

Inside This Issue

Message from New Assistant Executive Director	1
Tokai University Enhances Student Supervision by ICT Use	1
AUN/SEED-Net and Development of National University of Laos	2
Activities of AUN/SEED-Net at Yangon Technological University	3
Events	4

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)

Access to newsletter  
archive: [www.seed-net.org/  
new.php](http://www.seed-net.org/new.php)

Send your stories,  
comments and suggestions  
to: [info@aun-seed.net](mailto:info@aun-seed.net)



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

**Message from New Assistant Executive Director**



**Assistant Executive Director of AUN/SEED-Net, Asst. Prof. Dr. Supavadee Aramvith**

I have been involved with AUN/SEED-Net since the year 2003 from the participation in the IT Courseware Development Project, a special project of AUN/SEED-Net, to the role of AUN/SEED-Net Coordinator representing the Electrical & Electronics Engineering field at Chulalongkorn University from year 2005-2007 and an advisor of two AUN/SEED-net PhD Sandwich students. From October 2007, I am honored to be appointed as a new Assistant Executive Director of AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat.

I have always been interested in the issue of educational and research development at both national and international levels. I value the importance of collaboration and networking, and believe that these two factors are the crucial steps toward the foundation of academic strengthening and research capacity enhancement for human resource and country development. AUN/SEED-Net is thus a unique kind of engineering network in the world to serve those needs, especially for developing countries.

As we are watching the transition of Phase 1 to Phase 2, certainly we appreciate our joint efforts and contributions to the successfully established engineering network in ASEAN where we have common objectives to strengthen human resource development in engineering, to solve important issues of ASEAN through research capacity enhancement, to build and nurture the network, and to reach the final goal of self-sustainability. For the coming Phase 2, we have so many continuing missions to carry on and yet so many new challenging goals to accomplish. In my capacity, I would contribute at my fullest to make sure the project drive smoothly through several challenges we foresee and those yet to be seen. Through the leadership of our Executive director and with efforts and experiences of our secretariat staffs as well as on-going supports from Japan and member institutions, I strongly believe that our network will grow continuously to be the sustainable ASEAN-Japan partnership in Engineering, Science, and Technology in the future.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Supavadee Aramvith  
Assistant Executive Director

**Tokai University Enhances Student Supervision by ICT Use**

*By Prof. Dr. HAMAMOTO Kazuhiko  
Department of Information Media Technology, Tokai University*



**Prof. Dr. Hamamoto and his Japanese students having TV conference with AUN/SEED-Net students and advisors in Thailand**

Tokai University, as one of the Japanese Supporting Universities, supports and coordinates collaborative activities in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) field of the AUN/SEED-Net Project. I am a field coordinator and it is my great pleasure to join this Project. Here I would like to introduce my activity to solve a problem which I have noticed in this project implementation. It might be on ICT field but I believe that the solution could give some suggestions to all collaborators in the Project.

The AUN/SEED-Net Project aims to produce high quality master's or doctoral thesis research under Japanese co-investigator's or co-advisor's support. In this regard, AUN/SEED-Net

*Continued on p. 3*

## AUN/SEED-Net and Development of National University of Laos

By National University of Laos (NUOL)

The Faculty of Engineering is one of the largest faculty of the National University of Laos (NUOL). It was established in 1995 by the merging of five higher institutions such as National Polytechnic Institute, School of Communication and Transport, School of Architecture, School of Irrigation and School of Electrotechnique and Electronics. In this faculty, there are currently about 5,000 students who study in six departments as below:

1. Transportation Engineering
2. Electronic Engineering
3. Water Resources Engineering
4. Electrical Engineering
5. Mechanical Engineering
6. Civil Engineering

The vision of the faculty is to be in a unique leadership position and the most prestigious engineering education and research institution in the Lao PDR. Every year the faculty graduates about 300 engineering students and 700 higher diploma students to the benefit of society and the economy of Laos. Due to the large number of students, the faculty has a problem of insufficient lecturers; as a result, some lecturers have to teach many subjects and guide the students to do thesis at the mean time.

