



Your Partner
in Higher Education

Promoting Academic Mobility

SEAMEO RIHED University Networks



*A mobile, globalised
workforce is essential for
the establishment and
future success of the
Southeast Asian region.*

SEAMEO RIHED pursues the development of platforms and mechanisms to encourage academic mobility and the harmonisation of higher education in the region.

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

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Your Partner in Higher Education

SEAMEO RIHED University Networks

AN INTRODUCTION

AIMS

The Asian
International
Mobility for
Students (AIMS)
Programme

SEAMEO RIHED's Asian International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme provides a multilateral platform to promote and enhance student and academic mobility in the region of Southeast Asia and beyond. The Programme currently includes 9 Member Countries, 77 participating higher education institutions and offers exchange opportunities under 10 study fields.

GMS-UC

The Greater
Mekong
Subregion
University
Consortium

24 universities from Cambodia, China (more specifically Yunnan Province and Guangxi Autonomous Region), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam were nominated to form the Greater Mekong Subregion University Consortium (GMS-UC), a regional platform to foster experience sharing and the linking of academic resources to improve quality and excellence of higher education in the GMS.

ACNET-EngTech

The ASEAN-
China Network
for Cooperation
and Exchanges
Among
Engineering
and Technology
Universities

One of the largest regional collaborative networks of top engineering and technology higher education institutions in Southeast Asia and China, the ASEAN-China Network for Cooperation and Exchanges among Engineering and Technology Universities consists of 17 founding members from both China and Southeast Asia.

ACACA

The ASEAN-
China Arts
Colleges
Alliance

Comprised of 19 participating universities, the alliance is expected to open up opportunities to nurture a new generation of internationally competent artists, contribute to opportunities to participate in collaborative research and creation, promote cultural and artistic prosperity, and come up with innovations developing the cultural and artistic industries in the Southeast Asian region and China.

ACAPHEI

The ASEAN-
China Alliance of
Private
Higher Education
Institutions

Established in November 2017 between Chinese and Southeast Asian private higher education institutions to promote educational exchange and cooperation.

About the AIMS Programme

A regional platform to harmonise higher education, enhance people-to-people connectivity and cultivate globalised human resources.



AIMS at a Glance

Launched
2010

Member Countries
9

Institutions
77

In Southeast Asia, past efforts to promote student mobility in the region concentrated on bilateral exchanges between higher education institutions. SEAMEO RIHED's AIMS Programme overcame this limitation by providing a regional platform for both governments and higher education institutions to promote and enhance mobility. The governments of participating Member Countries provide scholarships for students to undertake exchanges to institutions in other participating Countries and thus contributes to the development of qualified, globalised human resources and promotes collaboration to support regional integration and the harmonisation of regional higher education. The AIMS Programme officially launched in 2010 as a pilot project among Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand (M-I-T), coordinated by SEAMEO RIHED.

77

Participating AIMS Higher Education Institutions

Nominated by their respective governments

10

Study Fields

Hospitality and Tourism
Agriculture
Language and Culture
International Business
Food Science and Technology
Economics
Engineering
Environmental Mangement and Science
Biodiversity
Marine Science

9

AIMS Member Countries

Malaysia
Indonesia
Thailand
Vietnam
Brunei Darussalam
The Philippines
Japan
Korea
Singapore

With growing regional and international interest, SEAMEO RIHED's AIMS Programme has continued to expand to 9 Member Countries, including Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore. The Programme also offers 10 study fields and a total of 77 higher education institutions have been nominated by their respective governments to participate in the AIMS Programme. So far, over 4150 students have participated in exchanges under the AIMS Programme.

As the AIMS Programme Secretariat, SEAMEO RIHED envisages a greater role for AIMS as a multilateral platform through which to promote balanced student mobility, foster academic exchanges and research collaboration and contribute to the harmonisation of higher education for the region of Southeast Asia and beyond.



