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AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat 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)

Online subscription: [www.seed-net.org](http://www.seed-net.org)

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

### Welcome the First Batch of PhD Sandwich Graduates!

After several years of hard work and devotion, all six PhD Sandwich students enrolling in 2003 completed their studies despite some difficulties they faced as the pioneers of the Program. Plus, one student enrolling in 2004 could graduate in less than three years. This can assure the Program 's effectiveness and that the three-year scholarship period is feasible. Here we have brief interviews of some graduates about their views toward the Program.

Dr. Su Su Kyi, the Geological Engineering graduate from Gadjah Mada University, revealed that she learned a lot from the Program that could be applied to her career.

"I would like to express my deep impression to all promoters and teachers for their guidance, and I gratefully acknowledge to JICA and AUN/SEED-Net for the financial support throughout my study. All my time within these three years were worthy invested and furnished with many achievements. I was upgraded not only in geological engineering but also in other

notions. As a Sandwich student, I got experiences from two universities concerning the way they teach, how to handle the research and how to guide students properly. Based on these, I deeply hope to be a good teacher in this field."

In spite of a small concern about the scholarship period, she viewed that it was manageable.

"During the limited time, students have to finish all requirements to fulfill the doctoral degree such as international papers, presentations and journals. Besides, some unexpected situations can delay progress. It is better then to take the short-term study in Japan after the first year, so that students will have enough time for publishing papers or journals and writing dissertation after or during the research."

Dr. Cho Cho Thet, the Electrical & Electronics Engineering graduate from Chulalongkorn University, also had a positive view toward this program although she encountered problems with the experimental machine.

"I met a perfect advisor and had a chance to conduct research in Nanotechnology as expected. From the program, I have learned many valuable things such as how to guide a supervisee to be a good researcher, teaching technique, social dealing, and training of physical and mental activities. Especially, learning of good literature and doing research made me successful."

She confirmed that the program is highly recommended for students who want to do research in engineering field and suggested those who are studying under this program seek advice and discuss with advisors regularly.

Dr. Le Thi Hong Tran, Environmental Engineering graduate from University of the Philippines, the second batch student who could finish her study in 2.5 years, expressed her satisfaction with the program.

*Continued on p. 4*



Dr. Su Su Kyi in the graduation ceremony

### List of the First Batch PhD Sandwich Graduates

- Su Su Kyi, PhD in Geological Engineering from Gadjah Mada University, now teaching at Dawei University (Myanmar)
- Cho Cho Thet, PhD in Electrical & Electronic Engineering from Chulalongkorn University, now teaching at University of Yangon
- Nazrul Effendi, PhD in Electrical & Electronic Engineering from Chulalongkorn University, now teaching at Gadjah Mada University
- Kham Khanthavivone, PhD in Information & Communication Technology from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, now teaching at National University of Laos
- Khampheth Bounnady, PhD in Information & Communication Technology from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, now teaching at National University of Laos
- Lim Sok Tay, PhD in Civil Engineering from Chulalongkorn University, now teaching at Institute of Technology of Cambodia
- Le Thi Hong Tran, PhD in Environmental Engineering from University of the Philippines, now teaching at Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (JFY2004 student)

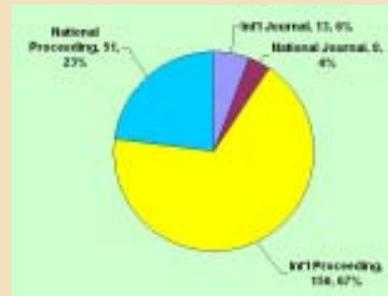


Left: Dr. Cho Cho Thet defending her thesis  
Right: Dr. Le Thi Hong Tran and AUN/SEED-Net Executive Director Assoc. Prof. Krisada Visavateeranon

### Project Review 2006/07

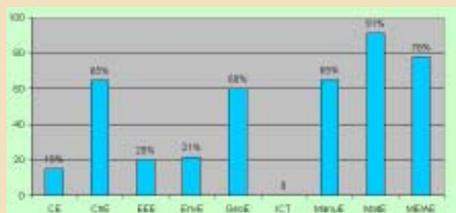
At the end of JFY 2006, AUN/SEED-Net has awarded 346 scholarships in total, 255 of which are under the Master's Degree Program, 50 under the PhD Sandwich Program, 38 under the PhD Program in Japan, and 3 under the PhD Program in Singapore. We have produced 126 graduates, 37% of which continue their PhD degrees with the Project while 53% become faculty staff of their Sending Institutions and the rest work for government or industry. Our students and graduates have published 222 publications so far, more than half are proceedings presented at international conferences.

