The 20th Steering Committee Meeting and Year 2013 Annual Meeting

Hosted by National University of Laos (NUOL), the 20th Steering Committee Meeting and Year 2013 Annual Meeting successfully ended on 15 November 2013. Attending the meeting were delegates from 26 Member Institutions (MIs), ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN University Network, JICA Laos Office, Mission of Japan to ASEAN, Embassy of Japan in Laos and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), with the special addresses from Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kongsy SENGMANY, Vice Minister of Ministry of Education and Sports, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Saykhong SAYMABHITCH, Vice President of NUOL, Mr. ARIBAYASHI Koji, First Secretary, Mission of Japan to ASEAN and Ms. KAYASHIMA Nobuko, Director General of Human Development Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Annual Report and Monitoring Report of JFY 2012, Progress Report of JFY 2013 and discussions on related matters to project activities were put forward. The meeting also discussed future plan after Phase 3, Cost Sharing Policy and the sustainability of the project.

Details of the 20th Steering Committee Meeting will be further publicized in the form of “Minutes of the 20th Steering Committee Meeting and Year 2013 Annual Meeting”. All Steering Committee members, MI representatives and observers extended the highest appreciation to NUOL and the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat for wonderful hospitality and organization of the meeting. The next Steering Committee Meeting and Year 2014 Annual Meeting will be hosted by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).
Intensive Training on Promotion for University - Industry Linkage

AUN/SEED-Net’s Intensive Training on Promotion for University – Industry (U-I) Linkage was conducted successfully on 5-15 November 2013 in Nagoya and Toyohashi, Japan. The training was co-hosted by JICA Chubu International Center and Toyohashi University of Technology. Ten participants from four countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand attended the course.

The program consisted of presentations by participants on the current stage of U-I linkage at their institutions, lectures on relevant topics and site visits at university laboratories and private companies where U-I linkage was promoted and materialized. Thanks to the training, the participants took away many points that gave them a clearer picture of how to promote U-I linkage in their countries and disseminate the knowledge gained to their colleagues.

The Directory for Engineering: Linking Industry with University Research (Printing and DVD Formats)

In line with Phase 3’s mission to enhance University-Industry collaboration, AUN/SEED-Net presents "The Directory for Engineering"; a laboratory directory among our MIs. The Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines editions, available in printing and DVD formats, marked a stepping-stone for greater industrial linkage in the ASEAN region through promotion of university-industry collaborative activities. This unique directory aims to be a platform between industry and academia both in ASEAN and Japan to get to know more about university research and laboratory services as future reference for closer collaboration. At the moment, we are working on expanding to other ASEAN countries.

Introducing University-Industry Flyer (Japanese Version)

In an effort to strengthen linkage among MIs, industry and communities, a U-I flyer, written in Japanese has been published with the main purpose to provide general information on U-I activities to Japanese industry in ASEAN region and in Japan. To download, visit www.seed-net.org/01_index_jp.php

Regional Conferences

Over the past few months, four Regional Conferences (RCs) have been organized successfully with the active participation of representatives, MIs, Japanese Supporting Universities (JSUs), and the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat. Main objectives of the conferences were:

- To share recent research trend, the most updated technology and experiences among academicians, industry, community, and policy makers related to a regional common issue.
- To publicize research progress and outputs of collaborative research related to a regional common issue.
- To review, discuss and design annual implementation plan for AUN/SEED-Net activities in each field and direction of collaborative research related to a regional common issue.
- To strengthen the relationships among MIs, JSUs, industry, community and policy makers.

Apart from MIs and JSUs, the conferences brought together a wide range of audiences from the academia, the industry, representatives from the government, communities, non-MIs and other professional organizations. While the highlights of the event were on the presentations of research papers from each engineering module, the RC program also allowed opportunities for participants to discuss future collaborations or activities related to the field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engineering Field</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The 5th Regional Conference on Civil and Environmental Engineering</td>
<td>21-22 Nov 2013</td>
<td>Chulalongkorn University</td>
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<tr>
<td>The 1st Regional Conference on Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering</td>
<td>25-26 Nov 2013</td>
<td>Universiti Putra Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>The 6th Regional Conference on Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>2-3 Dec 2013</td>
<td>De La Salle University</td>
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<tr>
<td>The 6th Regional Conference on Geologist and Geo-Resources Engineering</td>
<td>11-12 Dec 2013</td>
<td>Universiti as Gadjah Mada</td>
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MIs who wish to express interest in hosting the RC, please contact AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat to confirm the process of relevant engineering field. For more information, visit www.seed-net.org/application_form.html.
Monitoring Visits

During study, AUN/SEED-Net scholars will be regularly monitored to ensure their satisfactory performance and to identify any difficulties. In this regard, the university monitoring visits are conducted annually in all HIs in ASEAN with the main objectives to meet current and new students as well as their advisors to update study progress and to share information on AUN/SEED-Net programs. Besides, the visits also allow the Secretariat to interact with faculty staff involved in shaping up the desired structure of some study programs.