Timeline of the AIMS Programme



2008-2009

Initiation Phase

In promoting harmonisation in higher education in the region, SEAMEO RIHED's 'Framework for Regional Integration in Higher Education in Southeast Asia: The Road Towards a Common Space' was endorsed by the Council of Southeast Asian Education Ministers at the 43rd SEAMEO Council Meeting in March 2008. As the enhancement of student mobility was identified as a key priority in the Proposal, SEAMEO RIHED initiated the Malaysia-Indonesia-Thailand (M-I-T) Student Mobility Programme in 2009. Two preparatory Review Meetings were organised in the same year, which agreed to launch the M-I-T Student Mobility Programme in 2010 for undergraduate students and decided on targets for the Programme as well as initial study fields.

2010-2011

Pilot Phase

The M-I-T Student Mobility Programme launched in 2010 with a total of 23 universities nominated to participate by their respective governments (6 from Malaysia, 11 from Indonesia and 6 from Thailand). An agreement was put forward that semi-annual Review Meetings would continue to be held to follow up on Programme progress and development.

117 students received scholarships to take part in exchanges under the pilot phase of the M-I-T Student Mobility Programme. In 2010, during the 45th SEAMEO Council Conference, Programme expansion was discussed and agreed in order to support up to 500 students, 10 study fields and 10 Member Countries by 2015.

A journey through key developments in the AIMS Programme



2012-Present

Growth and Expansion Phase

On account of the planned Programme expansion and the joining of Vietnam with the consensus of participating Member Countries in 2012, the M-I-T Student Mobility Programme was renamed to the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme. With increasing interest in the Programme, 3 more countries joined the AIMS Programme by 2013, including Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines and Japan, bringing the total number of participating institutions to 48. By 2014, over 500 students had participated in exchanges under the AIMS Programme among the 7 participating countries. Since 2014, the AIMS Programme welcomed through consensus the participation of the Republic of Korea as the 8th Member Country. The AIMS Steering Committee was then formed in 2016 to handle technical and management issues for the benefit of the Programme, which now includes 9 Member Countries, 77 participating institutions and 10 Study Fields.

Moving forward, SEAMEO RIHED aspires for all Southeast Asian nations to join the AIMS Programme and looks forward to increasing numbers of students participating in and benefitting from the strong support and shared commitment of the participating countries and universities in Southeast Asia and beyond to promote and enhance student and academic mobility.

AIMS Programme Management

Management of the AIMS Programme and its 77 participating universities and 9 Member Countries is supported through 2 key supporting mechanisms that help to promote and enhance mobility for the region.

IN FOCUS:

Supporting Mechanisms of the AIMS Programme



The Annual Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme



In order to enhance the mobility process it was agreed that annual Review Meetings were to be organised twice a year, where key persons from participating countries could share updates and experiences as well as obstacles encountered. In order to overcome funding and organisational constraints with programme expansion, it was agreed at the 8th Review Meeting in Brunei Darussalam that the AIMS Review Meeting would be held once a year, effective from 2015. Participating AIMS Member Countries take turns hosting the AIMS annual Review Meeting.

The Steering Committee Meeting of the AIMS Programme



From discussions during the 9th Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme organised in Japan in 2015, the Meeting proposed to establish an AIMS Steering Committee in order to better support the operation of the Programme as well as to tackle common issues and challenges encountered. The AIMS Steering Committee comprises 2 representatives from each participating country—one representative from government and another representing the participating universities.



Recent Developments

With the intention to expand the AIMS network through the development of university consortia in each of the 10 Study Fields, the AIMS Programme is one of the key initiatives at the forefront of SEAMEO RIHED's efforts to strengthen networks, enhance mobility and develop mechanisms through which to support the movement of students, researchers and staff across the region and beyond.

In light of this rapid expansion of the AIMS Programme and in order to contribute to the process of higher education harmonisation among Southeast Asian nations, the development of the AIMS Website was also launched as a means to provide a reference point and digital gateway for participating member countries and universities as well as students and alumni. Visit the AIMS Website at www.aims-rihed.net.

