



# Impact Report 1959 — 2019

---



The background of the page is a light-colored, marbled paper with intricate, swirling patterns in shades of grey, white, and cream. The patterns resemble natural stone or watercolor washes.

© SEAMEO RIHED 2019

SEAMEO RIHED is the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization  
Regional Centre specialising in Higher Education and Development.



**SEAMEO RIHED is the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre specialising in higher education and development.**

We work to advance cooperation, alignment and the development of higher education systems in the region of Southeast Asia.

# Message from the Centre Director

---

Dear Friends of SEAMEO RIHED,

This year, RIHED celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary — a significant milestone in our history. While our work has changed over the past six decades, our core approach in higher education has remained: we advance cooperation, alignment and the development of higher education systems in the region of Southeast Asia.

When RIHED began after 1959 as the Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development, it set out to facilitate cooperation and enhance the contributions of higher education to the social and economic development of countries of the region and of the region as a whole. As our regional engagement expanded as a Regional Centre under the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), SEAMEO RIHED has worked towards the harmonisation and creation of a common space in higher education for the region of Southeast Asia.

As the region's partner in higher education, we work to make changes on a systemic, regional scale. We build platforms for national authorities responsible for higher education to work collectively and address key priorities for higher education and development at the regional level.

We develop sustainable networks and mechanisms to engage the region's higher education systems and institutions to facilitate people-to-people connectivity across borders and encourage the development of a mobile, globalised workforce for the region.

We promote effective multilateral collaboration with partners across the world to strengthen and advance Southeast Asian higher education and to help us synergise efforts towards the alignment and continued development of the region's higher education systems.

All of us here at SEAMEO RIHED express our profound gratitude to you and to all others who have, throughout the years, made SEAMEO RIHED what it is today.

With thanks,

The SEAMEO RIHED Centre Director,

Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond.

# **SEAMEO RIHED Today**

Today at SEAMEO RIHED, we strive towards a regional community where individuals can reach their full potential, national higher education systems are aligned and opportunities for mobility and exchanges across borders thrive. At the regional level, our work is also closely aligned with Priority Area 6 (Harmonisation of Higher Education and Research) of the SEAMEO Education Agenda (2015-2035) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education.

We work with SEAMEO Member Countries and partners across the region of Southeast Asia and the world in areas essential to progress in higher education: building policy platforms to support national authorities and higher education leaders in addressing key priorities for the harmonisation of higher education, developing networks and mechanisms to enhance mobility and cross-border connectivity and promoting effective multilateral collaboration to synergise efforts and move forward as one regional community.

## **60 years of RIHED**

The Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development (RIHED) was originally conceived in 1959 and founded in Singapore jointly by UNESCO and the International Association of Universities (IAU) in collaboration with the Ford Foundation. Following a decision to reconstitute RIHED under SEAMEO and through coordinated efforts with the SEAMEO Secretariat, approval was obtained by the Royal Thai Government to host RIHED under the umbrella of SEAMEO in Bangkok, Thailand, where RIHED was re-established in 1993 as the SEAMEO Regional Centre specialising in higher education and development (SEAMEO RIHED).

# Highlights of 2018/2019

2

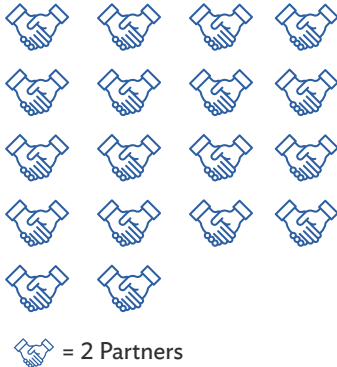
## Policy Platforms

SEAMEO RIHED is committed to further enhancing cooperation and the coordination of efforts at the regional level in higher education through our existing formal policy platforms, which include the annual SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting and the Southeast Asian Higher Education Senior Officials Meeting (SEA-HiEd SOM).



36

## Partner Organisations



4150++

## More than 4150 student exchanges recorded in our flagship Asian International Mobility For Students (AIMS) Programme since 2010



## The AIMS Programme

9

Member Countries

77

Participating Universities

10

Study Fields

## Multilateral Collaboration

SEAMEO RIHED engages partners to pursue intra- and inter-regional collaboration to strengthen higher education in the region. In the past fiscal year, 2018/2019, in addition to our own activities, we co-organised events with partners and were also regularly invited to join and speak at other events around the world.

<b>Total Number of Events</b>	<b>50</b>
● Events Attended	18
● Events Co-organised	8
● Speaking Engagements	24

## University Networks

Our university networks include SEAMEO RIHED's AIMS Programme and the Greater Mekong Subregion University Consortium (GMS-UC) as well as 3 networks established in collaboration with the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC): the ASEAN-China Network for Cooperation and Exchanges among Engineering and Technology Universities (ACNET-EngTech), the ASEAN-China Arts Colleges Alliance (ACACA) and the ASEAN-China Alliance of Private Higher Education Institutions (ACAPHEI).