These past few months, two Monitoring Visits took place on 4 December 2013 at University of the Philippines-Diliman (UPD) and on 13 December at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) where the Secretariat team had a chance to meet with students sharing experience on their studies, livings and thesis updates while also discussed with faculty staff for further improvement of student’s academic performance.

Open House at NUOL was a Big Success

On 14 November 2013 over 200 students and representatives from eight HIs attended AUN/SEED-Net Open House 2013 for Graduate Scholarship Programs 2014 at National University of Laos (NUOL), Vientiane. Lao PDR. Presentations were given on the overview of each Host Institution (HI) — Chulabhorn University (CU), National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL), and Thammasat University (TU). During the Open House, the students gained insightful information about graduate programs, scholarships and life in host countries while professors had a chance to meet and recruit high-potential candidates and conduct promotional activities of their institutions. The session ended by a campus tour for the professors.

Joint Degree Certificates Issued for PhD SW Program

Based on the Graduate Program’s plan to issue a joint certificate in the third phase of the project, AUN/SEED-Net has started to issue a “Certificate of Completion of Ph.D. Sandwich Program” for doctoral degree students who have completed Doctoral Degree Sandwich Program with joint supervision by ASEAN Host Institutions (HIs) and Japanese Supporting Universities (JSUs). All doctoral degree awardees, not only by completion of doctoral course, are eligible. The purpose of this is to certify the meaning of the degree program through Sandwich Program in terms of joint supervision by ASEAN and Japan.

The information on the certificate includes the serial number of certificate, student’s name, name of ASEAN HI, and name of JSU, date of issue, and signatures of Executive Director and Chief Advisor of AUN/SEED-Net (AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat and JICA Project Office for AUN/SEED-Net). The first certificate was issued in December 2013 for a doctoral degree awardee.

Alumni from the first and second phase of the project is encouraged to seek more information via AUN/SEED-Net website or Facebook.

Certificate of Completion
Ph.D. Sandwich Program

This is to certify that

has completed Doctoral Degree Sandwich Program under AUN/SEED-Net with joint supervision by ASEAN Host Institution and Japanese Supporting University.

December 25, 2013

Graduate Program Website Launched!

AUN/SEED-Net is pleased to announce the launch of Graduate Program website which has been set up to provide information on 10 engineering fields and profiles of academic staff. You can now log on to www.seed-net-grad.org for more information. We hope you will find the content of this new website useful and informative.
MOFA Letter of Appreciation to Dr. Prakit Tangtisanon, Former Executive Director of AUN/SEED-Net

On 20 January 2014, H.E. Ambassador SATO Shigekazu, Japanese Ambassador to Thailand, presented “Letter of Appreciation” to Dr. Prakit Tangtisanon to express the Japanese government’s gratitude for his remarkable contribution involved in Japanese ODA projects. Dr. Prakit, served as former Executive Director of AUN/SEED-Net from the year 2009 to 2012, played an important role in laying the smooth implementation during Phase 2 of the project as well as several other projects for King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL). The award ceremony took place at the Ambassador’s residence.

Special Symposium Held to Commemorate 40 Years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

Taking the opportunity of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit (13-15 Dec 2013), “The Future of Asia” Special Symposium, “ASEAN 2025 – Vision and Challenges for ASEAN in Future”, was held to mark 40th year of relations between ASEAN-Japan on 13 December 2013 in Tokyo. Dr. Romny, Director General, Institute of Technology Cambodia (ITC), attended the event as one of the panelists representing AUN/SEED-Net where he emphasized the importance of higher education, especially in engineering, and the contribution generated in the area of economic development in the region. Jointly organized by JICA and Nikkei Shimbun, the symposium resonated the long-standing cooperation of the two regions.

Staff Change

Ms. Siritharin Charonsiri, Program Officer in Research and Network Promotion Unit, resigned from the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat on 10 January 2014. Her responsibilities have been transferred to her successor.

Mr. Krit Manator has been recruited as new Program Officer in Research and Network Promotion Unit with effect from 6 January 2014.

Ms. Thanawan Techawrong, Assistant Program Officer in Planning and Capacity Development Unit, left the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat on 30 November 2013.

Ms. Sita Poorisongsawat, Secretary in Resource Management Unit, quitted the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat on 7 February 2014.

Upcoming Events

Find updated schedule at http://www.seed-net.org/

22-23 Jan 2014 Regional Conference on Natural Disaster, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
27-28 Jan 2014 Monitoring Visit and Orientation at Nanyang Technological University and National University of Singapore, Singapore
3-4 Feb 2014 Regional Conference on Material Engineering, Kyoto University, Japan
4 Mar 2014 2nd U-I Advisory Committee Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand
4-5 Mar 2014 Regional Conference on Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
20-21 Mar 2014 2nd Working Group Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand

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