In connection to the AIMS Website, an AIMS Certificate was also identified as a means of acknowledging and recognising the work completed and experience gained by AIMS students.



INTRODUCTION

The GMS-UC

Greater
Mekong
Subregion
University
Consortium

Established with ADB Support

SEAMEO RIHED facilitated the establishment of the Greater Mekong Subregion University Consortium (GMS-UC), which comprised 24 universities nominated by their respective governments throughout Cambodia, China (specifcially Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the GMS-UC aims to build a regional platform to strengthen and accelerate cross-border collaboration among universities in the Greater Mekong Subregion and address human resource development and the promotion of quality and excellence in higher education in the GMS.



Timeline of Activities

- 1 Kick-Off Meeting and Signing Ceremony of the GMS-UC**
 On 8 July 2015, in Vientiane, Lao PDR, SEAMEO RIHED launched the Kick-Off Meeting of the GMS-UC. There, participating universities signed the “Joint Declaration of the GMS-UC for Collaboration and Excellence”.
- 2 Capacity Building Workshop on Strategic Leadership**
 The Presidents Forum on Strategic Leadership for New Normal Leaders was conducted from 27-29 June 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, aiming to enhance leadership and practices on strategic change management and institutional internationalisation.
- 3 Capacity Building Workshop on Curriculum Design and Development**
 On 3-6 October 2016, SEAMEO RIHED organised the Technical Workshop on Curriculum Design, Development and Evaluation in Bangkok, Thailand.

Key Areas of Collaboration

- + Student and Faculty Exchange
- + Visiting Experts
- + Quality Assurance
- + Credit Transfer
- + Research Collaboration
- + University Governance
- + University Social Responsibility
- + Information Sharing
- + Talent Cultivation



SEAMEO RIHED implemented the Greater Mekong Subregion Human Resource Development Strategic Framework and Action Plan (Phase 2) with support from the ADB. Under this strategy, SEAMEO RIHED was entrusted to carry out two projects including the Academic Credit Transfer Framework for Asia (ACTFA) and the GMS-UC. Those universities nominated to participate in the ACTFA project formed the GMS-UC.

IN FOCUS

Support for Capacity Building of the GMS-UC (Phase I)

In order to continue to enhance collaboration and contribute to the narrowing of gaps between universities in the GMS, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) and other Southeast Asian countries, SEAMEO RIHED has launched a new project on Support for Capacity Building of the GMS-UC (Phase I) in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and under the framework of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

This two-year project is the first of two phases planned for enhancing the alignment and development of a common space in higher education for the region of Southeast Asia. The specific objectives of Phase I of the project (2018-2019) are to engage the selected universities of the GMS-UC in capacity building activities aimed at management, teaching and research as well as promoting internationalisation and experience sharing to strengthen and enhance the capacity of GMS-UC universities on a sustainable basis.



- Capacity-Building Themes
- + Management Leadership
 - + Teaching
 - + Research
 - + Harmonisation and Internationalisation
 - + Cross-border Education

The launch of the project and the 1st Rectors Forum was organised on 20-21 July 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.



ABOUT THE NETWORK

ACNET-EngTech

The ASEAN-China Network for Cooperation and Exchanges Among Engineering and Technology Universities



- Exploring Collaboration
- + Better Understanding
 - + More Structured Cooperation
 - + Increased Sharing of Information
 - + Exchange of Good Practices
 - + Enhanced Recognition



SEAMEO RIHED and the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) jointly established the ASEAN-China Network for Cooperation and Exchanges Among Engineering and Technology Universities in 2014.

