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

Message from New Executive Director



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sucharit Koontanakulvong, AUN/SEED-Net Executive Director since August 2007

From the 13th Steering Committee Meeting in August 2007, I was nominated as a new Executive Director succeeding Assoc. Prof. Krisada Visavateeranon for the next two-year period (2007-2009) with great pleasure. For the last three years, I had been working as Associate Dean and had a chance to communicate with AUN/SEED-Net on behalf of a host institution (Chulalongkorn University). I learned that AUN/SEED-Net aimed to promote human resource development through funding scholarship, collaborative research, field wise seminar, and etc. to the international engineering programs in the designated universities in the region. From the mid-term and final project evaluation, the Project's first phase was proved to be successfully achieved the project goals. These achievements were based on all parties' endeavors and collaborations and the parties concerned should be proud of.

We are now on the transition period to the second phase and need more careful planning during this phase to reach the final goal of establishing regional partnership of engineering graduate programs with the sustainable fundamentals. Four issues must be addressed and discussed among members, i.e., how to further upgrade the nine fundamental fields through more collaborative scheme, how to induce more impacts to the region through interdisciplinary engineering research on the common issues, how to effectively disseminate knowledge through regional conference/workshop, and how to follow up the AUN/SEED-Net alumni network. These need closer discussion and more collaboration during our second phase implementation.

As the new Executive Director of AUN/SEED-Net, I am very pleased to work with all member institutions under the policy of the Steering Committee and well support from Japanese Government through JICA and Japanese Supporting Universities, member countries, ASEAN Secretariat, AUN Secretariat, and other parties, to reach the project objectives and goals for human resource development in ASEAN region. Our secretariat staff are welcomed for all comments and suggestions to improve our works to support the project implementation.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sucharit Koontanakulvong
Executive Director

Student's Achievement

Mary Donnabelle I. Balela, master's student at Universiti Sains Malaysia sent by University of the Philippines-Diliman, won the Young Persons' World Lecture Competition 2007 held on 8 August at Nanyang Technological University.

The competition was organized annually by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining. This year seven young materials scientists and engineers who were winners of national competitions in the USA, UK, Ireland, Hong Kong, Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia competed in delivering short presentations and answering questions from international judges. Representing Malaysia, Balela took the first place for her insightful presentation on cobalt nanoparticles, looking at their synthesis, properties and applications. She explored superparamagnetism and discussed biomedical and magnetic recording applications of those materials.

This competition aimed to promote the field of materials science and provide an opportunity for young researchers to enhance their communication and presentation skills.



Mary Donnabelle I. Balela, Master's scholar from UP studying at USM

National University of Singapore and Active Involvement with AUN/SEED-Net

By National University of Singapore

Acknowledged as one of the finest universities in the Asia-Pacific region, the National University of Singapore or NUS is a comprehensive university which offers a broad-based curriculum underscored by multidisciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. It has 14 faculties and schools with an enrolment of about 24,000 undergraduate and more than 9,000 graduate students. NUS actively promotes innovation and entrepreneurship, both in the classroom and research facilities. It enjoys a close teaching-research nexus with 12 affiliated national-level, 16 university-level and more than 80 faculty-based research institutes and centres.

Research remains the primary focus at the Faculty of Engineering in its pursuit of excellence. Exciting research opportunities for graduate studies are available in:

- Bioengineering
- Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Engineering & Technology Management
- Environmental Science & Engineering
- Industrial & Systems Engineering
- Materials Science & Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

Several students have benefited from the AUN/SEED-Net scholarships. A total of seven students have since graduated with a Master of Engineering degree from NUS. Current enrolment stands at 17, with four students pursuing their doctoral degree and the remaining 13 students reading their Masters degree. All are recipients of a scholarship either awarded by AUN/SEED-Net and/or by NUS.



The 12th AUN/SEED-Net Steering Committee Meeting hosted by NUS on 19 January 2007

Currently NUS offers a total of 10 research scholarships annually for doctoral students under the AUN/SEED-Net Project.

NUS hosted the 12th AUN/SEED-Net Steering Committee Meeting on 19 January 2007 at the university. The meeting, chaired by NUS Dean of Faculty of Engineering Prof. Dr. Seeram Ramakrishna, was attended by 44 participants from Member Institutions, ASEAN Secretariat, AUN Secretariat, JICA, and AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat. Guests of honor presenting and delivering speeches at the opening ceremony included Second Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education of Singapore Mrs. Tan Ching Yee, NUS President Prof. Dr. Shih Choon Fong, and Director General of Human Development Department of JICA Headquarters Mr. Kikuchi Fumio. They admired the network spirit established by the Project and supported the Project's continuation to continually benefit the development of the whole region.

Through AUN/SEED-Net, NUS faculty members had the opportunity to meet with their counterparts from member institutions during many field-wise seminars. This serves as an important avenue for sharing of knowledge and presentation of ideas. Further collaborations have taken place as a result.

NUS is actively involved and will continue to play its part in meeting the objective of the AUN/SEED-Net Programme by providing training ground and research opportunities for our graduate students. NUS is strongly committed to advancing knowledge, educating students, nurturing talent and prepares them for an increasingly borderless and innovation-driven global economy.



