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JICA Project Office for AUN/SEED-Net  
Bldg. 2, Room 109-110  
Faculty of Engineering,  
Chulalongkorn University  
Bangkok, Thailand 10330  
Phone: 66-2218-6419 to 21  
Fax: 66-2218-6418  
E-mail: [info@aun-seed.net](mailto:info@aun-seed.net)

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## ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network

### 10th Steering Committee Meeting

AUN/SEED-Net held the 10<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting on 20 January 2006 at the Peninsula Manila Hotel, the Philippines, with a participation of 35 steering committee members. Several distinguished guests were invited to make remarks at the opening ceremony, including Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education of the Philippines Dr. Saturnino M. Ocampo Jr., President of University of the Philippines Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of University of the Philippines Diliman Dr. Lorna L. Paredes, and Counselor to the President of JICA Mr. Michio KANDA.



The Committee endorsed the minutes of meetings of Mid-term Evaluation of the AUN/SEED-Net Project, which summarized the Project's progress and outputs in the first half period. The evaluation results revealed positive impacts of the Project, yet with some important suggestions for further improvement and proposals for necessary actions to be taken by the Member Institutions in the coming few months.

Top: Group photo of participants with distinguished guests in the front row.

Bottom: Assoc. Prof. Krisada, AUN/SEED-Net Executive Director, presented a token of appreciation to Chairperson Prof. Guevara, Dean of Engineering of University of the Philippines-Diliman.

### Message from Academic Advisor



Dr. Manabu  
TSUNODA  
Academic Advisor

As an academic advisor, I joined AUN/SEED-Net in November 2004. Since then, I have had a lot of valuable chances to meet and discuss with many partners such as academic staff, administrative staff, AUN/SEED-Net students, graduates and government officials of ASEAN countries. Thanks to all of these partners' tremendous efforts, AUN/SEED-Net is now alive vividly although several hard issues still exist towards long life of AUN/SEED-Net. Through Field-wise Seminars and Monitoring Visits, I have discussed with AUN/SEED-Net students who are expected to be promising teaching staff of universities in each country. They enjoy studying even under heavy academic pressures with time-constraints. They love talking with their colleagues with different backgrounds of different countries. They are creating real dramas as actors or actresses. In those scenes, I feel worthwhile and bright future of AUN/SEED-Net.

At present, we are discussing desirable strategy of nine engineering fields for the latter part of current AUN/SEED-Net project period and its future. At the next Steering Committee Meeting in June 2006, we would like to discuss with representatives from each field of AUN/SEED-Net and try to integrate them into a fruitful future plan(1<sup>st</sup> draft). Key words of our future are, I think, ownership and sustainability of engineering activities towards ASEAN Unity with characteristics of each country.

Dr. Manabu TSUNODA  
Academic Advisor

## Mid-Term Evaluation Results

At the middle of the AUN/SEED-Net Project period, the mid-term evaluation was conducted to summarize impacts of the Project based on the Project Design Matrix (PDM) in order to determine the achievement of the Project, revise the initial plan if needed, and address the issues of implementation for the Project's improvement in the latter half of the Project period and the sustainability of the Network.

Teams of joint evaluators from JICA Headquarters, JICA Thailand Office, Japanese Supporting University Consortium (JSUC), AUN Board of Trustee, and AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat traveled to several member countries to collect opinions and ideas from concerned persons in Member Institutions (MIs) through interviews and questionnaires. After a series of interviews and questionnaires the evaluation teams have reached the following results:

### Functions of the Network

All MIs evaluated that the exchange of academic staff and cooperative activities through the Project can improve their educational and research capacities, which is relevant to their needs. Students studying in another ASEAN country can learn knowledge or technology in a similar setting to their home countries, which is very much useful for them. Some students pointed out that this project contributes much to unity in the region.

### Effectiveness and Efficiency

It is difficult and too early to discuss the effectiveness and the overall result of the project. Some evidences, however, indicate effective implementation of the Project. Outputs in terms of faculty qualification improvement and host graduate program enhancement are being achieved, and strengthening the linkage among Members is being promoted, while more efforts can



also be made. The inputs have been well utilized for the activities to yield expected outputs in general.

