission will hold the M-I-T Student Mobility Programme Review, in the end of January 2011. The other important 2 events are The 5th Meeting Directors General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of higher Education in Southeast Asian Region which will be held in March 2011, and the 4th SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Programme: A Short Course on University Governance and Management. The latter will be held on April 2011 in Los Angeles, USA. Please visit our website at www.rihed.seameo.org to find more details about past and upcoming events!

A very happy new year!
The SEAMEO Secretariat, in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Thailand convened the 33rd SEAMEO High Officials Meeting on 22-24 November 2010 at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

115 Participants were consisted of the representatives from the 10 SEAMEO Member Countries, 2 SEAMEO Associate Members; 2 SEAMEO Affiliate Members and Observer Delegations including the ASEAN Secretariat, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, UNICEF EAPRO, World Bank, and SIL International; and SEAMEO Regional Centres, Network and the Secretariat.

The event had H.E. Assistant Professor Dr. Suebsang Promboon, Vice Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand to deliver the opening speech on behalf of H.E. Mr. Chinnaworn Boonyakiat, Minister of Education, Thailand. Mr. Rizalino D Rivera, Undersecretary for Regional Operations, Department of Education, the Philippines, the Chair of the 32nd SEAMEO High Officials Meeting gave the Opening Remarks.

The Highlighted agendas of the 33rd SEAMEO High Officials Meeting were “The outputs of the SEAMEO Strategic Planning Workshops”, “SEAMEO-World Bank Project on Mother Tongue, Phase 2: Enhancing Awareness and Building the Capacity of SEAMEO in Establishing Mother Tongue-based Multilingual Education (MLE) Programmes in Southeast Asia” and “Progress Report by Lead Countries on the Collaborative Projects to Reach the Unreached in Southeast Asia and Achieve Education for All (EFA) Goals by 2015”.

SEAMEO RIHED three working papers were presented. Those are: 1) Progress Report on SEAMEO RIHED’s Project towards Regional Harmonisation of Higher Education in Southeast Asia, 2) SEAMEO RIHED’s Progress Report on the M-I-T Pilot Project on Promoting Student Mobility in Southeast Asia, and 3) SEAMEO RIHED’s Proposal on Internationalisation Award.

The 5th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED), the ASEAN Plus 3 Senior Officials Meeting, and the ASEAN GCC Consultative Meeting on Education were also convened back to back with the event, during 24-25 November 2010. The next SEAMEO annual meeting will be the 46th SEAMEO Council Conference to be hosted by Brunei Darussalam in January 2011.

**DAAD-IIEP Seminar on Governance Reforms in Higher Education**

9 November 2010 at the German-Vietnamese Centre in Hanoi

Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Senior Advisor of SEAMEO-RIHED had invited by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP, UNESCO) to present outlined questions to current governance reforms in Thailand in the DAAD-IIEP Seminar on Governance Reforms in Higher Education, held 9 November 2010 at the German-Vietnamese Centre, Hanoi, Vietnam.
The M-I-T Student Mobility Programme Review Meeting
27-28 September 2010 at PICC, Putrajaya, Malaysia.

With the kind cooperation of Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, the M-I-T Student Mobility Programme Review Meeting was held on 27 and 28 September 2010 at Putrajaya Internation Convention Centre (PICC), Putrajaya, Malaysia.

The Meeting was attended by 41 delegates from Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, Directorate General of Higher Education, Indonesia, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand, as well as representatives from participating Higher Education Institutions from the M-I-T countries, SEAMEO RIHED Director and Staff.

The first day was a Policy Dialogue that three countries presented their Country Report on Status and Challenges. The key persons from three countries were Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zarida Hambali, Director of Academic Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia; Dr. Wayah Surya Wirto, from Binus University, Indonesia and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phihat Ratananukul, Deputy Secretary General, The Office of Higher Education Commission, Thailand. They presented their country reports and overview of the M-I-T Programme from their countries perspective countries. Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, Director of SEAMEO RIHED was a moderator of the meeting.

