Message from the Centre Director
Associate Professor Dr. Sauwakon Ratanawijitrirasin

Greeting everybody, may I introduce myself, I am Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sauwakon Ratanawijitrirasin. I have been selected Director of SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED) and appointed SEAMEO RIHED’s Acting Director from 15 March 2011. I have served many executive capacities. At Chulalongkorn University, I was appointed Deputy Director of Chula Unisearch; and between 2001 and 2003, I was Deputy Executive Director of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) University Network.

I have started my work with SEAMEO RIHED since January 2011 as Designated Director of SEAMEO RIHED. I attended the SEAMEO Council Conference 2011 in Brunei Darussalam on 26-29 January 2011, with Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, Former Director of SEAMEO RIHED. At the end of January, with the kind cooperation of Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand, the 1st M-I-T Student Mobility Programme Review Meeting was organised during 31 January-1 February 2011. SEAMEO RIHED also proposed the new initiative programme - Internationalisation Award (I Award) Project to the meeting, with the aim to support the mobility of student and staff in the region.


In April 2011, with the kind cooperation of The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), SEAMEO RIHED organised The 4th SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Programme: A Short Course on University Governance and Management during 1-10 April 2011 in Los Angeles and Long Beach, California, USA. SEAMEO RIHED held The 1st I Award Assessment Committee Meeting on 24-26 April 2011, Jakarta, Indonesia, in close collaboration with The Ministry of National Education, Indonesia. In the end of April, SEAMEO RIHED as a researcher team from Thailand presented Thailand Country Paper to The 2nd Workshop on A Comparative Study of Selected Higher Education Systems in Asia, hosted by National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN), Universiti Sains Malaysia on 29-30 April, 2011 in Bangkok. Hope you enjoy reading our report on the achievement of each activity and see you again in the next bulletin in September 2011.
The 46th SEAMEO Council Conference
26-29 January 2011, Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam

With support from the SEAMEO Secretariat, The Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam hosted the 46th SEAMEO Council Conference on 26-29 January 2011 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam.

This annual gathering of Ministers of Education from the 11 SEAMEO Member Countries serves as a forum for policy makers to discuss regional policies and initiatives on higher education, set directions for programmes and projects of SEAMEO and its Units, and review programmes and activities of the organisation. More than 150 participants from 18 countries comprising education ministers, high-level government education officials, and representatives from international organizations from the SEAMEO Member Countries, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, and partners attended the conference.

Highlights of the event included the launch of the Ministerial Round Table Meeting, conduct of a policy forum on the theme "Transformation in Technical Vocational Education", plenary sessions, in-camera session and bilateral meetings. Among others, important resolutions of the SEAMEO Council included the adoption of SEAMEO's strategic plan for the next 10 years (2011-2020), approval of the proposal on the establishment of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning in Vietnam, and acceleration of progress in providing quality Education for All (EFA) in Southeast Asia.

SEAMEO RIHED submitted three reports, firstly, A Progress Report on SEAMEO RIHED’s Project towards Regional Harmonisation of Higher Education in Southeast Asia, secondly, SEAMEO RIHED’s Progress Report on the M-I-T Pilot Project on Promoting Student Mobility in Southeast Asia, and thirdly, SEAMEO RIHED’s Proposal of the Internationalisation Award (I Award).

For more details about the conference please see http://www.seameo.org.

SEAMEO RIHED New Director

Associate Professor Dr Sauwakon Ratanawijitrasin, Acting Director of SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED).

Dr. Sauwakon received her BS in Pharmacy (Mahidol University, Thailand), MA in Public Administration (Thammasat University, Thailand) and PhD in Public Administration (Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, State University of New York at Albany, USA).

She was a Fulbright scholar (1988-1993) and a Takemi Fellow in International Health at Harvard School of Public Health (1995-1996). Her dissertation won the best dissertation award from the U.S. National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) in 1993.

Dr. Sauwakon has served many executive capacities. For example, at Chulalongkorn University, she was appointed Deputy Director of Chula Unisearch, Associate Dean at College of Public Health, Head of Social Pharmacy Unit and Head of Drug Information Service. Between 2001 and 2003, she was Deputy Executive Director of ASEAN University Network (AUN). Dr. Sauwakon has also served as adviser to the Thai Parliamentary Special Commission on National Health Insurance Bill, to the World Health Organisation, as well as other organisations.
With the kind cooperation of Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand, SEAMEO RIHED convened the Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand (M-I-T) Student Mobility Programme Review Meeting during 31 January to 1 February 2011 at the Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

The Meeting was attended by approximately 50 participants, including Dr. Illah Sailah, Director of Learning and Student Affairs, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Republic of Indonesia; Assoc. Prof. Zarida BT Hambali, Director of Academic Development Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Piniti Ratananukul, 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 Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Acting Director. University staff from higher education institutions from 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 Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Thailand; along with staff of SEAMEO RIHED.

In the morning session of the first-day meeting, the Heads of delegation from each country presented their M-I-T Country Report on Current Status and Future Direction. In the afternoon, all participants made a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister, at Royal Thai Government House. H.E. Mr. Abhisit delivered his remarks and stated the Thai government’s support to 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.