### Impacts at Member Institutions

It is too early to assess the overall impact of the project since it requires more time and inputs beyond the Project framework to achieve the overall goal, "Economic sustainability is enhanced" through engineering human resource development. However, most MIs agreed that strengthened ties among ASEAN countries through the network and expansion of the relationship is a visible impact of the Project. After the commencement of the Project, MOUs and more collaborations have been settled between JSU and MI, or between MIs based on the network created. Some MIs have been conducting a regional seminar on their own after the Project supported the first seminar. In some MIs, international academic atmosphere has stimulated local students and brought a positive impact in terms of cultural exchange. The Project is also seen as a successful model to upgrade qualifications of academic staff.

### Sustainability of the Network

Human relationships within MIs and JSUs can be sustained through expansion and function of AUN/SEED-Net, on the one hand. On the other hand, some critical

issues have to be considered for sustainability of the network itself, especially in the aspects of strategy, organizational management, and finance. The strategy and the policy paper should be carefully reviewed, shared, and well understood by all stakeholders, and proper actions should be taken to sustain the Network. Support for alumni organization and members thus should be included in the future perspective. An organizational scale should be set up in a more manageable manner depending on the form of future network. It is also vital to share more portions of work or financial resources between MIs or governmental entities and to find other financial sources for scholarships, seminars, and research support funds. At the same time, each activity may need to be implemented in a more cost effective way.

### Conclusion

During the first half of the Project, the schemes and the activities have been evolved toward the project purpose by field-wise and host-sending approach. This has been totally a challenge in developing a new type of network among universities in ASEAN with support of universities in Japan. Remarkably, the Network is the pioneer of its kind, and has been a model for future similar efforts. It has directed its members to human resource development in a cost effective and local knowledge oriented manner, and at the same time to tighter relationships. Further effects and impacts of the Network will be revealed later given that it becomes sustainable and durable. It is therefore imperative to set up some structures to sustain the Network after the project period.

*For further details, please see the Minutes of the Meetings of Mid-term Evaluation, which was endorsed at the 10<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting and was distributed to all MIs. Copies can also be obtained from AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat upon request.*



## Student's Achievements



### First Doctor from Japan

Congratulations to our first doctoral graduate from Japan, **Dr. Lucas Donny Satijadji** from Gadjah Mada University (UGM), Indonesia. He graduated from Kyushu University in the field of Geological Engineering within two years only! Now he becomes the coordinator between Kyushu University and UGM.

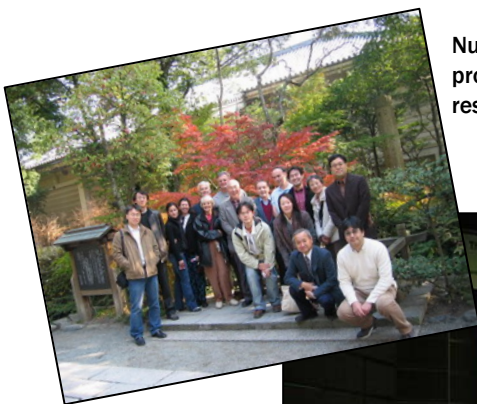
### Master's Student Presents Research Work at International Conference in Japan

During November 21-23, 2005 Mr. Nuttawut Lewpiriyawong, Master's student from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL), Thailand, studying in Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, attended the Third International Conference on Vortex Flows and Vortex Models (ICVFM 2005) in Yokohama, Japan. This conference held by Yokohama University aimed to further strengthen intellectual ties among researchers and professors around the world whose works focusing mainly on the Vortex method. There he also presented his research work on "Simulation of Suppression of Vortex Breakdown over Delta Wings by Vortex Filament Methods".