In order to fulfill the need of the University as well as the need of the Government, the faculty always gives opportunity to and supports its staff to study for higher degrees and return to teach its students. Before 2001, the Faculty of Engineering staff comprises 4 PhD holders, 30 master's holders, 157 bachelor holders, and 75 with higher diplomas.

In 2003, the AUN/SEED-Net Project was established officially and NUOL became one of the member institutions. We cooperated with other universities in the Southeast Asian countries. By networking we shared and exchanged academic ideas and supported our faculty members to apply for AUN/SEED-Net scholarships. Some of them successfully won the scholarships to study in many host institutions in the AUN/SEED-Net network. This Project

not only gives scholars a great opportunity to study, but it also creates a network among them. On the other hand, they can learn and share many things with the host institutions and other Southeast Asian countries such as new technology, culture, and living life.

Since the Project started, it has made notable progress and achievements by great efforts of Member Institutions and Japanese Supporting Universities with the strong support from the Japanese Government and Japanese people. The AUN/SEED-Net programs being implemented at the Faculty of Engineering is among the most important programs on human resource development of NUOL. Starting from 2003 to the present, 37 lecturers of the faculty graduated from the Master's Program and 2 lecturers from the PhD Sandwich Program, working as key staffs in different departments. The total number of lecturers in the faculty has increased by approximately 124%. Obviously, this human resource development support has strengthened the Faculty of Engineering. Currently, we still have our staff studying in many host institutions - 10 at the PhD and 15 at the master's level.

The Faculty of Engineering has set its plans for the opening of new programs to produce manpower in additional fields. Hydro Power Engineering and Environment Engineering programs will be run in 2008. And by 2010, the faculty will establish new departments and run new programs including

AUN/SEED-Net alumni become key faculty staff of NUOL and help develop teaching and research capacity.



Department of Mining Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering, and Transport Engineering program under the Department of Transportation Engineering. Laos is rich in natural resources but lacks human resources in these fields. Therefore, we would need the support from AUN/SEED-Net as well as host institutions with expertise in such fields to help produce engineers and upgrade our staff who are AUN/SEED-Net master's alumni to the PhD level. Also, we would like to ask for the support for joint research activities with all institutions in the network including the Japanese Supporting Universities.

We are very glad that this Project completes its first phase with very good outcomes. We hope that the second phase will bring more and more success to the future ASEAN in producing and improving human resource capabilities. This Project will strengthen friendship and hospitality among the ASEAN countries as well as relationship with Japan. We would like to show gratitude to the Japanese Government and Japanese people for their contributions, and to thank host institutions and all parties concerned.



NUOL actively participates in AUN/SEED-Net activities, e.g. organizing several Field-wise Seminars and the first Open House.

## Activities of AUN/SEED-Net at Yangon Technological University

By Yangon Technological University (YTU)

Yangon Technological University (YTU) began in 1924 as the Department of Engineering under the University of Rangoon (Yangon), offering a four-year degree course in Civil Engineering only. In 1927, the Department was moved to the B.O.C. College of Mining and Engineering and was upgraded to the Faculty of Engineering in 1947. Then, it was shifted to the campus at Gyogone in Insein Township in 1961 and was renamed as the Rangoon (Yangon) Institute of Technology (RIT/YIT) as an independent university in 1964 under the Ministry of Education. It has been transferred to the Ministry of Science and Technology on 1st January 1997 and was renamed as the Yangon Technological University since 1 July 1998. Now there are 30 Technological Universities, including YTU, under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

YTU is composed of 18 departments: Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Power Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Information Technology, Mechatronic Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Textile Engineering, Mining Engineering, Petroleum Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Biotechnology, Architecture, Engineering Geology, Engineering Physics, Engineering Chemistry, Engineering Mathematics, and Languages. It is now offering postgraduate degree courses such as Diploma, Master's and Doctor of Philosophy courses in a variety of disciplines.



Left: AUN/SEED-Net alumni at YTU  
Right: YTU staff joining Field-wise Seminar in Geological Engineering in 2007

YTU has actively cooperated in the AUN/SEED-Net Project since 2002. Since then, a total of six master's students have graduated from the AUN/SEED-Net Program. Two master's students and two PhD students are still studying in the fields of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Information & Communication Technology. All of the students who have graduated from the AUN/SEED-Net program are now working as lecturers in Technological Universities and two of them are taking further studies for PhD in Germany and Singapore.