The second day, Y.B. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister of Higher Education, Malaysia officially opened the soft launch of the M-I-T Mobility Programme in the morning. For the afternoon session, there was group discussions, divided into 6 groups by five selected disciplines and types of participating bodies such as governmental officials and universities' IROs.

The meeting reflected 3 policy recommendations as follows:

1. **Unified Grading System - CTS**
   A consistent framework of Credit Transfer System (CTS) will help both university administrators and students. This issue will be tabled into the 5th Director General/Secretary General/Commissioners of Higher Education Meeting.

2. **Expansion to include more countries**
   The forum should invite other countries to take part in the mobility programme, including China, Japan and Korea. The United States of America is also interested in joining the project. Other potential participants will be invited at the 5th Director General/Secretary General/Commissioners of Higher Education Meeting.

3. **Quality Assurance**
   The importance of quality assurance needs to be further discussed at the policy level.

Thailand proposed to host the next review meeting in Thailand during 31 January 2011 and 1 February 2011, and that the next review meeting’s agenda include site-visit to three HEI’s located in Bangkok.
The First Conference on Pioneering ASEAN Higher Education Research Clusters

26 – 27 November 2010
Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

The First Conference on Pioneering ASEAN Higher Education Research Clusters (hereafter referred to as the Conference) was held from 26-27 November 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand, at the Amari Watergate Hotel.

The Conference was attended by approximately 180 participants, including the Deputy Director General of Higher Education Cambodia, Director General of Higher Education Indonesia, Director General of Higher Education Laos PDR, Deputy Director General of Higher Education the Republic of Myanmar (Lower Myanmar), Commissioner of Higher Education the Philippines, Secretary General of Higher Education Thailand, and Deputy Director General of Higher Education Vietnam, as well as country representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Singapore. Thailand's Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Deputy Minister of Education also attended. The Conference was also attended by the Deputy Director of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisations (SEAMEO) Secretariat, the Director of SEAMEO Regional Institute for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED), the Executive Director of the ASEAN University Network (AUN), the Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Institutions of Higher Learning. Senior officers of the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Thailand, AUN and SEAMEO RIHED also participated. Other guests included senior academic and administration officers from Higher Education Institutions.

At the OPENING CEREMONY, Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, Secretary-General of the Office of the Higher Education Commission and Chair of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board warmly welcomed H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Chinnaworn Boonyakiat, Minister of Education Thailand, H.E. Mr. Chaiyos Chirametakorn, Deputy Minister of Education Thailand, members of the ASEAN diplomatic corps, distinguished speakers and participants. Dr. Sumate provided background to the Conference, stating that it emerged from the 4th Directors General/Secretary General/Commissioner of Higher Education Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia in March 2010. Dr. Sumate offered Thailand’s expertise and leadership in the area of research visibility, detailing the recent establishment of the Thai Citation Index, and the increasing profile of Thai researches.
He suggested that the profile of ASEAN researches could be built through cooperation and the establishment of research platforms. Dr. Sumate expressed his certainty that with the synergies of ASEAN, cooperating nations will be at the forefront of knowledge, and generate knowledge to serve the needs of ASEAN nations. Dr Sumate also extended his gratitude to staff at the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand for organising the conference, and SEAMEO RIHED and ASEAN University Network (AUN) as co-organisers. Dr. Sumate also conveyed his sincere thanks to the Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Deputy Minister of Education for attending in the conference.

H.E. Mr. Chinnaworn Boonyakiat, Minister of Education, Thailand delivered welcoming remarks. Mr. Chinnaworn warmly welcomed delegates and guests to the First Conference on Pioneering ASEAN Higher Education Research Clusters. Mr. Chinnaworn identified the challenges of intensification of competition, detailing how university research could generate new bodies of knowledge and develop human resources and socio-economic development. Mr Chinnaworn detailed the benefits of cooperation through synchronising research, in that members can pool resources, share facilities and exchange human resources for the benefit and prosperity of the region as a whole. Mr. Chinnaworn expressed his gratitude to the Director Generals, Secretary Generals and Commissioner on Higher Education and distinguished guests for participating in conference.

