

SEED-Net *News*

Quarterly Newsletter of the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network



AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat

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Message from New Executive Director

It is my honor to be appointed by the AUN/SEED-Net Steering Committee to be Executive Director of the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat for the next two years. On this occasion, I would like to extend my appreciation to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Prakrit Tangtisanon, former Executive Director who completed four-year service term in the end of August 2012, for his contribution and dedication to the AUN/SEED-Net Project. I hope I could bring my past experiences working with private sector and national research institute to contribute to the Project, especially in promotion of industrial linkage between the university and the industry.



The current phase of AUN/SEED-Net is going to finish in March 2013 with great achievements both in quantitative and qualitative aspects. Now we are on a transition to Phase III, which has been approved recently by JICA. Our new assignments involve promotion of university and industry collaboration to help strengthen competitiveness of ASEAN industrial sector. We will also focus our resources to deal with common regional issues such as energy and disaster mitigation. All of these, when accomplished, would become vital mechanisms for engineering human resource development and also contribution to sustainable development of our ASEAN Community.

In order to reach the ultimate goal of AUN/SEED-Net in creating sustainable socio-economic development for the ASEAN region, vigorous and continual cooperation as well as supports from all stakeholders are highly anticipated. As the new Executive Director of AUN/SEED-Net, I am looking forward to working hand in hand with all member institutions, Japanese supporting universities, member countries, JICA, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN University Network, and other organizations. Your supports and suggestions for improvement of the Network and the Secretariat are always welcomed.

Asst. Prof. Prayoon Shiwattana

Executive Director

AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat

Have you read the ASEAN Engineering Journal?

ASEAN Engineering Journal, the platform for engineering scholars and researchers to publish research papers focusing on knowledge from academic research outcomes in ASEAN countries. Paper submissions are welcomed with no publication charge, and all papers will be reviewed by international editorial board. Find detailed guidelines and download free electronic copies of the journal at www.seed-net.org/journal.html.

ASEAN - Japan Seminar and Workshop on Satellite Data Applications on Floods

The special ASEAN - Japan Seminar and Workshop on Satellite Data Applications on Floods was jointly organized by AUN/SEED-Net and Water Resources Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University (CU) at CU campus. The duration of the event was two days between July 30 and 31, 2012.

The first-day activity was a seminar, attended by 67 people including participants from AUN/SEED-Net member institutions and local participants. Ten papers were presented, among which four were delivered by Japanese professors. The second day of the event was organized in the format of workshop, attended by 20 participants from our members and Japanese professors only. The discussion aimed to create research collaboration on the topic of satellite data applications on floods. From the discussion, the meeting came up with three main aspects for the impending research project, including satellite-based rainfall, flood prediction, and environmental aspects. In addition to the technical programs, the meeting also discussed on future direction in sustaining this nature of collaboration where the topic is more specific than regular regional conferences. Not only the level of long-term involvement, but also the alternative sources of financial support were among other issues to be planned for.



The 5th Regional Conference on Geo-Disaster Mitigation in ASEAN



The 5th AUN/SEED-Net Regional Conference on Geo-Disaster Mitigation in ASEAN, titled "The unnatural side of natural disasters: Understanding the relationship of human activities and the increased occurrences of disasters", took place on September 6-7, 2012 in Manila, the Philippines. The last regional conference on this interdisciplinary area in Phase II was organized by University of the Philippines - Diliman (UP) in coordination with Gadjah Mada University (UGM).

Thirty-five papers including four keynote presentations were presented by Japanese professors, participants from member institutions, AUN/SEED-Net alumni, Japanese students, participants from the industrial sector, and representatives from other academic institutes in the Philippines. A

total of 75 participants including self-supported professor from Nanyang Technological University (NTU), local students, and interested parties attended the event. During the AUN/SEED-Net discussion, a plan of Japanese Professor Dispatch Program was discussed tentatively.

Energy Area Expands Collaboration Outside Network

The 5th Regional Conference on New and Renewable Energy was hosted by School of Transportation Engineering, Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST) on September 26-27, 2012. There were 128 participants from nine countries joining this conference, with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Hoang Luong, HUST Vice President giving an opening speech.

This year's conference was not only the first conjunction with Sustainable Energy and Environment Forum (SEE forum), but also the first collaboration with financial support from the industry. Six keynotes were presented by Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Spain, and Vietnam during the plenary session. The total of 64 papers was selected for the oral presentation and ideas were exchanged during the two days.



In addition to technical presentations, the international steering committee of the field exchanged views on how to enhance collaboration during the next five years of the AUN/SEED-Net Project, which included issues of industry linkages, ASEAN Engineering Journal, and involvement of those outside the network.

