



# Annual Report 2019/2020



# Dear Friends,

Last year in 2019, RIHED celebrated a significant milestone for our history in the region through a special Southeast Asian Higher Education (SEA-HiEd) Week. The SEA-HiEd Week featured a special Gala Dinner in commemoration of RIHED's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and celebrations on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our AIMS Programme as well as our first ever Inter-Regional Research Symposium and Higher Education Expo. We have featured highlights from these events and others throughout the Report.

In the first few months of 2020, however, the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) plunged the world into an unprecedented crisis, seeing billions confined to their homes worldwide, and with many relying on technology for continued access to education, work and services.

As our own work has gone online, we have continued throughout 2020 in striving towards a regional community where opportunities for both physical and virtual exchange can thrive. We have also kept our focus on aligning our efforts with regional and global agendas for higher education and will continue these efforts and more going forward as the region's partner in higher education.

Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond  
SEAMEO RIHED Centre Director



## Our Mission

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 by creating policy platforms, engaging in policy-driven research and broadening space for information dissemination.***

# Our Role in the Region

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

We engage with SEAMEO Member Countries and partners across the region of Southeast Asia and the world in areas essential to progress in higher education. 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 higher education.

## SEAMEO Member Countries

Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
Indonesia  
Lao PDR  
Malaysia  
Myanmar  
Philippines  
Singapore  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Vietnam

## SEAMEO Associate Member Countries

Australia  
Canada  
France  
Germany  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Spain  
United Kingdom

## SEAMEO Affiliate Members

British Council  
International Council for Open and Distance Education  
University of Tsukuba  
China Education Association for International Education  
British Columbia Council for International Cooperation



# Our Strategy

## Higher Education Harmonisation

Our regional engagement in higher education takes place primarily through two formal platforms at the policy level that support the regional harmonisation of higher education. Through these platforms, SEAMEO RIHED is guided by the collective decisions of the region and works towards region-wide implementation of priorities for higher education. The Centre also seeks to strengthen multilateral collaboration and to narrow and bridge gaps within the region.

## Enhancing Mobility and Connectivity

We are committed to further enhancing cooperation and the coordination of efforts at the regional level through the development of networks and mechanisms to elicit stronger engagement from regional and international partners and enhance academic mobility and connectivity.

## An Emphasis on Research

In order to assist national authorities and other decision makers in higher education, more policy-oriented research needs to be undertaken to support higher education development in the region. Recently, we introduced a bi-annual Inter-Regional Research Symposium as a platform of opportunity for new and experienced researchers to disseminate findings and encourage the exchange of ideas and formation of regional and international research networks.

## Investing in Data

Rapid social and digital transformations have accelerated both the need and use of higher education data and statistics to a significant extent. We are actively pursuing ways to better keep the region and the world better informed with data and statistics on the development of Southeast Asian Higher Education.

## Harmonisation Highlight

# The GMS-UC

In moving forward as one regional community, SEAMEO RIHED has been expanding our collaboration with partners and implementing a number of capacity-building activities for member universities and national governments of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) through the Project on Support for Capacity Building of the Greater Mekong Sub-region University Consortium (GMS-UC).

Supported by the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and under the framework of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), Phase I of this Project provided a necessary platform for GMS-UC member universities from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to develop capacities in the areas of leadership management, teaching, research, internationalisation and cross-border higher education.

SEAMEO RIHED recently completed implementation of the two-year project, which was carried out from 2018 to 2019 and we are currently looking forward to exploring more opportunities and prospects to narrow and bridge gaps within the region.



## Mobility and Connectivity Highlight

# The AIMS Programme

SEAMEO RIHED's Asian International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme is a collaborative, multilateral mobility initiative that involves the participation of both governments and higher education institutions in an effort to enhance student and academic mobility for the region.

The AIMS Programme was initiated in 2008 and officially launched in 2010 as a pilot project with the participation of 3 Southeast Asian countries: Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. Through the promotion of self-sufficiency and balanced mobility, the AIMS Programme has continued to differentiate itself from other mobility schemes and expand as a platform and network to promote mobility and connectivity within the region and beyond.

The AIMS Programme currently includes 9 Member Countries and 78 nominated higher education institutions that offer exchange opportunities across 10 academic disciplines. Since 2010, approximately 5000 students have enhanced their education and learning through the experience of living and studying abroad and have made important contributions to regional understanding, cooperation and friendship.





## Research Highlight

# The SEA-HiEd Inter-Regional Research Symposium

In an effort to increase the standing and impact of researchers in Southeast Asia and facilitate cooperation for joint-research and innovation across the Asia-Pacific region, SEAMEO RIHED introduced a bi-annual Inter-Regional Research Symposium in 2019, which was held as part of SEAMEO RIHED's SEA-HiEd Week from 14-15 November.