AIMS Programme — 77 Institutions

GMS-UC — 22 Institutions

ACNET-EngTech — 20 Institutions

ACACA — 19 Institutions

ACAPHEI — 23 Institutions

## Capacity Building

### 5 Workshops

Carried out this past year as part of the Project on Support for Capacity Building of the GMS-UC (Phase I) in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and with support from the Japan Asean Integration Fund (JAIF).

### 5 Countries

Including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

### 4 Areas of Focus

To enhance the capacities of GMS-UC universities across the areas of management and leadership, teaching, research, internationalisation and cross-border higher education.

# Our History

Promoting Higher Education and Development  
in the region

1959



The Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development (RIHED) is conceived jointly by UNESCO and the International Association of Universities (IAU) in collaboration with the Ford Foundation and founded in Singapore with seven Member Countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

According to RIHED's founding documents, an institute was needed to "stimulate and facilitate cooperation among the universities and governments of the region" and enhance the role of higher education for regional development.

Serving 11 Member Countries under  
SEAMEO

1985



A decision is reached in 1985 by the RIHED Governing Board to reconstitute RIHED under the umbrella of SEAMEO and move its temporary office to Bangkok, Thailand, where it would be hosted and funded by the Royal Thai Government.

By 1993 at the 26<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference, RIHED was officially instituted as the SEAMEO Regional Centre specialising in higher education and development, serving the 11 Member Countries of SEAMEO (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam).



## The Road to a Common Space in South-east Asian Higher Education

2005



SEAMEO RIHED introduces a new policy platform with the scope to meet evolving needs for the region. By bringing the region's national authorities and policy makers together, SEAMEO RIHED initiated the first Meeting of Directors General, Secretary General and Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in December of 2005.

Following this platform, SEAMEO RIHED's proposal for "A Structured Framework for Regional Integration in Higher Education in Southeast Asia: The Road towards a Common Space", is endorsed by the 43<sup>rd</sup> SEAMEO Council Meeting in March of 2008.

## Celebrating 60 Years of the Region's Partner in Higher Education

2019



Today, SEAMEO RIHED works together with Member Countries and our partners to strengthen and expand our regional engagement through the promotion of understanding, cooperation and synergy in higher education for regional development. Our strategy is closely oriented towards the evolving role of higher education in societies today and builds on our gains from the past through the work carried out in the harmonisation process of Southeast Asian higher education.

[Learn more about our impact in the region on the following pages >>](#)

# Building Regional Platforms



Then

## A Higher Education Policy Platform for the Region

The development of regional policy platforms has been at the core of SEAMEO RIHED's work. By the early 2000s, there was still no dedicated policy platform for higher education at the regional level.

SEAMEO RIHED saw the opportunity in bringing together national authorities responsible for higher education in Southeast Asia through what is now known as the Southeast Asian Higher Education Senior Officials Meeting (SEA-HiEd SOM), formerly the Meeting of Directors General, Secretary-

General and Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asia.

Since 2005, the SEA-HiEd SOM has provided a crucial platform for Member Countries and collaborative partners to discuss priorities and directions for the harmonisation of Southeast Asian higher education. Today SEAMEO RIHED is guided by these collective decisions and works towards region-wide implementation of priorities identified for the regional harmonisation of higher education.



## Moving towards policy-driven research

In the 2017/2018 fiscal year, SEAMEO RIHED re-articulated its mission to advance cooperation, alignment and the development of higher education systems in the region by creating policy platforms, engaging in policy-driven research and broadening space for information dissemination.

Going forward as a strategic and policy-research driven centre for higher education and development, there is a need to revisit the priorities collectively identified through out policy platforms with a view to current

regional and global agreements in place, namely the SEAMEO 7 Priority Areas and Sustainable Development Goals.

With the region of Southeast Asia increasingly confronted by technological change, social and demographic shifts as well as climate change among other issues, SEAMEO RIHED sees the need to embark on policy-driven research to better inform and help the region navigate the changes and disruption expected in the years ahead.

# Developing Networks and Mechanisms



Then

## Promoting Regional Student Mobility

In Southeast Asia, past efforts to promote mobility were often concentrated among bilateral exchanges between higher education institutions. In addition, a significant portion of student exchanges were typically outward to destinations outside of the region.

SEAMEO RIHED addressed these limitations by developing regional mechanisms for quality assurance and credit transfer and by introducing a regional platform for both national governments and higher education institutions to promote and enhance mobility

in the Southeast Asian region based on academic readiness. Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand (M-I-T) would be the first countries to help launch this platform in 2010 that would come to be known as the Asian International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme.

Today, over 4150 students have participated in exchanges through the AIMS Programme and SEAMEO RIHED continues to promote the regional development of mechanisms to support increasing mobility for the region.