Left: The AUN/SEED-Net Project's Final Evaluation team visiting NUS labs in May 2007



Right: Advisors and AUN/SEED-Net students meeting with AUN/SEED-Net team during the monitoring visit in August 2006

Nanyang Technological University in Coordination with AUN/SEED-Net

By Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a host institution for AUN/SEED-Net scholars from the Member Institutions in all fields of the AUN/SEED-Net programmes. To date 11 scholars have been admitted to the programmes at NTU, namely Civil Engineering (CE), Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE), and Mechanical/Aeronautical Engineering (ME/AE). Six of them (4 Indonesian, 1 Laotian and 1 Thai) have successfully completed their studies and most became faculty staff of their Sending Institutions.

All the students gratefully acknowledge the financial support from JICA and AUN/SEED-Net throughout their study. They had a positive view toward this program and noted that faculty qualifications in their Sending Institutions are upgraded through acquisition of graduate degrees. The number of joint research activities and human linkage among the Member Institutions are also strengthened. Under AUN/SEED-Net, NTU has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Burapha University. In addition to that, NTU has also relations with University of the Philippines, University Sains Malaysia, and University of Malaya.

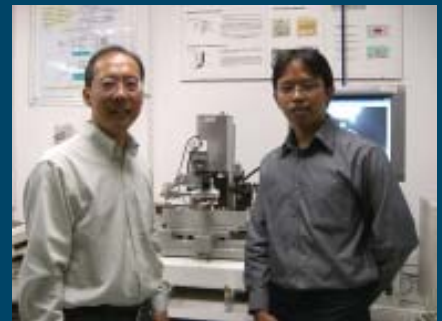
Suhartono Setiawan, 1st year MEng student of the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) was awarded two-year scholarship to pursue postgraduate study by research at NTU. He chose NTU because of its well known reputation for its research and education programs. In MAE, Tono's research interest is growing with the newly established Division of Aerospace Engineering (AE), which envisioned several research activities that could be used to boost and support the development of aerospace industry in Singapore. His current project, titled "Development of Vertical Take-off Landing (VTOL) Micro Air Vehicles (MAV)" is driven by the need of micro aerial vehicles that can be packed in soldier briefcase and operated easily by individual or small group of soldiers. It is expected to give real time images and videos regarding battlefield situation for soldier in the platoon level, as well as doing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

Lia Maisarah Umar, AUN/SEED Net scholar also from the School of MAE shared that she enjoyed the full support of AUN/SEED-Net throughout her study in NTU as a candidate of Master of Engineering. Through the course, Lia got to know the development Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell, one of the electrochemical devices capable of converting chemical energy of fuel directly into electrical energy. Exposed to high supporting technology and vibrant academic society, Lia feels that this is truly an enriching experience for her engineering education.

Another AUN/SEED-Net scholar, Willy Kurnia, just completed his MEng study at NTU and returned to his country Indonesia. Recently he was awarded the AUN/SEED-Net PhD Scholarship to continue PhD study at Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan.



Above: Tono, AUN/SEED-Net Program Officer Siriporn S., Lia, AUN/SEED-Net Academic Advisor Dr. Tsunoda, and Willy
Below: Willy and his advisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yeo Swee Hock



Left: Tono's hovering test activity
Right: Lia's Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell

Events

(Continued from p. 4)



September 17, 2007: AUN/SEED-Net team visited Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, for student orientation and monitoring.



September 18, 2007: AUN/SEED-Net team paid a courtesy visit to the Ministry of National Education of Indonesia to discuss contribution for Phase II.



September 19, 2007: AUN/SEED-Net team conducted orientation and monitoring for students at Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia.

Events



July 4, 2007: University of Malaya and AUN/SEED-Net held an orientation and monitoring activity for new and existing students at UM, Kuala Lumpur.



July 11-12, 2007: AUN/SEED-Net mission visited Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Institut Teknologi Brunei and Universiti Brunei Darussalam to discuss the Project's final evaluation results and Phase II plan as well as to learn about needs and possible contribution of the Brunei counterparts.



July 11, 2007: Students and advisors at Universiti Sains Malaysia participated in an orientation and monitoring held by USM and AUN/SEED-Net.



July 30-31, 2007: Field-wise Seminar in Information & Communication Technology was organized by National University of Laos at Don Chanh Palace Hotel, Vientiane.



July 30-31, 2007: De La Salle University arranged the Field-wise Seminar in Chemical Engineering at the Century Park Hotel, Manila.



August 1-2, 2007: Field-wise Seminar in Environmental Engineering was hosted by University of the Philippines-Diliman at the Richmond Hotel, Manila.



August 9, 2007: AUN/SEED-Net organized the Coordinator Meeting at Chulalongkorn University. Coordinators from all Member Institutions were summoned to discuss Phase II implementation plan.



August 10, 2007: The 13th AUN/SEED-Net Steering Committee Meeting and Year 2007 Annual Meeting was organized at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.



August 22, 2007: National University of Singapore and AUN/SEED-Net arranged the first-time orientation and monitoring via teleconference.



August 28-29, 2007: Hanoi University of Technology arranged the Field-wise Seminar in Manufacturing Engineering at Hanoi Horizon Hotel, Hanoi.



August 30, 2007: AUN/SEED-Net team introduced the Project to students from Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT) and several Thai universities joining the Japan-Asia Young Scientists and Engineers Study Visit (JAYSES) program, arranged by TIT to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Japan-Thailand relations.



September 3-4, 2007: Institute of Technology of Cambodia held the Field-wise Seminar in Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering at Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



September 11, 2007: Nanyang Technological University and AUN/SEED-Net held student orientation & monitoring via teleconference system.