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Mr. Katsuji ONODA
Resident Representative
JICA Thailand Office



ASEAN University Network/ Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network

The 14th Steering Committee Meeting Promises Bright Future for ASEAN

Aiming to create a promising future for the ASEAN region and the network itself, the AUN/SEED-Net steering committee celebrated achievements of the first phase and announced missions for the second phase of the AUN/SEED-Net Project at the 14th Steering Committee Meeting, which was held on 18 January 2008 at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

See detailed news on p. 4



AUN/SEED-Net Steering Committee promised to join hands to create bright future for ASEAN.

Message from JICA Thailand

For the past years, tremendous efforts have been paid by all concerned parties, in order to achieve AUN/SEED-Net's goal to improve educational and research capacities of member institutions in this ASEAN region, with academic support from the Japanese Supporting University Consortium. Among other achievements, for example, the first phase of the Project has provided a total of 445 scholarships to study at graduate level in ASEAN or Japan. So far, we have seen 201 scholars successfully graduating from the program, and we are expecting another few hundreds to follow in the coming few years, which I believe will bring a great impact on the improvement of the member institutions' educational and research capacity.

Based on all the achievements and the impact of the Project to the region, it was encouraged by all parties concerned that the Project should be continued to the second phase, to further improve education and research capacity of the member institutions and to ensure the sustainable engineering network within the region. After long series of intensive discussions and preparation by all members to lay out the framework for the second phase, I am very pleased to inform you again that finally the request for the support to the AUN/SEED-Net's Phase II was officially approved by the Government of Japan and JICA in October 2007, with the duration of 5 years starting from March 2008 until March 2013.

Recently ASEAN has made one greater step forward by agreeing on the ASEAN Charter, the

Constitution of ASEAN, which definitely will further accelerate and strengthen the integration and solidarity of the region. I strongly believe AUN/SEED-Net, as a sub-network of AUN, has been contributing to this ultimate goal of ASEAN, by bringing leading engineering schools in the region together to cooperate for human resource development and research activities inevitable for the region's development and integration. I believe Phase II will continue to meet the needs of ASEAN, as it plans to continue its effort to produce leading engineering human resource, put more efforts in collaborative research activities for industry and community by promoting interdisciplinary research areas addressing common needs and issues of the region, create or strengthen the existing regional academic network, and also try to work out our way towards the concept of Graduate School of Engineering Consortium among ASEAN and Japan. JICA is very pleased to be a partner of ASEAN in this great endeavour for the region's sustainable social and economic development, which is perfectly in line with the Official Development Assistance policy of the Japanese Government.

On this great occasion, please allow me to wish you all a successful implantation of the second phase of the Project in the future.

Mr. Katsuji ONODA
Resident Representative

Faculty Development and Engineering Education in Cambodia

By Dr. Romny OM, Deputy Director, Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC)

Cambodia has been well placed to benefit from rapid infrastructural development after peace returned, and because of our strengths, flexibility, dynamism, complementarities between our economies, and competitiveness of our open economy. Cambodia is now in period of economic development booming of merchandise import-export market and investments. Great advantages have been achieved since this country normalized diplomatic relations to many countries in the world.

Because engineering education play an important role both for the country's competitive advantages as well as for the ongoing work of creating sustainable development in local communities, that engineering education is a key element to the successful development of a society is well discussed and accepted in the literature on socioeconomic development, along with health, water, nutrition and housing, etc.

The Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) is a multilateral cooperation managed and assisted by board administration and board director to explore collaboration with seven university networks, i.e., AUN/SEED-Net, Coop ration universitaire pour le developement (Belgium), Agence universitaire de la Francophone, France Coop ration, Ambassade de France au Cambodge, GMSARN, and School of Internet (SOI) project.

To meet the national and international standard, the development of faculty staffs is in long term prospective.



Field-wise Seminar in Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering hosted by ITC in September 2007



Many AUN/SEED-Net alumni are now working as faculty staff at ITC.

Under collaboration with AUN/SEED-Net program during the first phase, the achievement of project activities can be shown as following:

- 53 scholarships were awarded to students and faculty staffs (41 masters and 12 doctors);
- 4 field-wise seminars were hosted in Phnom Penh (Geological Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering);
- 80 staffs from member institutions attended field-wise seminars in Phnom Penh;
- 5 staffs joined the Short-term Visit within Member Institutions Program;
- 9 staffs joined the Short-term Visit to Japan Program;
- 33 promotional visits received; and
- 20 masters graduates returned to Cambodia.