### Publications by AUN/SEED-Net Students since 2005



In JFY2006, 116 Collaborative Research (CR) projects involving 112 master's and 38 PhD students were funded by AUN/SEED-Net, with a budget of over USD 580,000. However, involvements of non-Host Institutions in CR projects were relatively low in several fields.

### Involvement of non-Host Institutions in CR Projects (by Field)



The Project supported 88 visits of Japanese professors to participate in CR activities and Field-wise Seminars, 57 visits of Host Institutions' staff to Japan, plus 20 and 16 visits of non-Host Institutions' staff to Japan and Host Institutions respectively. Compared to 9 visits of non-Host Institutions' staff to Host Institutions in JFY2005, it can be assumed that communication and collaboration among our Member Institutions have been more activated.

Last year we also encouraged more involvements of AUN/SEED-Net alumni, PhD students in Japan, and master's and PhD students in Singapore in research and networking activities. Thus, 13 alumni members, 5 PhD students in Japan, and 2 students from Singapore were invited to join the Field-wise Seminars for network strengthening.

### Final Evaluation

Japan International Cooperation of Phase 1 and the Preliminary Study after a series of interviews and in charge of higher education in University Consortium during April have been summarized in form of ministries in charge of higher education expected that fruitful results revealed continuation.

The initial phase of the AUN/SEED-Net come to the end in March 2006. Final Evaluation of the Project and, request for the continued support, the conducted to evaluate the effective impacts as well as the issues arising. Final Evaluation team distributed visited the member institutions education in the member countries government officials, faculty staff been involved with AUN/SEED-Net main objective of the Project, capacities of Member Institution exchanges of resources among the Japanese Supporting Universities

Firstly, AUN/SEED-Net successfully member institutions through high had awarded 427 scholarships for 140 graduates, about 60% of which member institutions while most of Finally, they will be the driving force

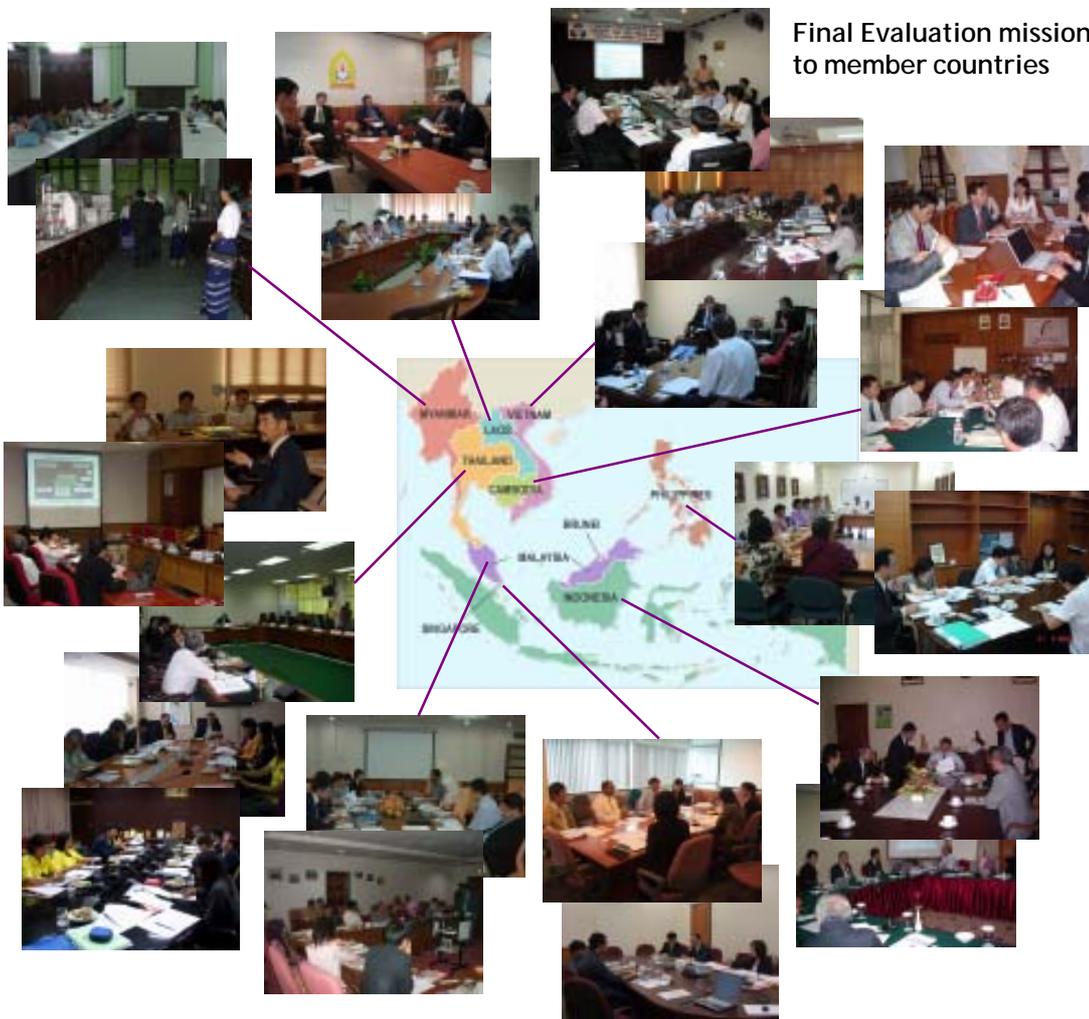
Secondly, AUN/SEED-Net encouraged international programs at several at some institutions to attain the activities, journal publications, cooperation field and supported so far around