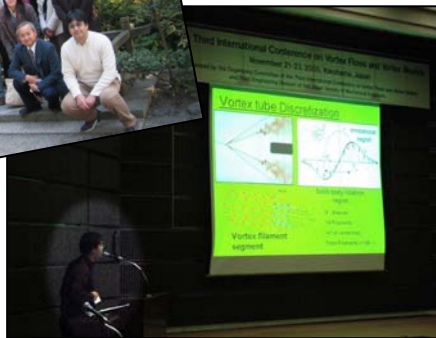
Many distinguished professors, including Prof. Anthony Leonard who initiated the Vortex method, were invited to the conference to give valued lectures and perspectives for future works. Nuttawut and other participants thus had a chance to share ideas with and learn new advanced knowledge from them. Not only meeting these profound professors, he also took this chance to make friends with several Japanese researchers. They had a lot of fun in exchanging research experiences, visiting the old city Kamakura and famous museums, and enjoying palatable Japanese food.

Nuttawut's participation in the ICVFM 2005 was strongly encouraged by his advisor Asst. Prof. Sutthiphong Srigrarom, and supported by NTU as special contribution to AUN/SEED-Net.



Nuttawut with guest professors and fellow researchers

Nuttawut presenting his research work at the conference



## CU and TIT Set UP D-Learning on Disaster



Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT) by Prof. Dr. Tatsuo Ohmachi and Chulalongkorn University (CU) by Dr. Anat Ruengrassamee jointly set up D-learning class on tsunami and earthquake disasters. The course "Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Reduction", attended by students in TIT and CU through TV conference via Internet system, was run during December 2, 2005 – February 3, 2006.

Prof. Dr. Panitan Lukkunaprasit, Head of the Center of Excellence in Earthquake Engineering and Vibration, Chulalongkorn University, stated that the collaboration of D-Learning between TIT and CU in Disaster Engineering was an impact from the AUN/SEED-Net Project. He perceived a possibility for such course to be delivered to other Member Institutions with necessary equipment for distance learning.

## AUN/SEED-Net Staff Change



**Ms. Meena Thamchaipenet**, Senior Program Officer in charge of the Secretariat and Graduate Programs, resigned from AUN/SEED-Net as of February 28, 2006.



**Ms. Vantanee Arunotai** joined AUN/SEED-Net in March 2006 as Program Officer in charge of the fields of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE) and Geological Engineering (GeoE).

## Events



December 8-9, 2005: Field-wise Seminar in Geological Engineering was hosted by Chulalongkorn University at Montien Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.



January 11, 2006: AUN/SEED-Net paid a courtesy visit to Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, to thank them for promoting the Project at the ASEAN Summit Meeting last December.



January 19, 2006: The Ad-hoc Committee Meeting on Extension Period of PhD Sandwich Program had a discussion on the program's extension policy at the Peninsula Manila Hotel, the Philippines.



January 20, 2006: AUN/SEED-Net 10th Steering Committee Meeting was held at the Peninsula Hotel, Manila, the Philippines.



January 25-26, 2006: Field-wise Seminar in Material Engineering was arranged by Institut Teknologi Bandung at Hotel Savoy Homann, Bandung, Indonesia.



February 16-17, 2006: King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang arranged the Field-wise Seminar in Information & Communication Technology at Grand Mercure Fortune Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.



February 23, 2006: AUN/SEED-Net visited the Ministry of National Education of Indonesia to have a discussion with Prof. Dr. Satriyo Soemantri Brodjonegoro, Director General of Higher Education.



February 24-25, 2006: Field-wise Seminar in Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering was hosted by Institut Teknologi Bandung at Hotel Savoy Homann, Bandung, followed by a visit to the faculty's laboratories.



March 14-15, 2006: University of Malaya arranged the Field-wise Seminar in Manufacturing Engineering in conjunction with the International Conference on Manufacturing & Material Processing (ICMM 2006) at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. After the seminar, AUN/SEED-Net team also visited Dato' Prof. Dr. Hassan Mohd Said at the Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia, the Economic Planning Unit, and Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya.



March 16-17, 2006: Field-wise Seminar in Civil Engineering was arranged by Chulalongkorn University at the Pathumwan Princess Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.



March 16-17, 2006: Chulalongkorn University hosted the Field-wise Seminar in Electrical & Electronic Engineering focusing on Control Engineering at the Montien Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.