Mr. Chaiyos Chirametakorn, Deputy Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, oversaw a certificate ceremony. He 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. 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.

On the second day, the SEAMEO RIHED Acting Director presented the Internationalisation Award (I Award) Project to the meeting. 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 First Meeting of the I Award Assessment Committee and the Second Review Meeting of the M-I-T Student Mobility Programme will be hosted by Ministry of National Education, Republic of Indonesia, tentatively scheduled in September 2011.
As in the field of the international economy, de facto integration and interdependence exist with respect to the internationalization of the higher education system in East Asia. Higher education in East Asia has been developed significantly in terms of quantity with the surge of demand for tertiary education and of increasing regional collaboration and activities. For East Asian universities, cross-border activities include not only student and staff exchanges, but also degree programs such as twinning, double or joint degree programs.

JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI) has conducted a research project named Analysis of Cross-Border Higher Education for Regional Integration and Labor Market in East and Southeast Asia since April 2009. The objectives of this research project are to: 1) explore the current trends of cross-border higher education programs in East Asia; 2) examine whether and how these types of higher education contribute to the development of higher education systems in East Asia and promote regional integration of higher education in the region; and 3) discuss whether and how the cross-border higher education programs are effectively achieving their intended outcomes. The research consists of two parts. Part One is on the region-wide trends of cross-border higher education and Part Two is about the case of cross-border higher education program between Malaysia and Japan, financed by Japanese ODA loans. Four papers are under development and each paper analyzes the data of the new surveys conducted in 2009 to 2010.

The Workshop on Analysis of Cross-Border Higher Education for Regional Integration and Labor Market in East Asia 2011 was organized to report the preliminary research findings and to receive feedback from experts in the region and collaborators on the first day. In the morning of the second day, the multilateral and bi-lateral agencies were invited to provide a speech and discuss the direction of higher education and the roles of cross-border higher education in the development of higher education systems in East Asia.

61 participants in the workshop were high officials who responsible for higher education, university administrators and representatives of regional bodies in Southeast Asia including representatives from JICA-RI and SEAMEO RIHED.
The 5th Meeting of Directors General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region
24-25 March 2011, Nha Trang, Vietnam

The 5th Meeting of Directors General, Secretary General, Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region was co-hosted by the Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam, held during 24-25 March 2011, at the Yasaka Saigon Hotel, Nha Trang Vietnam.

The Meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister of Education, Secretary General, Director General and Deputy Directors General of Higher Education, as well as country representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Directors of AKEPT, SEAMEO RIHED, SEAMEO RETRAC and SEAMOLEC also attended, along with senior representatives from Vietnamese universities, senior officers of the Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam, and SEAMEO RIHED staff.

At the Opening Ceremony, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Bui Van Ga, Deputy Minister of Education and Training, Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam presented his welcome remarks to all delegates. He also expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, Secretary General, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand and Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, Former Director of SEAMEO RIHED, for propelling the progress of higher education development in the Southeast Asian Region. In his Opening Remarks, H.E. Prof. Dr. Bui Van Ga noted that harmonisation of higher education could be strongly promoted in Southeast Asia by mutually identifying concrete future collaborations. Fruitful discussions from the Meeting could become a platform for linking higher education systems between countries and leading to a common space.

In the meeting, SEAMEO RIHED presented a Report on the Progress of the Harmonisation of Higher Education in Southeast Asia, focusing on Student Mobility Enhancement – The M-I-T Student Mobility Project: Door to DECADE of ASEAN Student Mobility, Southeast Asian Quality Assurance Models, and Southeast Asian Credit Transfer Systems (SEA-CTS).

Respective countries presented their progress on higher education collaborations. Malaysia by Dr Sainal Abidin Sanusi, Deputy Director, Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, University of Sains Malaysia presented on Higher Education and Sustainable Development in ASEAN and Assoc Prof Dr Mohd. Majid Konting, Deputy Director Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT) presented on the Executive Leadership Development Programme. Thailand by Dr. Sumate Yamnoon gave a presentation on ASEAN Research Clusters and the ASEAN Citation Index. Indonesia by Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director SEAMEO SEAMOLEC presented on E-Learning and Mobile Learning.

The radical changes in internationalisation of higher education through the promotion of international academic mobility have forced many countries around the world to develop national higher education strategies to attract more international students and staff and send more of their students abroad.

At the regional level, SEAMEO RIHED has promoted mobility of students, academics and administrative staff across Southeast Asia as part of the SEAMEO RIHED Roadmap towards the Process of Harmonisation in Higher Education.

As a result, in 2009, the governments of three countries, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, agreed to collaborate on student mobility in the region, through the M-I-T (Malaysia-Indonesia-Thailand) Student Mobility Programme. SEAMEO RIHED facilitated the launching in 2010 of a successful pilot M-I-T project.

To advance the development of ASEAN Community 2015, the M-I-T Student Mobility Programme is, thus, an important instrument in developing a skilled ASEAN workforce which in the end can lead to the effective circulation of human resources in the region, where qualified graduates, regardless of their nationality, can serve the regional higher demand of free flow of labour and trade.