Thirdly, joint activities and human strengthened by the Project through wise seminars, and research cooperation institutions and with the Japanese by AUN/SEED-Net.

And lastly, AUN/SEED-Net could activity management system, and institutions, through attentive and the JICA Project for AUN/SEED-Net

There was no confirmation by them they would continue the support hoped for, and they were quite as project continuation is deemed not a number of issues for the AUN/SEED-Net further development of the member developed countries, research cooperation region's industry and society, promotion of AUN/SEED-Net received of the network.

### Final Evaluation missions to member countries



Agency (JICA) completed the Final Evaluation study for Phase 2 of the AUN/SEED-Net Project and visits to Member Institutions, ministries in ASEAN countries, and Japanese Supporting Universities in April-May 2007. The results of both studies have been discussed in minutes of meetings, to be signed by the member institutions and to be implemented in other member countries. It is expected that the studies might promise the project

The AUN/SEED-Net Project was laid out for 5 years and would be completed by 2008. As a regular practice of JICA, the Final Evaluation is responding to the requests by member countries. The Preliminary Survey for the next phase were conducted to assess the effectiveness of the project and to analyze the lessons learned from the project implementation. The Final Evaluation questionnaires to all member institutions and ministries in charge of higher education in member countries to interview high-ranking officials, faculty, current and graduated students who have participated in the project. The evaluation results revealed that the project objectives, i.e. "to improve educational and research activities in member countries," had been mostly achieved through active cooperation of the member institutions and relationship with the AUN/SEED-Net Consortium (JSUC).

Successfully upgraded faculty qualifications of the member institutions through degree acquisition. Until now, the Project has produced 100 Master's and Ph.D. levels and had produced 100 graduates which are currently faculty members of the member institutions. The rest continue their study in higher level. The Project is a force for the sustainable development of ASEAN.

Facilitated the launch of new graduate programs or research programs at member institutions and enhanced existing programs at international level. It also enhanced research activities, conference papers and proceedings in engineering and technology. 163 Collaborative Research projects.

Enhanced linkage among the member institutions are through visits and exchanges of faculty staff, field-trips, and collaboration. Many MOUs among the member institutions and Japanese Supporting Universities have been fostered.

Established information dissemination system, and communication network among the member institutions and devoted staff of all member institutions, member institutions, and the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat.

Supported by the Japanese government or JICA yet whether the project is continued to the Project but all stakeholders strongly assured of, the second phase of the Project. The project is necessary and recommended because there are many needs of the AUN/SEED-Net network to work on, for examples, strengthening of the engineering network, research and development, and most importantly, sustainability

## Field Coordination of the AUN/SEED-Net Project in Tokyo Institute of Technology

*By Prof. Dr. Hirofumi HINODE  
Department of International  
Development Engineering,  
Tokyo Institute of Technology*

Tokyo Institute of Technology is contributing as the Japanese Support University in three fields out of the nine fields of the AUN/SEED-Net Project, namely Chemical Engineering (ChE), Environmental Engineering (EnvE), and Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE). And now, our professors are also cooperating in other two fields, Materials Engineering (MatE) and Manufacturing Engineering (ManuE). (Details are available at <http://www.ide.titech.ac.jp/index.html>.)



**Prof. Hinode's laboratory members**

Especially, Dr. Toshio KAJIUCHI, now Professor Emeritus, had taken an active part as the Field Coordinator for ChE and EnvE fields. After his retirement in March 2005, Prof. Junjiro KAWASAKI from Department of Chemical Engineering replaced him as the General Manager of both fields and took charge of the EnvE field, while I took charge of the ChE field. After Prof. Kawasaki retires in March 2008, I will take charge of the EnvE field, and Prof. Hitosi KOSUGE from Department of Chemical Engineering will take charge of the ChE field.