H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand delivered opening remarks. He detailed his aspiration to synergise ASEAN’s research strengths, in order to reach the goal of the ASEAN community by 2015. Mr. Abhisit affirmed the Royal Thai Government’s strong commitment to support and accelerate the development of university research nationwide, to enhance national competitiveness. He also indicated the Thailand’s goal to link up research across the ASEAN region and encouraged participants to begin that discussion over the course of this conference. He noted that ASEAN has many outstanding researchers, but the impact of their resource needs to be strengthened. Mr Abhisit concluded by thanking the organisers and declared opened the First Conference on Pioneering ASEAN Higher Education Research Clusters.

The Heads of Delegation from ASEAN member countries signed the Joint Statement on Promoting ASEAN Higher Education Research Clusters, with Honorary Witnesses H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Chinnaworn Boonyakiat, Minister of Education, H.E. Mr. Chaiyos Jiarmentakorn, Deputy Minister of Education and H.E. Brunei Darussalam’s Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. Cambodia’s Ambassador to Thailand and H.E. Indonesia’s Attache (Education) to Thailand.
The 18th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting was convened at the Office of Higher Education Commission, Bangkok, Thailand during 21-22 September 2010.

The Meeting was attended by members of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board from Lao PDR, Singapore, and Thailand. Representatives of Governing Board Members from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam were also present along with Secretary General of Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL), the Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, and the Director of SEAMEO RIHED. The representatives from the Office of Higher Education Commission, Thailand, participated in the 18th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting, as observers.

Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, Secretary General, The Office of Higher Education Commission, Thailand and Chairman of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board presented his warmly welcome remark to Board Members and representatives from SEAMEO member countries and also acted as a chair of the meeting.

At the meeting, Professor Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, Director of SEAMEO RIHED, highlighted the role of SEAMEO RIHED in higher education development in Southeast Asia to all governing board members and representatives. The Director of SEAMEO RIHED placed particular emphasis on SEAMEO RIHED’s activities on university governance and management, and harmonisation of higher education in Southeast Asia. He added that this emphasis was in response to the trend of higher education in the region. It is important to raise the skills of their countries workforce, and improving the employability of the workforce of tomorrow. He further elaborated that SEAMEO RIHED has worked tirelessly with member nations, to develop a coordinated approach in areas such as student mobility programme, regional credit transfer and quality assurance systems with the aim for member nations to progress towards a connected ASEAN Community by 2015.

He stressed the successful implementation of the M-I-T (Malaysia-Indonesia-Thailand) Student Mobility Programme, and also noted that a Southeast Asian Credit Transfer System is being explored. Most recently Six Key Principles were identified at the Southeast Asian Policy Forum “Regional Credit Transfer System: Lessons Learnt from UCTS”, held in Bangkok in June 2010. He hoped that, the new SEA-CTS will act as a fundamental infrastructure for promoting and facilitating mobility programmes across the sub-region.

Lastly, He also focused on quality assurance in the region. He noted the continuing growth of the quality assurance initiative with contribution of Malaysia’s coordination of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network. He highlighted SEAMEO RIHED’s study of Quality Assurance Models in Southeast Asian Higher Education. This study will provide information on the current state-of-the-art, and assist with the future development of an ASEAN Quality System.