An International Relations Office (IRO) at Higher Education Institutions (HEI) is a crucial actor in terms of facilitating individual students, academics and administrative staff to be mobile in a systematic and well-designed way. In order to ensure and enhance work efficiency of IROs, I Award has been developed as a supporting tool to foster international climate and respond to a demand of international students and staff.

As a result, the 1st I Award Assessment Committee Meeting was held 24-26 April 2011, in Jakarta Indonesia. The Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Indonesia graciously hosted the event. Government policy makers, director of SEAMEO RIHED and nominated committee members from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Australian Education International participated in the meeting.

The purpose of the Meeting was to consider and finalise the I Award Assessment Instrument. After finalising the instrument, the Committee tested it at two universities to ensure its soundness, at Jakarta State University (UNJ) and National University (UNAS). The Meeting also agreed to hold the 2nd I Award Assessment Committee Meeting back-to-back with the 2nd M-I-T Review Meeting in September 2011, to discuss the assessment process and timelines for the ongoing I Award Project.
SEAMEO RIHED and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) have launched the SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Programme with the aim to provide the opportunity for senior university administrators and members of university councils to participate in professional development activities (The AGB’s 2011 National Conference on Trusteeship). This short course is useful for the participants to broaden their insights and knowledge of recent development in US University Governance. In close consultation with AGB, SEAMEO RIHED organized the 1st, the 2nd and the 3rd educational programme to the USA and took participants from universities and higher education institutions across Thailand to visit the US higher education institutions and take part in the AGB’s National Conference on Trusteeship in 2008, 2009 and 2010, in Boston, San Diego and Los Angeles, respectively.

Again in 2011, SEAMEO RIHED-AGB organised a Short Course on University Governance and Management on University Social Responsibility (USR) and Sustainability during 1-10 April 2011 at Los Angeles and Long Beach, California, USA. The key objectives of the programme were 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.

The AGB’s 2011 National Conference on Trusteeship, the annual meeting of American board members, president, 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.

12 Thai participants from 8 Thai universities joined the programme. They also undertook institutional visit in Los Angeles and Long Beach at the 7 leading higher education institutions of U.S.A., in the topic of university governance and management on university social responsibility and sustainability included 1) University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), 2) California Institute of Technology (Caltech), 3) California State University Long Beach (CSULB), 4) Cerritos College, 5) Loyola Marymount University, (LMU), 6) Chapman University and 7) Los Angeles Community Colleges District Headquarter.

The main output of the event is the report of the 4th SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Programme: A Short Course on University Governance and Management will be completed by late 2011. The report will be share the valuable knowledge about US University Governance and Management on University Responsibility and Sustainability with the public.
Following “The 4th SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Programme: An Intensive Course on Managing Universities at University of Cambridge” during 24-31 October 2010, SEAMEO RIHED had the opportunity to bring 25 senior university administrators from both public and private higher institutions across Thailand to attend an intensive course at the world best university, University of Cambridge.

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 Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).


The objective of the seminar was to share experiences among the participants of the study visit with the Thai senior university administrators on the University Management at University of Cambridge comprising sub-topics, namely 1) Leadership in Universities, 2) Strategic Planning, 3) Management of Teaching and Research, 4) University Finances, 5) Quality Assurance and 6) Commercialising University Science.

The key speakers of the seminar were: 1) Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Senior Advisor, SEAMEO RIHED; 2) Asst. Prof. Ratchat Mongkolnavin, Assistant to the President, Chulalongkorn University; 3) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nathanon Tracho, Vice President for Planning and International Relations, Mahasarakham University; 4) Dr. Sirichai Tanratanawong, Vice President for Policy and Planning, Naresuan University; 5) Asst. Prof. Supatra Kosaiyakanont, Vice-President for Academic and International Affairs, Rajamangala University of Technology Phra Nakhon; 6) Dr. Preeprem Nonthaleerak, Vice President for Planning and Organization Development, Dhurakij Pundit University; 7) Mr. Pornphisud Mongkhonvanit, President, Siam Technology College.

Eighty participants, who are senior administrators of Thai HEIs attended the event. In the seminar, SEAMEO RIHED disseminated to the participants The Report of the 4th SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Programme: an Intensive Course on Managing Universities in the 21st Century at the University of Cambridge. The report can be obtained through www.rihed.seameo.org.

For more information, please contact:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sauwakon Ratanawijitrasis, SEAMEO RIHED Acting Director

If you wish to contribute any comments or information, please contact:
Staff Bulletin: Ms. Wachareeporn Nirlatt, Programme Officer, Ms Ropharath Aphijanyatham, Programme and Research Officer, Mr. Nopporn Kongtharit, IT Officer and Mrs. Pichaya Pansawat, Data Processing Officer

SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED)
5th floor, Office of the Higher Education Commission Building, 328 Sri Ayutthaya Road, Rajthewee, Bangkok 10400 THAILAND Tel: (66) 0-2644 9856-62, 0-2644 5591, Fax: (66) 0-2644 5421, 0-2644 9863
E-mail: rihed@rihed.seameo.org Website – www.rihed.seameo.org