In the ChE field, it is possible to correspond to a wide variety of projects by involving the professors in Department of Chemical Engineering and Department of Bioengineering, and I am managing this program in cooperation with staffs of De La Salle University, the Host Institution for ChE.

In my laboratory there are 16 students, researchers and staffs including me. Among them, Mr. Nguyen Quang Long from Vietnam is a student under the AUN/SEED-Net Doctoral Degree Program in Japan from October 2006, and Mr. Anton Purnomo from Indonesia is a student under the Doctoral Degree Sandwich Program who has come for researching since February 2007. Both graduated from the AUN/SEED-Net Master's Program of De La Salle University majoring in ChE. (Details are available at <http://www.hinode.ide.titech.ac.jp/en/en.htm>.)

In the EnvE field, we have a cooperative research project concerning polluted soil treatment under supervision of Prof. Hideki OHTA. The doctoral student doing this research project, Mr. Wawan Budianta from Indonesia, is also the student under the AUN/SEED-Net Doctoral Degree Program in Japan from October 2005, and gets benefits from both chemical engineering and civil engineering points of view.



**From top left:  
Mr. Anton, Ms. Eden,  
Mr. Long and Mr. Carl**

Exploiting the network of AUN/SEED-Net, I invited Ms. Eden from De La Salle University as a research fellow of "UNESCO International Research Course for the Environment" and Mr. Carl, also a De La Salle staff, as a doctoral student from April 2007 supported by Monbusho Scholarship. They are contributing much in creating a very good atmosphere and an international ambience in our laboratory. I think this is one of the synergy effects of the collaboration with AUN/SEED-Net.

Finally I want to say thanks to all staff of the AUN/SEED-Net Project in Bangkok and Japan for setting up and tightening the collaboration between Tokyo Institute of Technology and the ASEAN Member Institutions.

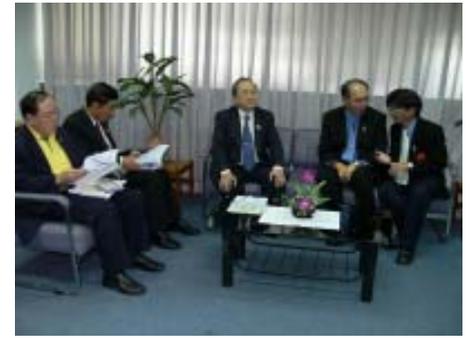
## Events



**April 26, 2007:** Seven national staff from JICA country offices joined the 2nd JICA National Staff Meeting for the AUN/SEED-Net Project at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, aiming at better understanding and smoother implementation of the Project.



**May 11-27, 2007:** The Final Evaluation of Phase I and the Pre-liminary Survey for Phase II of the Project was conducted at Member Institutions and ministries of higher education in the ASEAN countries.



**May 18, 2007:** Our Executive Director Assoc. Prof. Krisada Visavateeranon was invited to give a speech on "Success of AUN/SEED-Net: A JICA's Pride" at the 120th Anniversary of Thailand-Japan Relationship Seminar, held by King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang.



**May 28, 2007:** The 5th Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting for Thailand was held for the final time at the Commission on Higher Education of Thailand.



**May 30, 2007:** The Signing Ceremony of the Minutes of the Final Evaluation of Phase I and the Preliminary Survey for Phase II of the AUN/SEED-Net Project was organized at the Pathumwan Princess Hotel, Bangkok.



**June 1, 2007:** Chulalongkorn University and AUN/SEED-Net held an orientation for new AUN/SEED-Net students enrolling in the first semester.



**June 1, 2007:** King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang and AUN/SEED-Net organized a student orientation for new students under AUN/SEED-Net program as well as CHE program with AUN/SEED-Net collaboration.



**June 5-6, 2007:** Field-wise Seminar in Materials Engineering was held by Universiti Sains Malaysia at the Gurney Resort and Residences, Penang, Malaysia.



**June 11, 2007:** The Japanese Supporting University Consortium Meeting 2007 took place in Tokyo, Japan.

### Welcome the First Batch PhD Sandwich Graduate!

*Continued from p. 1*

"The Environmental Program offered by UP Diliman was very good for me. It gave me deep knowledge in solid waste management focusing on anaerobic digestion of OFMSW and composting,

which I can apply in giving lectures and training programs on environmental courses for students."

The PhD Sandwich Program of AUN/SEED-Net offers a great chance to study at host institutions in ASEAN and do research for at most one year at Japanese Supporting Universities. Through attentive supervision of

advisors, academic advice from Japanese co-advisors, and close connection with other ASEAN fellows, students can obtain not only upgraded qualifications and research capacities but also memberships to the region's largest engineering network. The Program is open for application in October every year. More details are available at [www.seed-net.org](http://www.seed-net.org).