The ACNET-EngTech Network is led by 17 founding member universities, comprising China's E9 Universities (an alliance of 9 excellent engineering universities) and 8 Southeast Asian universities from throughout the region. ACNET-EngTech is aimed at promoting collaboration in higher education between Chinese and Southeast Asian universities, especially in the fields of Engineering and Technology. A Rotating Presidency, elected by member universities, takes responsibility for setting regulations as well as policy planning, coordination and management of the Network.

Two Permanent Secretariats of the ACNET-EngTech Network are located in both China and Southeast Asia, at Tianjin University in China and Mahidol University, in Thailand, respectively.

ABOUT THE NETWORK

ACACA

The ASEAN-China Arts Colleges Alliance



SEAMEO RIHED and the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) jointly established the ASEAN-China Arts Colleges Alliance (ACACA) on 16 March 2017 at an Inauguration Ceremony in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China.

SEAMEO RIHED joined the ASEAN-China Center (ACC) and Guangxi Arts University in hosting the Inauguration of the ASEAN-China Arts Colleges Alliance (ACACA).

Comprised of 19 participating universities who signed the Joint Declaration of ASEAN-China on Establishing the Arts Colleges Alliance, this new university network is expected to open up opportunities to nurture a new generation of internationally competent artists, contribute to opportunities to participate in collaborative research and creation, promote cultural and artistic prosperity, and come up with innovations developing the cultural and artistic industries in the Southeast Asian region and China.



ABOUT THE NETWORK ACAPHEI

The ASEAN-China Alliance of Private
Higher Education Institutions





SEAMEO RIHED, the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), and the University of Sanya, jointly introduced and initiated cooperation between private higher education institutions from both ASEAN and China under the ASEAN-China Alliance of Private Higher Education Institutions (ACAPHEI) at the ASEAN-China Forum for Private Higher Education Development and Cooperation on 29 November – 1 December 2017.

The Strategic Cooperation Framework for ASEAN-China Private Higher Education was signed to formalise cooperation among private higher education institutions, whereby SEAMEO RIHED, together with ACC, signed as witness.

The 2nd Forum for ASEAN-China Private Higher Education Development and Cooperation was held on 11-13 December 2018. Participants shared their experiences, education-industry synergy, and areas for regional cooperation under ACAPHEI. The results of the discussion were incorporated and signed in the 2018 Declaration on Establishing “ASEAN-China Alliance of Private Higher Education Institutions”.

The SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development

Developing a common space in higher education for the region of Southeast Asia is a crucial step towards achieving the freedom of movement and mobility envisioned for the ASEAN Community and the broader vision for regional connectivity between the citizens of all Southeast Asian Nations.

SEAMEO RIHED promotes the harmonisation and alignment of higher education systems as a means to develop a common space in higher education in the region. The Centre facilitates policy dialogues and the development of harmonisation mechanisms to promote multilateral collaboration in the region and beyond.

SEAMEO RIHED

Your Partner in Higher Education

The scope of our work covers policy platforms, the development of harmonisation mechanisms and multilateral collaboration in the Southeast Asian region and beyond.

Policy Platforms

Providing opportunities for higher education national authorities to work collectively

Shaping and synergising higher education in the Southeast Asian region by addressing key priorities for the harmonisation of higher education through: the SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting, the Southeast Asian Higher Education Senior Officials Meeting (SEA-HiEd SOM) and Policy Seminars held in conjunction with these Meetings.

Harmonisation Mechanisms

Synergising efforts to harmonise and align higher education systems and structures

Supporting the development of multilateral platforms and mechanisms for academic mobility, credit transfer and regional quality assurance (QA). Key platforms and mechanisms include the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme, the Greater Mekong Subregion University Consortium (GMS-UC) and the Academic Credit Transfer Framework for Asia (ACTFA).

Multilateral Collaboration

Engaging partners in pursuing intra- and inter-regional collaboration

Strengthening and advancing higher education in Southeast through projects and partners including the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), the ASEAN-QA Project, the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) and the European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE) Project and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

To learn more, visit the SEAMEO RIHED Website:

www.rihed.seameo.org

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