ITC acts as a core institution for engineering education in Cambodia, determining to produce human resources to work with ministries, authorities, NGOs, private sectors. ITC is therefore grateful for the willingness of some prominent graduates to serve on its academic programs. It then encourages senior students to apply for AUN/SEED-Net scholarships so that young graduates become teaching staff after their completion. Some masters graduates are pursuing PhD degree in ASEAN and Japan.

Future plans for ITC include capacity enhancement, hosting international conferences, continuing research into engineering education, and conducting further/exchange courses. In the second phase of AUN/SEED-Net, ITC

has been sought to establish links with other member institutions to enhance research and development activities. Propositions were adopted during the 13th AUN/SEED-Net Steering Committee Meeting, including:

- Joint interdisciplinary research activities in Biotechnology, Natural Materials & Resources, New/Renewable Energy, Global Environment and Disaster Management
- MOU among the member institutions and Japanese supporting universities
- Enhancement of understanding and relationship within the alumni network and promotion of the network recognition

The faculty development strategic plan of ITC is to provide client institutes, colleges and instructional departments with an array of services to improve the accountability outcomes of their instructional programs. In the process, the expectations of our students, trustees and other stakeholders will be systematically surpassed.

Engineering education, technological education and transfer of technology are inextricably linked to regional development in a complexity that goes beyond investment by foreign companies. Education, training, availability of lab facilities, access to facilities for new subjects and others will certainly strengthen quality of engineering education in Cambodia.

Lastly, ITC would like to thank AUN/SEED-Net, JICA, the member institutions, and the Japanese supporting universities for their continuing support to our strategic plan.

Students' Achievements

For AUN/SEED-Net, it is our expectation and commitment to develop good quality engineering resources both in terms of personnel and research work. At the end of the first phase, we were delighted to see this expectation fulfilled. The quality of our students and their research work has been guaranteed by several awards from different institutions. To celebrate the success of Phase I, let's revert to some of the past achievements of our students!



Panarat Cherntanomwong from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL), Thailand
 >> PhD student at Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT) supervised by Prof. Dr. TAKADA Junichi
 >> Student Paper Award at the 19th Asia-Pacific Microwave Conference 2007



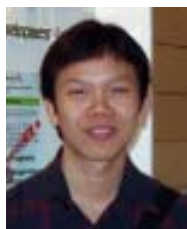
Jay Arre Toque from University of the Philippines-Diliman (UP), the Philippines
 >> PhD student at Kyoto University (Kyoto) supervised by Prof. Dr. IDE Ari Ektessabi, and master's graduate from University of Malaya (UM) supervised by Dr. Mohd Hamdi Abdul Shukor and Prof. Dr. IDE
 >> Member of the team winning the Impressive Award for Enterprise on "Engineering for the Better World" from the 21st Century COE Program for Research and Education on Complex Functional Mechanical Systems in 2007



Nan Thidar Chit Swe from University of Yangon (UY), Myanmar
 >> PhD student at Chulalongkorn University (CU) co-supervised by Dr. Chanin Wissawinthanon and Prof. Dr. ARAKAWA Yasuhiko of University of Tokyo (Tokyo)
 >> Best Paper Award from the 30th Electrical Engineering Conference in 2007



Le Xuan Truong from Hanoi University of Technology (HUT), Vietnam
 >> PhD student at Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) under joint supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ichsan Setya Putra and Prof. Dr. HOMMA Hiroomi of Toyohashi University of Technology (TUT)
 >> Best Paper Award from the 5th International Conference on Numerical Analysis in Engineering 2007



Le Trong Nghia from Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT), Vietnam
 >> PhD student at CU supervised by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wanchai Teparaksa and Prof. Dr. MITACHI Toshiyuki of Hokkaido University
 >> Excellect Presentation Award from KCCNN International Symposium in Civil Engineering



Long Veasna from Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC), Cambodia
 >> Master's graduate from Gadjah Mada University (UGM) under joint supervision by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dwikorita Karnawati and Prof. Dr. AOKI Kenji (Kyoto)
 >> Third prize for poster award at the 33rd Annual Convention of the Indonesian Association of Geologists in 2004



Nguyen Viet Dinh from HUT, Vietnam
 >> PhD student at De La Salle University (DLSU) under joint supervision of Prof. Dr. Servilla Olano Jr., Asst. Prof. Dr. Yolanda Brondial, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. FUCHINO Tetsuo (TIT); and previously master's student supervised by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Raymond R. Tan
 >> Outstanding Scientific Poster Award from the National Academy of Science and Technology in 2006



Ha Hoang from HUT, Vietnam
 >> Master's graduate from CU supervised by Asst. Prof. Dr. Manop Wongsaisuwan and Prof. Dr. HARA Shinji (Tokyo)
 >> First prize in Control Design Contest for a Rotary Double Inverted Pendulum at the Society of Instrument and Control Engineers Conference 2007 (SICE2007) in Japan