YTU has also participated in Field-wise Seminars under the AUN/SEED-Net Project. Three teaching staff members from the Department of Chemical Engineering and one from the Department of Material Science and Metallurgical Engineering had the opportunity to participate in the Field-wise Seminars held in 2006 and 2007. Now, YTU initiates to take part in the interdisciplinary area of Biotechnology and to do collaborative researches with the De La Salle University in Phase II of the AUN/SEED-Net Project.

### Tokai University Enhances Student Supervision by ICT Use

(Continued from p. 1)

doctoral sandwich students are provided with the Short-term Study Program in Japan that gives them the opportunities to take advice from Japanese co-advisors directly. Unfortunately, however, master's students have a few of such opportunities. This seems to be a slightly serious problem. If master's students could establish good relations with Japanese co-investigators, it would be easier for them to continue the research in doctoral courses and to get doctoral degrees within three years.

To solve the problem, TV conference system is used in my laboratory to set a meeting with AUN/SEED-Net master's students in the host institution (HI), i.e. King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, every two months. The resolution is relatively same as VGA, which is not so high but enough for meeting. No ISDN or special network is required, but just usual internet. And when the image is projected to a large screen, the environment looks like a real classroom. This is a good way to track the research progress and to discuss the research in details among students, advisors in HI and co-investigators in Japan. It also provides a good opportunity for Japanese students to present and discuss their research in English and to foster friendship among ASEAN and Japan in younger generation.

### Events

(Continued from p. 4)



December 12, 2007: Students and advisors at De La Salle University attended the monitoring activity conducted by the university and AUN/SEED-Net.



December 13-14, 2007: The last Field-wise Seminar in Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering was hosted by Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia.



December 17-18, 2007: The last seminar of this phase was the Field-wise Seminar in Geological Engineering and International Symposium, was arranged by Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta.

## Events



**October 22, 2007:** New students enrolling in the second semester at Chulalongkorn University attended the orientation arranged by the university and AUN/SEED-Net.



**October 24-25, 2007:** The Field-wise Seminar in Geological Engineering and the 4th International Symposium were organized by Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, along with the 50th anniversary of the university.



**October 29, 2007:** Student orientation and monitoring was conducted by AUN/SEED-Net and King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang.



**October 31-November 3, 2007:** AUN/SEED-Net team attended the 22th AUN Board of Trustees Meeting at Dusit Resort Pattaya, Thailand. The team also joined the back-to-back Workshop on AUN Strategic Directions towards 2015.



**November 1-2, 2007:** The last Field-wise Seminar in Civil Engineering was held by Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. This seminar covered all subfields.



**November 15-16, 2007:** The last Field-wise Seminar in Materials Engineering was held by National University of Laos in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



**November 19-20, 2007:** King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang hosted the last Field-wise Seminar in Informations & Communication Technology in conjunction with the 120th anniversary of Thailand-Japan Diplomatic Relations.



**November 22-23 2007:** The Field-wise Seminar in Electrical & Electronics Engineering was arranged only once in this year and for the last time in Phase I by Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.



**November 26-27, 2007:** National University of Laos organized the last Field-wise Seminar in Environmental Engineering in Vientiane.



**November 27, 2007:** The first AUN/SEED-Net Open House was jointly arranged by National University of Laos and AUN/SEED-Net. Almost 100 students were interested to join the event.



**November 29-30, 2007:** The last Field-wise Seminar in Chemical Engineering was arranged in Pattaya, Thailand, by Burapha University.



**December 3-4, 2007:** University of Malaya hosted the last Field-wise Seminar in Manufacturing Engineering in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



**December 7, 2007:** AUN/SEED-Net team and Chulalongkorn University cooperatively monitored the progress of students studying at the university.



**December 11, 2007:** AUN/SEED-Net team and University of the Philippines-Diliman jointly held student monitoring activity. The team also paid a courtesy call to UP President.

*Continued on p. 3*