Now

## Enhancing Academic Mobility

SEAMEO RIHED's AIMS Programme is now recognised as a successful multilateral model for the region and has attracted wide interest and participation from countries in the region and beyond. Singapore will join as the 9<sup>th</sup> AIMS Member Country later in 2019 and we hope to include all Southeast Asian nations in the future of AIMS.

With growing interest for the AIMS Programme since 2010, SEAMEO RIHED is also encouraging an expanded focus on the development of digital learning,

such as through Southeast Asian Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) as well as promoting opportunities for curriculum alignment and the development of consortia to encourage both staff and faculty mobility as well as research collaboration based on the existing networks of institutions within each of the discipline areas of the AIMS Programme.

Learn more about our AIMS Programme at: [aims-rihed.net](https://aims-rihed.net).

# Promoting Collaboration



Then

## Connecting the Region

When RIHED began in the mid-twentieth century, there was a need to facilitate cooperation and enhance the contributions of higher education for the development of the region as a whole.

To help facilitate the exposure of higher education institutions in Southeast Asia to innovative higher education practices in other countries and regions and encourage the development of networks and partnerships, we worked with partners to develop a series of international study visit programmes.

Since 2006, we conducted a total of 17 Study Visit Programmes to 6 different countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia, China, Germany and as recently as June 2019 to Japan.

Today, we continue to look for ways and means to promote regional higher education collaboration and development and remain uniquely placed in the region to facilitate cooperation with the region's higher education systems.



Now

## Expanding Collaboration, Narrowing and Bridging Gaps

To move forward as one regional community, we are expanding our collaboration with partners and also implementing a number of capacity building activities for member universities and national governments of the Greater Mekong Subregion University Consortium (GMS-UC) through the project: “Support for Capacity Building of the GMS-UC (Phase 1)”.

Supported by the ASEAN-Secretariat (ASEC) and under the framework of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), this project

aims to provide a platform for the GMS-UC member universities from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to engage in a series of activities and workshops in areas of leadership management, teaching and research and internationalisation through experience sharing.



## **2019 and after**

**SEAMEO RIHED aims to undertake policy-driven research to support higher education and development in the region as well as disseminate findings and encourage the exchange of ideas.**

SEAMEO RIHED will continue to promote the harmonisation and alignment of higher education in Southeast Asia moving forward past 2019. We will continue our work at the system level as well as expand cooperation and collaboration with partners across the region of Southeast Asia and the world.

A major focus coming up at the end of 2019 will be the SEAMEO RIHED Southeast Asian Higher Education (SEA-HiEd) Week. With 5 days of compelling events, engaging experiences, presentations of original research, competitions, exhibition, networking and so much more, our SEA-HiEd Week will bring together a diverse community of inspired and forward-thinking stakeholders in higher education with shared goals of celebrating achievements and progress and drawing new interest for the future of higher education in the region of Southeast Asia and beyond.



---

## Celebrating our Accomplishments

The SEAMEO RIHED  
SEA-HiEd Week

11-15 November 2019

Hotel Nikko | Bangkok, Thailand

---

## New Initiatives

In an effort to both increase the standing and impact of researchers in Southeast Asia and facilitate cooperation for joint-research projects and innovation across the Asia-Pacific region, SEAMEO RIHED is bringing together new and experienced researchers and interested participants through a SEA-HiEd Inter-Regional Research Symposium that will be held in 2019 conjunction with RIHED's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and special SEA-HiEd Week.



# Our Partners

---

## Our work would not be possible without you

- ASEAN-China Centre (ACC)
- ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)
- ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC)
- ASEAN University Network (AUN)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB)
- British Council
- Campus France
- China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre (CDGDC)
- Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Philippines
- European Association for Quality Assurance and Quality Assessment (ENQA)
- EP Nuffic
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- German Rectors' Conference (HRK)
- Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT), Malaysia
- Japan Association of National Universities (JANU)
- Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)
- Korean Council for University Education (KCUE), Republic of Korea
- Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia
- Ministry of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan
- Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR
- Ministry of Education, Myanmar
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand
- Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (MORTHE), Indonesia
- Ministry of Education, Malaysia
- Ministry of Education, Singapore
- Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam
- National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore
- Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA)
- SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres
- Tsukuba University, Japan
- UNESCO Bangkok
- UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (UNESCO IIEP)
- University of Potsdam
- Other Higher Education Institutions

# Thank you

SEAMEO RIHED is grateful to the national governments, international and regional organisations, higher education institutions, colleagues and friends that work with us and enhance our efforts. Throughout the past 60 years, our focus on higher education and development has remained steady. Thank you for helping us to celebrate our achievements.



## **SEAMEO RIHED**

328 Sri Ayutthaya Road, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ratchatewi, Bangkok, 10400,  
Thailand

(+66) 2644 9856-62

[rihed@rihed.seameo.org](mailto:rihed@rihed.seameo.org)

[rihed.seameo.org](http://rihed.seameo.org)