Nguyen Ich Vinh from HUT, Vietnam
 >> Master's graduate from CU supervised by Assoc. Prof. Krisada Visavateeranon and Assoc. Prof. Dr. OHYAMA Shinji (TIT)
 >> Best Paper Award from Society of Instrument and Control Engineers Conference 2007 (SICE2007) in Japan



Ly Hung Anh from HCMUT, Vietnam
 >> PhD student at TIT under supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. INOUE Hirotsugu and master's graduate from ITB supervised jointly by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ichsan Setya Putra and Prof. Dr. HOMMA Hiroomi (TUT)
 >> Best Presenter Award at the 5th International Conference on Numerical Analysis in Engineering 2007 (NAE2007) as well as the Outstanding Student Award 2007 from ITB.



Ms. Mary Donnabelle L. Balela from UP
 >> Master's student at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) co-supervised by Dr. Zainovia Lockman and Prof. Dr. MATSUBARA Eiichirou (Kyoto).
 >> First prize of the Young Persons' World Lecture Competition (YPWLC) 2007 held by the Institute of Metarials, Minerals and Mining.

These are just a few to name. There are several more students who graduated with distinction and other awards that cannot be included here due to space limit. Nevertheless, they are all remembered as the living evidence of our success and the pride of their institutions.

The 14th Steering Committee Meeting Promises Bright Future for ASEAN

AUN/SEED-Net's Steering Committee and stakeholders appreciated excellent outputs and impacts of the Project's first phase and promised to join hands to fulfill the missions of the second phase, expecting for the bright future of ASEAN.

Since its establishment, AUN/SEED-Net has awarded a total of 445 scholarships to students and faculty members to study for higher degrees in ASEAN and Japan. After graduation, these scholars become competent human resources for the region because most of them returned to work as faculty members at their home universities, and produced more engineers needed for regional development.

AUN/SEED-Net granted support for 222 collaborative research projects, and provided several other research supporting activities to facilitate research collaboration and joint student supervision among lecturers in ASEAN and professors in Japan, e.g. visits and exchanges of faculty staff, seminars, and research collaboration. These activities fostered many Memorandums of Agreements among the member institutions and with the Japanese supporting universities.

The Network also initiated academic collaboration in the region's critical areas, such as Workshop on Disaster Mitigation and Management in ASEAN Countries held in Thailand in 2005 after the destructive Tsunami; Distance

Learning Program on Earthquake Engineering between Chulalongkorn University and Tokyo Institute of Technology; and special support for the Emergency Response Program to the Java earthquake in 2006 conducted by Gadjah Mada University, Kyushu University and Kyoto University.



After seven years of endeavours, the aim of AUN/SEED-Net to enhance educational and research capacities of its member universities was mostly achieved through active resource exchanges among the member institutions and relationship with the Japanese supporting universities. It upgraded faculty qualifications of the member institutions through higher degree acquisition and encouraged the new launch of graduate programs or international programs as well as the enhancement of existing programs. Research activities and journal as well as conference papers in engineering field were increased notably.

Remarkably, the Network promoted ASEAN to be another option for higher education in engineering, considering improved curricula, cost-effectiveness,



and cultural similarity. Moreover, it built up mutual understanding and friendship among scholars and academics in the region, which contributed to the ASEAN integration.

To establish a sustainable framework of human resource development network in engineering field under the ownership of the ASEAN countries, contributing to regional development, in the second phase the AUN/SEED-Net Network needs to fulfill four missions:

- (1) enhancing the capacity of its member universities
- (2) collaborating on research for industry and community, especially on five major common issues of *biotechnology, disaster mitigation, global environment, natural resources and materials, and new or renewable energy*
- (3) strengthening the engineering network
- (4) establishing the Graduate School of Engineering Consortium among ASEAN-Japan

Significantly, it will extend its outreach to involve non-members as well as industrial and government sectors, and to empower its alumni network. To facilitate future joint activities, the 19 member universities agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding at the next Steering Committee Meeting in Tokyo in October this year.

These achievements and missions of the AUN/SEED-Net Project were announced at the press conference, arranged for the first time after the Steering Committee Meeting. Other public relations activities were also performed, e.g. the interview of the Chairperson by Radio Thailand, the interviews of AUN/SEED-Net Executive Director by local newspapers, and press releases to all member institutions for public distribution in their countries.

Events



January 18, 2008: The 14th Steering Committee Meeting was hosted by Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, followed by the press conference. This meeting marked the end of the fruitful Phase I of AUN/SEED-Net.



February 29, 2008: The Secretariat gave a warm welcome to visitors from Okayama University.