Through a lens on sustainable development, the two-day Symposium saw insightful contributions and engaging discussions from new and experienced researchers from across the world on themes of inclusive and accessible quality higher education, entrepreneurship and employability, the digitalisation of higher education and internationalisation and cross-border higher education.

SEAMEO RIHED would like to thank our partners, the British Council, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the HEAD Foundation for their support of the Symposium.



## Our Scope of Work

SEAMEO RIHED is 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 higher education 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 help us synergise efforts towards the alignment and continued development of the region's higher education systems.

Learn more about us at [www.rihed.seameo.org](http://www.rihed.seameo.org)



# Our Governing Board

## Chairperson

Prof. Sampan Rittidech, D.Eng  
Secretary-General, Office of the Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and  
Innovation, [Thailand](#)

## Governing Board Members

Mrs. Hajah Anis Faudzulani Haji Dzul kiflee  
Head, Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education,  
[Brunei Darussalam](#)

Mr. Mak Ngoy  
Director General, Directorate General of Higher  
Education, Ministry of Education Youth and Sport,  
[Cambodia](#)

Prof. Dr. Aris Junaidi, Drh.  
Director of Learning and Student Affairs, Ministry of  
Education and Culture, [Indonesia](#)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Saykhong Saynasine  
Director General, Department of Higher Education,  
Ministry of Education and Sports, [Lao PDR](#)

YBhg Datin Paduka Ir. Dr. Siti Hamisah Tapsir  
Director General, Department of Higher Education,  
Ministry of Education, [Malaysia](#)

Prof. Dr. Thein Win  
Director General, Department of Higher Education,  
Ministry of Education, [Myanmar](#)

Prof. Dr. Julian Prospero E. De Vera III  
Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education,  
[Philippines](#)

Ms. Joanna Moh  
Divisional Director, Higher Education Planning Office,  
Ministry of Education, [Singapore](#)

Ms. Maria Filomena Lay Guterres  
Director General for Higher Education and Science,  
Minsitry of Higher Education, Science and Culture,  
[Timor-Leste](#)

Dr. Le Dong Phuong  
Director, Center for Higher Education Studies, Vietnam  
Institute of Education Sciences, Ministry of Education  
and Training, [Vietnam](#)

## Ex-Officio Members

Centre Director of SEAMEO RIHED  
Director of SEAMEO Secretariat

## About our Team

SEAMEO RIHED comprises a small, international team of people passionate about higher education and development. This past year, we saw several of our colleagues move on to new challenges and opportunities throughout the region and we were also fortunate to add new colleagues to our Team.

Throughout the past year, not only did our Team help put together SEAMEO RIHED's SEA-HiEd Week, a week-long event with over 600 participants, our Programme Officers also took on a new challenge this year in the form of web design. The goal: to launch a new website for SEAMEO RIHED's AIMS Programme. If you want to see the results, visit: [www.aims-rihed.net](http://www.aims-rihed.net)

Over the next year we will also be planning another SEAMEO RIHED SEA-HiEd Inter-Regional Research Symposium for 2021 and launching a new SEAMEO RIHED Website by the end of the year to better serve you, our community. So make sure to stay tuned!



## The SEAMEO RIHED Team

**Centre Director** | Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond

**Special Advisor** | Ms. Porntip Kanjananiyot

**Special Consultant** | Ms. Zhe Li (Jessica)

**Programme Director** | Ms. Phunyanuch Pattanotai

**Senior Programme Officer** | Mr. Philip Masterson

**Programme Officer** | Ms. Supansa Kajavong

**Programme Officer** | Mr. Kohei Yamada

**Programme Officer** | Mr. Vo Tran Trung Nhan

**Programme Officer** | Ms. Nitchata Chumjai

**Programme Officer** | Ms. Duanmanus Waraphaskul

**Admin & Communication Manager** | Ms. Thanthakorn Phuangsawat

**Finance Officer** | Ms. Atchariya Panpadungkul

**IT Officer** | Mr. Surasit Boonmun

**Chauffeur** | Mr. Preecha Angthong

**Housekeeper** | Mrs. Prateep Prakongsai



## SEA-HiEd

SEAMEO RIHED continues to expand cooperation and collaboration with partners to promote the harmonisation and development of Southeast Asian Higher Education (SEA-HiEd)

***Through the SEAMEO RIHED SEA-HiEd Week, participants from across the international higher education community gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, from 11-15 November 2019 to celebrate significant milestones and advance discussions and cooperation for the future of higher education in the region.***

# The SEA-HiEd Week

## **RIHED's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Gala Dinner**

SEAMEO RIHED's SEA-HiEd Week began on Monday 11 November 2019 with official celebrations to commemorate RIHED's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, including a special Gala Dinner that was generously co-organised by the University of Sanya and attended by over 200 delegates.

## **AIMS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and 13th Annual Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme took place from 11-13 November 2019. All Stakeholders of the AIMS Programme, including national governments, participating higher education institutions and students celebrated together the success and future of AIMS.