New Structure of AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat

AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat has recently reorganized our structure in preparation for operation of Phase III. The new structure is effective from October 2012. The idea of the secretariat reorganization is majorly for smooth coordination and management, because our network has grown bigger with a wider range of activities. The newly-adjusted structure which consists of three different units is specifically focused on roles and responsibilities of each unit in terms of project management, program operation by field, and progress monitoring by country.

Resource Management (RM) Unit: Responsible for office management, administration and financial matters, public relations, program implementation in Chemical and Environmental Engineering fields, and activities in the Philippines and Lao PDR.

Planning and Capacity Development (PCD) Unit: Responsible for activity planning, graduate programs, ASEAN Engineering Journal, implementation of programs in Civil, Computer & Information, Electrical & Electronics, and Materials Engineering, plus monitoring of activities in Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand.

Research and Network Promotion (RNP) Unit: Responsible for promotion of research support programs and networking activities, as well as activity operations in Geological & Geo-resource Engineering, Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Energy Engineering, and Natural Disaster with countries-in-charge of Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, and Vietnam.

AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat structure is depicted in the chart below.



New Staff



Ms. Nathanan Mitkasem (left), Secretary in Resource Management Unit, has joined AUN-SEED/Net since September 2012. She is working on office guidelines, document systemization, secretarial support, and public relations.

Ms. Natthanun Patcharapunchai (right), Program Officer in Planning and Capacity Development Unit, has joined the Project in October 2012. She is in charge of Electrical & Electronics Engineering and Materials Engineering fields, as well as ASEAN Engineering Journal.



The 19th Steering Committee Meeting & Year 2012 Annual Meeting

Co-hosted by Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) and the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat, the 19th Steering Committee Meeting and Year 2012 Annual Meeting of the AUN/SEED-Net Project was held on September 21, 2012 at Luxton Hotel Bandung, Indonesia. The meeting gathered 57 participants including delegates of member institutions in ASEAN, Chairman of Japanese Supporting University Consortium (JSUC), representatives of ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), ASEAN University Network (AUN), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat. Director General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia, Prof. Dr. Djoko Santoso and Minister-Counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission of Japan to ASEAN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Ms. Takako Ito gave honorary addresses at the opening ceremony.

Main agenda of the meeting were the final evaluation of the AUN/SEED-Net Project Phase II and the concept and strategic plan of Phase III. From the final evaluation report by JICA, the project purpose of Phase II "foundation of a sustainable framework of human resource development network in engineering, aiming at contributing to development of societies, is established in ASEAN under ownership of member countries" had been mostly achieved.

For Phase III which would begin in March 2013, the AUN/SEED-Net Project would aim at three directions. First, we would contribute to advancement and globalization of the industry in the ASEAN region through promotion of university - industry collaborative activities. Second, regional common issues would be intensely addressed and responded through collaborative researches and conferences. Last but not least, we would continue enhancing educational and research capacity of our member institutions through production of high-qualified faculty staff, promotion of researcher and student mobility around the region and with Japan, alongside encouragement of joint international program development by the member institutions.

In Phase III, our network would welcome seven new member institutions from ASEAN: Universitas Indonesia and Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember from Indonesia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Universiti Putra Malaysia from Malaysia, Mindanao State University - Illigan Institute of Technology from the Philippines, and Kasetsart University and Thammasat University from Thailand. Plus, three new universities from Japan would join the JSUC: Nagoya University, Osaka University, and Tohoku University. The Signing Ceremony of the new Cooperative Framework would take place in Bangkok on November 29, 2012 with participation from ministries in charge of education in ten ASEAN countries and Japan, member institutions, JICA, ASEC, and AUN.

Upcoming Events

Find updated schedule at <http://www.seed-net.org/calendar.php>

November 5-6, 2012	Regional Conference on Manufacturing Engineering & Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of the Philippines Conference @ Pasig City, The Philippines (http://www.dlsu.edu.ph/conferences/aun/seednet/5th-rcmanue/)
November 21-22, 2012	Regional Conference on Global Environment: "Towards A Sustainable ASEAN" @ Bandung, Indonesia (http://www.lppm.itb.ac.id/pslh/)
November 29, 2012	Signing Ceremony of Cooperative Framework of the AUN/SEED-Net Project @ Bangkok, Thailand
January 22-23, 2013	Joint Regional Conferences on Materials & Natural Resources and Materials "Innovating Towards the Frontiers of Materials and Minerals Engineering" @ Penang, Malaysia (http://aunseednet.eng.usm.my/rc2013)
January 23-24, 2013	Regional Conference on Biotechnology "Biotechnology for Biorefinery" @ Bandung, Indonesia (http://rcbio5.webs.com/)
February 7-8, 2013	Regional Conference on Chemical Engineering "Moving towards the New Chapter in Chemical Engineering amongst ASEAN Region" @ Pattaya, Thailand (http://www.rcche2013.buu.ac.th/)