After reviewing the progress of the Centre’s activities implemented in FY 2009/2010, the meeting also discussed a total of 16 working papers and approved the work plan for FY 2010/2011. The 19th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting will be hosted by Ministry of Education, Myanmar. More information on SEAMEO RIHED activities for FY 2010/2011 is available at www.rihed.seameo.org/acts2011.
Regional Seminar on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Southeast Asian Countries

22 September 2010
The Office of Higher Education Commission, Bangkok, Thailand

The back-to-back seminar of SEAMEO RIHED’s Governing Board Meeting has been held annually for six years so far. The past five seminars were focused on the issues of general overview of regional higher education systems (2005 in Thailand), quality assurance (2006 in Cambodia), ICT in university teaching and learning (2007 in Indonesia), university governance (2008 in Lao PDR) and student mobility (2009 in Malaysia). In 2010, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand proposed to co-host the Back-to-Back Regional Seminar in Bangkok, Thailand.

The main objective of the Seminars was to provide the opportunity for high-ranking officials to present updates on aspects of higher education in their respective countries. It allowed seminar participants to learn each countries achievements and challenges, and reflect upon the practices of their own institutions. The seminar gave higher education administrators the opportunity to consider common concerns in regional higher education development, with a focus on quality assurance.

Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, Secretary-General, the Office of Higher Education Commission, Thailand, and Chairman of the Governing Board of SEAMEO RIHED presented his Opening Remarks to 100 participants consisting of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Members or their representatives, staff of Thai government bodies, members of educational networks and administrators and staff from Thai Higher Education Institutions.

With the kind contributions from SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Members, all the presentations in the seminar were delivered by either SEAMEO RIHED’s respective Governing Board Members or their representatives as follow:

1) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Azman bin Ahmad, Assistant Vice Chancellor (New Initiatives and Innovation), Universiti Brunei Darussalam; 2) Mr. You Virak, Deputy Director, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia; 3) Professor Dr. Ir. Nizam, Secretary of Higher Education Board, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Indonesia; 4) Dr. Phonephet Boupha, Director General, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR; 5) Datin Professor Ir. Dr. Siti Hamisah binti Tapsir, Deputy Director General (Private Higher Education Sector), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia; 6) Prof Dr Khin Swe Myint, Pro-Rector, Mandalay University, Myanmar; 7) Dr. Libertad P. Garcia, Director IV, Office of Quality Assurance, Commission on Higher Education, The Philippines; 8) Prof. Tan Oon Seng, Dean of Teacher Education, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; 9) Dr. Varaporn Seehanath, Director of Bureau of Standards and Evaluation, The Office of Higher Education Commission, Thailand; and 10) Mr. Duong Mong Ha, Vice-Head of Quality Assurance Centre, The University of Danang, Vietnam.

Currently, the proceedings of the seminar is available at www.rihed.seameo.org.
The 4th SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Programme: An Intensive Course on Managing Universities at University of Cambridge

24-31 October 2010 at University of Cambridge, The United Kingdom.

With the constantly active cooperation and support from the International Training Research and Education Consortium (InTREC), a study visit to the United Kingdom for Senior University Administrators was organised for the fourth consecutive year. The 4th SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC programme was held 24 to 30 October 2010, with the participation of 25 senior university administrators from both public and private institutions across Thailand.

The 2010 programme was undertaking in the form of an intensive course at the world best university, the University of Cambridge. Lectures were specially designed for the Thai delegation, in the area of Managing Universities in the 21st Century. All participants of this study visit benefited from the mixture of lectures, from prominent senior universities administrators, and also policy makers responsible for UK higher education from Universities UK, British Council (London), and the British Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

The lectures and briefings of the 4th SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Programme included information on the changing role of UK higher education in the 21st Century, the current development of policy, practices of university management, and their applicability in relation to higher education institutions in Thailand. In addition, the programme focussed on how to overcome the change and challenges in the areas of university leadership, strategic planning, the management of teaching and research, university finances and quality assurance.

SEAMEO RIHED has combined notes and presentations and also transcribed lectures delivered by key speakers during each visit, which is currently available at www.rihed.seameo.org.

For more information, please contact:

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