## **SEA-HiEd Inter-Regional Research Symposium**

Our first Inter-Regional Research Symposium, held in cooperation with the British Council, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the HEAD Foundation, kicked off on 14-15 November 2019 and brought together participants from across the Asia-Pacific region as well as the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the United States.

## **SEA-HiEd Expo**

From 11-14 November 2019, the SEA-HiEd Expo provided a space for collaboration and networking among all participants of the SEA-HiEd Week alongside exhibition booths from higher education institutions, regional organisations and private sector companies invested in higher education.

## **SEA-HiEd Student Forum**

The SEA-HiEd Student Forum took place on the morning of 13 November 2019 and invited all AIMS Members as well as the general public in engaging student perspectives on the future direction of mobility and employability in the region as well as policy recommendations.

## **UMAP International Conference**

In an effort to promote inter-regional cooperation and collaboration in higher education, the 2019 University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP) International Conference and 2019 UMAP Board Meeting were held on 13 and 14 November 2019 respectively in conjunction with the SEA-HiEd Week.

## SEA-HiEd Highlight

# RIHED Gala Dinner

Two of the main highlights of the SEA-HiEd Week were the opening ceremony on Monday 11 November 2019 in commemoration of RIHED's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AIMS and RIHED's Gala Dinner which took place in the evening of 11 November on the terrace of the Hotel Nikko in Bangkok, Thailand.

Co-organised by the University of Sanya, the RIHED Gala Dinner invited over 100 guests to enjoy an exquisite dinner accompanied by the wishes of friends, partners and colleagues of SEAMEO RIHED from around the world as well as cultural and music performances.

Prof. Dr. Wichit Srisa-an, former Minister of Education of Thailand, and Vice President of the University of Sanya, Zoe Che, both graced the Gala Dinner with their remarks and we would like to thank the University of Sanya as well as all of our friends and colleagues from throughout the years who were able to join us on that wonderful evening.





## SEA-HiEd Highlight

# AIMS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AIMS Programme was held in conjunction with the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Review Meeting on 11-13 November 2019 and co-hosted by SEAMEO RIHED and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Innovation (MHESI) Thailand.

The Annual Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme is where all stakeholders of the Programme are invited to share updates and further develop the Programme by reporting on progress and discussing challenges and possible solutions.

The occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AIMS and the signing ceremony of a new Letter of Intent saw official recognition of Singapore joining the AIMS Programme as the 9<sup>th</sup> Member Country and Nanyang Technological University as the 78<sup>th</sup> participating higher education institution. The new AIMS Letter of Intent helped to further assert the collective commitment of all Members towards enhancing student and academic mobility throughout the region.



## SEA-HiEd Highlight

# SEA-HiEd Expo

The RIHED SEA-HiEd Expo was held on 11-14 November and provided a central hub for collaboration and networking within the SEA-HiEd Week. The Expo comprised a numbers of areas and exhibition booths open to all attendees of the SEA-HiEd Week.

Our Exhibitors included:

- Pearson
- AUN/SEED-Net
- University of Tsukuba
- University of Sanya
- British Council
- General Beverage
- The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- thinkPOS
- and SEAMEO RIHED

We would also like to thank all of our exhibitors for their generous support and showcasing of their products and expertise with all participants of the SEA-HiEd Expo.



## SEA-HiEd Highlight

# SEA-HiEd Student Forum

The SEA-HiEd Student Forum on Mobility and Employability was organised on 13 November 2019, to engage student perspectives on the future direction of student mobility in the region. As an inclusive platform for cooperation on student mobility, a session of the Forum also included representatives from Erasmus+, University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP), Campus Asia, the Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE) Project and the ASEAN Foundation to delve further into the future of student mobility across the region.

By opening up a dialogue on the role of students in the regional development of the AIMS Programme, the Forum collected visions and policy recommendations from student perspectives on the regional trajectory of student mobility as well as higher education harmonisation and sustainable development through the Bangkok Joint Statement of the AIMS Student Ambassadors on Redefining Mobility in the Disruptive Era.



# Our Partners

## Our work would not be possible with you

- ASEAN-China Centre (ACC)
- ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)
- ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC)
- ASEAN University Network (AUN)
- Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB)
- British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIE)
- 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
- Fulbright Thailand
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- German Rectors' Conference (HRK)
- The HEAD Foundation
- Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT), Malaysia
- Institute of International Education (IIE)
- 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 Education and Culture, Indonesia
- Ministry of Education, Malaysia
- Ministry of Education, Singapore
- Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture, Timor-Leste
- National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore
- Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA)
- SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres
- University of Tsukuba, Japan
- UNESCO Bangkok
- UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (UNESCO IIEP)
- University of Potsdam
- University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP)
- Other Higher Education Institutions

Thank you

***SEAMEO RIHED is grateful to the national governments, international and regional organisations, higher education institutions and friends that work with us and enhance our efforts.***



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